

ber of articles and reviews furnishes his readers with unanswerable arguments against the extension of the Act of 1866, and its amendments in 1869.

Without attempting to particularize the evidence furnished by these writers the chief points may be briefly indicated as follows: (1) Such acts legislate for man, but treat woman as if she were only an instrument to satisfy his evil passions, and they subject her to a moral degradation below that of ordinary prostitutes not subject to the enactments.

(2) The law compels women to commit themselves absolutely to a life of infamy, whereas before they had it in their power to turn back and reform. There is always a class (in some places a large class) of females who are driven to adopt prostitution temporarily as a means of gaining a livelihood or to support others dependent upon them. These unfortunates, if they wisely keep their own counsel, may resume their ordinary position in society; but never if they are forced to register themselves and become public prostitutes. (3) The enforced examination by a public officer wipes out any sense of modesty or delicacy they may have retained, and confirms them in a life of prostitution. (4) The whole system places serious obstacles in the way of attempts to reform the erring ones. When in hospital they naturally regard any advice or instruction as a part of the compulsory programme. They are bound to listen to it, and for that reason derive little benefit from it.

(6) It is impossible to carry out the provisions of the acts in large cities, when conveniences for clandestine prostitution are so many and so varied. (7) It is asserted that "in towns where registration and forced examination are introduced the effect upon the morals of the rising generation is exceedingly injurious." *

How to avoid the evil effects of governmental regulation, and yet do something towards lessening the diseases arising from the social evil, is the question that must now be considered.

To begin with, the seduction by a man come to years of discretion of a girl under sixteen years of age, with or without her consent, should be made a crime and severely punished. There may be some excuse urged for the satisfaction of the sexual passion when the female is of age and already a prostitute—it may be that "prostitution in man is an irregular indulgence in a natural

impulse," as the Royal Commissioners have put it, but to take advantage of the ignorance and inexperience of a mere child is inexcusable, and the offender should be rigorously dealt with. Such a law would strike at the root of one of the most fruitful sources of subsequent prostitution.

Then "Homes" for the reception of women reclaimable by such an agency ought to be provided, and above all, *voluntary lock hospitals should be established*, where diseased females could be properly treated and cared for, and women should be encouraged to enter them without being *forced* to do so.

The absence of opportunities for adequate treatment has always been one of the reasons why unclean prostitutes persist in their career after becoming diseased. In hospitals of this kind the patient should be surrounded by all the moral, intellectual and sanitary influences that would tend to elevate her from her degraded position, and perhaps induce her to abandon her evil courses.

The wards should be graded, so as not to confine in the same room the hardened prostitute with the girl who is new in crime and comparatively redeemable. For other reasons this gradation is necessary. To quote Parent-Duchatelet [*op. cit.*]: "It is difficult to convey an idea of the contempt which, according to the class to which she belongs, each woman manifests for those of the other classes. Those women who associate with men of wealth or of high position look only with disdain upon women as are only sought after by men of merely ordinary fortune. Women of this class, again, condemn in like manner the unhappy creature who only appears in the rags of the most disgusting misery. This distinction which prostitutes establish among themselves is avowed by all, and is specially remarkable when circumstances cause them to meet each other at the same place; they avoid each other; they do not sit down on the same seat; they form isolated groups, and do not mix together in conversation. It may be said generally that these classes do not intermingle; that is to say, the girls do not pass imperceptibly from one class to another, and successively from the highest to the lowest; they remain till the end in that class in which they began their career, or out of which they have been unable to go; and thus it is that very beautiful girls may be seen to begin and end their life of prostitution in the most infamous places. Each of these localities

* Report of Royal Commission on Contagious Diseases Act.