

THE WHITE CROSS.

I AM glad that this meeting follows the week of prayer, for certainly no mission more imperatively demands to be preceded, accompanied and followed by prayer, than this perplexing and difficult work of prevention and rescue. I would regard myself as happy if the task of discussing the White Cross movement had been entrusted to other hands. The entire subject is so compassed about with the repellent, is so shrouded in revolting darkness and abhorrent to every instinct of purity, that I ever shrink from the responsibility of letting in the light and holding it up for public reprobation. Nothing but the desire to at least abate an evil, a growing evil, which is honey-combing and indeed dislocating the social life of society, prompts us to stand for the protection of innocence and the denunciation of those who are with malign and selfish intent playing the part of destroyers.

In the performance of this unwelcome task,