

It will at once be seen that French laws are too tyrannical, too costly and too elaborate to introduce into Canada. Here, as long as she behaves herself decently, a prostitute has as good a right to walk during daylight on the public streets, to go to church, to attend the theatre, and dine at hotels as any other woman, and nothing would justify her forcible removal from any of these places on mere *suspicion* of her being there for the purpose of plying her trade. Again, to hunt up clandestine women involves an arbitrary search of private houses which public opinion would not tolerate. That there is something radically wrong in the system is proved by the acknowledged fact that out of the 30,000 loose women in Paris in 1870 only 4,000 were registered and subject to sanitary inspection, and this in spite of a strict application of the almost despotic powers possessed by the police. Notwithstanding this, hygienic measures have wonderfully reduced syphilis among the registered prostitutes, as may be seen by the following table,* in which is given the proportion of diseased to healthy women among both the registered class and the clandestines captured by the police.

Year.	Registered Prostitutes in brothels inside of the walls.	Ditto in the suburbs.	Ditto in private lodging	Unregistered prostitutes.
1845	1 in 142	1 in 59	1 in 261	1 in 6.40
1846	1 in 152	1 in 53	1 in 183	1 in 6.37
1847	1 in 154	1 in 52	1 in 351	1 in 6.46
1848	1 in 126	1 in 37	1 in 182	1 in 5.66
1849	1 in 128	1 in 44	1 in 201	1 in 5.76
1850	1 in 148	1 in 47	1 in 142	1 in 5.31
1851	1 in 199	1 in 60	1 in 180	1 in 5.47
1852	1 in 184	1 in 76	1 in 349	1 in 5.64
1853	1 in 183	1 in 123	1 in 402	1 in 5.12
1854	1 in 176	1 in 102	1 in 377	1 in 4.26

A similar proportionate reduction has likewise been effected in other continental cities, but, as will be seen by the above table, the dislike of forced imprisonment in St. Lazare has had the effect of making unregistered harlots hide their diseases more than ever, bringing about a frightful condition of things among that class. The proportion of syphilitic to healthy women increased from 1 in 6.40 in 1845 to 1 in 4.26 in 1854, and in 1866 it had risen to one in every four.

The Contagious Diseases Act in some points resembles the French laws. Of course it was

limited to certain naval and military stations with their suburbs.

One feature of these enactments provides that all prostitutes shall be registered and regularly inspected, and that when information is made on oath that a woman is a common prostitute a justice may issue a notice to such woman, through the superintendent of police, to appear for surgical examination. Certified Lock hospitals are provided for her if she is discovered to be ill. It imposes a heavy penalty on any brothel-keeper who harbors a prostitute knowing her to be diseased. Health tickets are issued to prostitutes; they are punished for evasion of the inspection, and the hospitals are supported by fines and taxes on the business. These provisions, after much opposition, were passed by Parliament, and many were in favor of extending them to the civil population.

Mr. Wm. Acton, in his exhaustive work,* writes that he considers it very desirable that the Diseases Act should be made general and a very high authority, Dr. Parkes says, "The Act at these large stations has done great good; but, a framed and administered, it is far too feebly drawn, and too partially carried out, to cope entirely with the evil. The prostitutes are not thoroughly under inspection; many are not inspected at all neighboring towns send in prostitutes; hospital accommodation is insufficient, it is clear that the evil is too great to be dealt with piecemeal; it is inevitable but that the Act must eventually be made compulsory over the whole country, and the entire system of prostitution dealt with carefully and completely once for all."†

The agitation for repeal of the Contagious Diseases Act has brought out all sorts of objections to it, some of which appear quite valid and still more of them absurd. Dr. Birkbeck Nevins, of Liverpool, has written one of the few pamphlets against the Act that are worth perusal.‡ Besides the evidence collected by Dr. Nevins and others, the editor of the *Westminster Review* has bravely laid aside those feelings of false delicacy which had hitherto prevented the Press from arousing and instructing the people concerning the extent and malign influence of the social evil; and in a num-

* Prostitution considered in its Moral, Social, and Sanitary Aspects. Third Edition.

† Manual of Practical Hygiene, page 503

‡ Statements of the Grounds upon which the Contagious Diseases Acts are Opposed, 1875.