

# PROSTITUTION IN EUROPE

BY  
ABRAHAM FLEXNER

*ABRIDGED EDITION*

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## EDITOR'S FOREWORD

THE present volume has been abridged from Mr. Abraham Flexner's *Prostitution in Europe*, which was published in New York in 1914.\* The book was issued under the direction of the Bureau of Social Hygiene, the Chairman, Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., contributing an Introduction which explains the general objects of the Bureau and the particular circumstances in which this book was written. "The author," says Mr. Rockefeller, "describes prostitution in Europe and discusses the various methods of handling it now employed in the large cities of Great Britain and the Continent. The subject is a highly controversial one. For this reason, its investigation was assigned to one who had, on the one hand, previously given it no critical thought or attention, but whose studies of education in this country and abroad had demonstrated his competency to deal with a complicated topic of this nature. Mr. Flexner was absolutely without prejudice or preconception, just as he was absolutely unfettered by instructions. He had no previous opinion to sustain; he was given no

\*The complete edition is published in England by Grant Richards, Ltd.

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thesis to prove or disprove. He was asked to make a thorough and impartial examination of the subject and to report his observations and conclusions. He enjoyed the fullest possible facilities for his enquiries and to them and the writing of this book devoted almost two years."

Thus Mr. Flexner's book is exclusively a scientific investigation of the problem of prostitution. In editing it the general aim has been to preserve the scientific argument in its integrity, though explanatory notes, references to authorities, and many illustrative examples have been omitted. In Chapter X, several of the graphs and diagrams have been omitted, and the appendices consisting of translations of police regulations in the more important European cities, and of the Danish Law relating to venereal disease, are not included in this edition. Among the authorities freely used by Mr. Flexner may be mentioned *Zeitschrift*, Ivan Bloch's *Die Prostitution*, the works of Louis Fiaux, Parent-Duchatelet's *De la Prostitution dans la Ville de Paris*, the reports of French and Swedish Governmental Commissions, Police Reports of the cities visited, Sanitary Reports, etc.

J. F. H.

December, 1918.