

than "the flowers that bloom in the spring." Men do not go upon the street or to the brothel to gratify their artistic sense for beauty any more than to seek intellectual companionship, but to get "the pound of flesh" that their lust demands, and the most "popular" prostitute is the one who is best capable of filling this demand to the utmost.

Even the majority of the most fashionable members of the demi-monde, mistresses of the wealthiest and most aristocratic "men-about-town," are creatures whom an anthropologist would trust about as far as he would a rattle-snake, and whom an artist would shudder to look upon. Here again is a point of resemblance to the criminal classes of whom the warden at Millbank Penitentiary declares that "a handsome face is a thing rarely seen in a prison, and a pleasing, well-formed face, never."

As everywhere else, so even here, beauty is a sign of purity and wholesomeness, a safe guide in nine cases out of ten.

The next question is, what class furnishes the largest proportion of its own members to the ranks of vice? In other words, what occupations seem to most favor this downward tendency? The unanimity upon this point is practically complete. Of twenty-two answers sixteen say "factory girls," "saleswomen," "waitresses," etc., and four say "domestic servants," and two "those too idle to have any occupation." In short, it is the women who are engaged in public occupations who are most in danger.

Again, we have the commercialization of women as a powerful factor in the production of this vice. It is based upon a trade instinct, pure and simple. Space does not permit me to enter upon the subject here, but I wish to record my solemn and sorrowful conviction that the woman who works, outside of the home or the school, pays a fearful penalty, either physical, mental or moral, and often all three. She commits a biologic crime against herself and against the community, and woman-labor ought to be forbidden for the same reason that child-labor is. Any nation that works its women is damned and belongs at heart to the Huron-Iroquois confederacy.

Now, as to the much-mooted question of the life-expectation of the prostitute after she is fairly embarked.

The "Talmage" view has been loudly trumpeted abroad, and as for once, it is partially correct, there is little needs to be said. The average of twenty-two observers gives the life duration at nine and five-tenths years, nearly double the popular one, but short enough. The same method gives the death-rate as seventy-five per cent. greater than that of normal women of the same station, but the causes of this increase are markedly different from those usually not only popularly, but also professionally, imputed. *Every* observer gives alcohol the first place as a factor, venereal disease comes second, morphine, cocaine, chloral, etc., third, suicide fourth, irregular hours and life, fifth. Alcohol would thus appear to be doing as useful work among women as it is among men. It is one of our greatest "missionary" agencies, and, unlike all others, its "conversions" are usually permanent.

Last of all comes the question of the effect of this institution upon the propagation of the species. Do women of this stamp leave descendants? Very seldom.

The deduction from all the answers is that barely three and one-tenths per cent. of prostitutes bear children at all during the ten years of their career. The birth-rate of healthy married women during such a term at this age would be nearly 200 per cent. Like all other evils, prostitution is self-limiting. The reason for this sterility is obvious. Disease of the sexual organs, syphilis, "preventives" of every description, abortions, and infanticide, easily account for it. Of the children born alive, very few survive, from ignorance, disease or neglect.

As to the proportion who marry the answers vary, widely ranging from 0.1 per cent. to 75 per cent., the average being 13.2 per cent., but upon the next point there is substantial agreement; viz., that those who do are practically sterile, the answers as to fertility ranging from "barren," "very sterile," "very low," to "unfavorable," about 1.6 per cent., except one man who actually asserts that it is "the same."

The proportion who permanently reform is variously estimated at from "one in a million" to 30 per cent., but the average is low; viz., 6.8 per cent.

This is probably not far from correct, for even the managers of Bethels and reformatories for this