

## II.—THE MEDICAL ASPECT OF THE CASE.

The members of the medical profession are brought into the closest contact with the social evil. No one is in a better position to guide and protect the public. The conclusions of the highest authorities in the medical profession must therefore command the highest respect.

I.—THE SYSTEM OF REGLEMENTATION. This system, which had its origin in France and which is common to most European countries, means the official supervision of prostitutes and of houses of ill-fame, which carries with it a periodical medical inspection of the inmates. This system was in force in England for a few years in the '60s; it was introduced under the guise of a so-called Contagious Diseases Law, and was, as it were, smuggled in without any adequate discussion in Parliament. At that time there was a great deal of trouble with imported cattle, and laws had been passed applying to the contagious diseases of cattle, and everyone assumed that the new law was of the same kind. When it was discovered what the law really was it gave rise to a fierce contest which lasted about twenty years, a contest in which the leading men of science took part—philosophers and statesmen, like Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill and John Morley. The result was the final repeal of the English Contagious Diseases Act in the middle of the '80s. On the continent, however, this method was long considered the ideal way of dealing with the problem. In 1899 at the first International Congress at Brussels there was found among the doctors the beginnings of doubt as to the efficacy and advisability of this system, but the Congress separated without taking any definite action. In 1902 another conference took place, and those opposed to the State regulation of vice now appeared in larger numbers. While there was not complete unanimity of opinion, and it was deemed best that each country should proceed separately in its policy of education and discussion, one very important step was taken; the Congress, composed to a not inconsiderable extent of eminent physicians, declared its conviction that the old-time belief in sexual indulgence as a physical necessity to the man was unsound and without foundation in fact. This pronouncement, which was unanimous, had an immense influence, and as a result of this second Congress the French Government was led to institute an investigation, and a Commission was appointed, composed not alone of the most eminent physicians of Paris, but of police officials and representatives of every walk in life. After three years of careful and exhaustive discussion this Commission resolved, by an overwhelming majority that the whole French system was useless and worse than useless in repressing prostitution and disease, and that on the contrary it rather increased the amount of disease. Here in the very home of Reglementation it has been abundantly proved that the system is wholly unsound.

THIS SYSTEM OBTAINS IN NELSON, and is considered by the Board of Police Commissioners to be expedient for the sanitary and scientific interest of the community.

II.—THE SYSTEM OF SEGREGATION. This system, though often erroneously supposed to be of European origin, is only found in Europe in a few scattered instances. It had its origin in Japan, where a wellknown district called the Yoshiwara was set apart for the purposes of public prostitution. It has been abundantly proven that just as reglementation cannot regulate, so segregation does not segregate, and just as in France, the original home of reglementation, that system is discredited, so in Japan where segregation was first introduced that system is equally discredited. The Yoshiwara was burnt down a year or so ago, and new ideas have substantial support. The former Chief Minister of Japan,