

Imperial Social Hygiene Congress

British Empire Exhibition, Wembley.

May 12—16, 1924.

Proceedings
of the
Imperial Social Hygiene Congress
at the
BRITISH EMPIRE EXHIBITION,
WEMBLEY

May 12th—16th, 1924.

*Organised by the National Council for Combating
Venereal Diseases.*

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*Organised by The National Council for Combating
Venereal Diseases (Incorporated),*

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PREFACE

THE Imperial Social Hygiene Congress was organised as a step towards the co-ordination of the social problems of the Empire. The groundwork of the problem of social hygiene has been prepared by the campaign against venereal diseases which has been carried on by the National Council and its affiliated Councils and Branches in the United Kingdom, the Dominions, in India and the Crown Colonies during the past eight years. Its activities have been officially recognised by the British and Canadian Governments, by the Governments of the Crown Colonies, and by certain of the municipal bodies in India. Their various educational campaigns have been supported by financial grants from official bodies supplementing voluntary contributions.

Sufficient progress has now been made in certain parts of the Empire to enable a clear appreciation to be gained of the need of broadening the basis of future advance to include the broader aspects of social hygiene. The discussion of the problem at the present time in its Imperial aspect is calculated to stimulate public interest, to summarise recent experience and to extend the movement to include allied social problems in the existence of which venereal diseases have a share, either as cause or effect.

The Congress was fortunate in securing the Minister of Health as its Hon. President and in attracting the co-operation of a number of distinguished men and women, and its discussions were enriched by the contributions of the representatives of the appropriate Government Departments at home and overseas, as well as of delegates from the various local authorities, the national social welfare organisations and professional bodies.

The Congress was very successful from every point of view—in numbers, in the maintained interest amongst both the papers offered and the discussions which followed, and above all in its primary object of stimulating an Imperial sense of responsibility for moral and physical evils, which are being fought under varying social and climatic conditions throughout the British Empire—therefore the National Council feel justified in reporting its transactions in this volume, in the hope that the experiences here summarised may prove of assistance to those who have to face the problem in its practical forms in all parts of the world.

SYBIL NEVILLE-ROLFE,

August, 1924.

General Secretary.

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