

### *Traffic in Women and Children*

As a result of the light thrown on the question by the work of the League organizations, there has been in recent years a marked change in public opinion on the question of licensed houses; and further evidence of this was forthcoming in the discussion in the Fifth Committee this year. In particular, the Delegates of France and Belgium announced that the local authorities, within whose competence the matter lies, had abolished the system in a number of towns. It was considered that the study now being made of laws and regulations devised to protect public order and health against the dangers arising out of prostitution in countries where the licensed house system has been abolished will be of great value to the authorities in other countries where the question of abolition is being considered.

Several Delegates of Eastern countries said that their Governments would welcome the proposed extension to the East of the inquiry into the international traffic in women, carried out by a Special Body of Experts from 1924 to 1927. The Fifth Committee recommended that, if this extension of the inquiry were decided upon, the Special Body of Experts should include persons who are well acquainted with the special conditions in the East, and that women should be among these persons.

### *Traffic in Opium*

The greater part of the Fifth Committee's time was given to this question, and the discussion which took place on it was marked by a clear realization of the gravity of the problem and a general determination to put an end to the illicit traffic as soon as possible.

The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the work of the Advisory Committee in exposing the extent and methods of the illicit traffic, and associated itself more particularly with the Advisory Committee's view that strict measures should be taken to prevent the smuggling of drugs through the post.

From the information before the Committee and the statements made by several Delegates, it seems probable that ten or twelve more ratifications of the 1925 Opium Convention will be registered in the near future. There will then be over forty parties to the Convention, and its provisions for the control of the international trade will be more generally applied and will play their part in the suppression of the illicit traffic.

An interesting statement was made by M. Gallavresi, Vice-Chairman of the Permanent Central Opium Board, regarding the work of organization accomplished at the first two meetings of the Board (see Report of Canadian Delegates to the Ninth Assembly, p. 22).

The most interesting part of the discussion, however, centered around the question of the limitation of the manufacture of narcotics. At the first meeting devoted to opium questions, the representative of France announced that his Government was taking steps to impose on manufacturers a strict system of limitation. Other speakers laid emphasis on the desirability of such a system, and some gave accounts of the measures which were being or were about to be taken in their countries to prevent the manufacture in excess of legitimate requirements of quantities of drugs which would inevitably find their way into the illicit traffic. It became evident that there was a possibility of arriving at unanimous agreement on the principle of direct limitation of manufacture. The British Delegate thereupon put forward a proposal for a Conference on the question; this proposal, which was supported by the Canadian Delegate, was very fully discussed by the Committee and was accepted with amendments proposed by the Italian, Jugoslavian, Chinese and Swiss Delegates. In its final form, the resolution recognizes the principle of the limitation of manufacture by international agreement and outlines the method by which the problem should be approached. The Advisory Committee will prepare and submit to the Council plans for limitation, having regard to the medical and scientific requirements of the world and the means