

## REMEDIAL MEASURES.

Mr. Ernest Lane, senior surgeon to the London Lock Hospital, considered that the day for compulsion was dead, the era for repressive measures was past. The two remedial measures were education and treatment—education of the public and education of the medical profession. If boys at public schools were given some elementary knowledge of the possibility of disease he believed its incidence would be modified. In each hospital there should be a special department set apart for the treatment of these diseases, as facilities for treatment would certainly modify them.

Dr. Helen Wilson (Sheffield) was in favor of facilities for treatment being provided before asking for notification.

Dr. Woods Hutchinson (New York) said they had had six or eight months' experience of notification in New York, and he was strongly in favor of it, for one reason, because it ensured proper treatment.

The Chairman proposed the following resolution:

That, sensible of the ravages wrought by syphilis in the health of the community, and deploring the inadequacy of existing facilities for checking its dissemination, the International Medical Congress calls upon the Governments of all the countries here represented—

1. To institute a system of confidential notification of the disease to a sanitary authority, wherever such notification does not already obtain.

2. To make systematic provision for the diagnosis and treatment of all cases of syphilis not otherwise provided for.

They all hoped, he said, that the appeal that had recently been made to the British Government for a Royal Commission would not fall on deaf ears. Confidential notification was the pre-requisite of any effective action by the State to check what Lord Morley characterized as "this hideous scourge." The ease with which the disease could be communicated, the enormous number of those who were its innocent victims, the inadequacy of proper means of treatment, were facts of which the general public were almost entirely ignorant, and they were most imperfectly appreciated even by legislators.

An end must be put to the silence in which this subject had too long been shrouded. Local authorities were encouraged to build fever hospitals, and in a thousand ways the State stretched out its long arm to safeguard the health of the community, but it did not lift a finger to protect the nation from this devastating pestilence, which more ruthless than the Destroying Angel smote the unborn babe.