

noticed in the past that many outsiders, especially recent graduates, wish the profession of Toronto to do a fair share in connection with the reading and discussion of papers.

VENEREAL PROPHELYSIS.

Since the dawn of civilization, legislators have had to wrestle with the question of prostitution, and seemingly the solution is not yet. Maria Theresa in Vienna, and some of the Popes in Rome, learned by experience that stern regulations did not accomplish what they intended, in fact, till the law was changed, venereal diseases steadily increased. Lately the city of Bonn, by legislation somewhat similar to the Contagious Diseases Act in India, has conclusively proved that compulsory medical examination does nothing towards lessening prostitution. Paris, too, with a century of experience, finds that controlled prostitutes and brothels are slowly diminishing, while clandestine harlots are rapidly increasing.

Although anything like official recognition of prostitution is most abhorrent to the Anglo-Saxon races, as a whole, the city of Cincinnati has during the past three years been under a *régime* of prostitution-control by the Board of Health. Dr. M. L. Heidingsfeld (*Journal Amer. Med. Asso.*) has taken the statistics of his own practice to prove that since these regulations have been enforced, syphilis and gonorrhea have increased very much, and concludes that the control at present exerted in that city is not able to prevent a material increase in the number of venereal cases.

The reasons for this failure are not hard to find. The sense of false security which is given by a medical bill of health lures many a man, whose better judgment would otherwise cause him to abstain. In Cincinnati this diploma must, by law, be "exhibited conspicuously in the room occupied by the person to whom it is issued." Apart altogether from the farce of issuing a certificate, which can seldom be accurate—for who will say from one examination that a woman has *not* gonorrhoea?—a great many of these testimonials are bogus. Heidingsfeld found too, that a number of his patients contracted disease from masseuses, manicure artists, etc., who were regularly inspected