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Y.A. 5.262, 2N21  
THE

# CALCUTTA VIGILANCE ASSOCIATION.

Office:—25, CHOWRINGHEE.

## Officers for 1923.

The Lord Bishop of Calcutta, *President.*

Hon. Mr. Justice W. E. Greaves. } *Vice-*  
Dr. S. K. Mullick. } *Presidents.*

R. D. Mehta, C.I.E., *Hony. Treasurer.*

F. E. James, *Hony. Secretary.*

## Executive Committee.

Rai Chuni Lal Bose Bahadur, C.I.E.

Bishop Fisher.

Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikary, C.I.E.

Dr. H. Suhrawardy.

Mrs. Taylor.

## LIST OF Calcutta Vigilance Association Members.

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|--|-----|--|
| Alexander W. Weddell, Esq.                     | ... | American Consulate, 9, Esplanade Mansions, Esplanade.      |
| Rev. Herbert Anderson                          | ... | 48, Ripon Street.  |
| Sister Beatrice                                | ... | 125, Dharmtala Street.                                     |
| Mr. S. M. Bose, M.L.C.                         | ... | 3, Federation Street.                                      |
| Rai Chuni Lal Bose Bahadur, C.I.E.             | ... | 25, Mohendra Bose Lane.                                    |
| The Most. Revd. The Lord<br>Bishop of Calcutta | ... | 51, Chowringhee.   |
| M. M. Chatterjee, Esq.                         | ... | 33, McLeod Street.   |
| Rabbi E. M. D. Cohen                           | ... | 26, Harrington Mansions.                                   |
| Mr. S. R. Das                                  | ... | 7, Hungerford Street.                                      |
| Dr. S. K. Datta                                | ... | 5, Russell Street.   |
| Miss Ewing                                     | ... | 45, Lower Circular Road                                    |
| Bishop F. B. Fisher                            | ... | 140, Dharamtala Street.                                    |
| Hon. Mr. Justice W. E. Greaves                 | ... | 2, Short Street.   |
| Rev. C. J. Grimes                              | ... | St. Stephen's Church, 5, Diamond Harbour Road, Kidderpore. |
| Mr. F. E. James                                | ... | 25, Chowringhee.   |
| Mr. Razaur Rahman Khan, M.A.                   | ... | 42, Upper Circular Road.                                   |
| Dr. H. W. Knight.                              | ... | 140, Dharamtala Street.                                    |
| Miss E. Lardner                                | ... | 68, Upper Circular Road.                                   |
| Rev. P. E. Lee                                 | ... | Fort William, Bengal.                                      |
| Miss E. Maxey                                  | ... | 140, Dharamtala Street.                                    |
| R. D. Mehta, Esq., C.I.E.                      | ... | 9, Rainey Park, Ballygunge.                                |
| Rev. Fr. Meunier, S.J.                         | ... | 30, Park Street.   |
| Dr. D. N. Moitra                               | ... | 3, Beadon Street.  |
| Principal H. C. Moitra                         | ... | 102/1, Amherst Street.                                     |
| Dr. E. Muir                                    | ... | 32/6, Beadon Street.                                       |
| Prof. S. C. Mukerji, M.L.C.                    | ... | The College, Serampore.                                    |

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| Dr. S. K. Mullick ...                              | ... 301/2, Upper Circular Road.                      |
| Mr. S. N. Mullick, M.L.C.                          | ... 2, Chandra Nath Chatterji St.                    |
| Sir A. R. Murray ...                               | ... 32, Judge's Court Road, Alipore.                 |
| J. Niyogi, Esq. ...                                | ... 84, Upper Circular Road.                         |
| Oxford Mission and Oxford Mis-<br>sion Sisters ... | ... 42, Cornwallis Street.                           |
| Lt. Col. J. G. Foster, I.M.S.                      | ... O. C., Station Hospital, Lower<br>Circular Road. |
| C. S. Paterson, Esq. ...                           | ... 86, College Street.                              |
| Babu Nalini Nath Roy                               | ... 6, Barrackpore Trunk Road.                       |
| Miss Rivett ...                                    | ... 1, Ballygunge Circular Road.                     |
| Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikary ...                   | ... 20, Suri Lane.                                   |
| Rev. T. E. T. Shore ...                            | ... 42, Cornwallis Street.                           |
| Rev. J. D. Sinclair ...                            | ... 32/6, Beadon Street.                             |
| Sir Nilratan Sircar ...                            | ... 7, Short Street.                                 |
| Mr. H. A. Stark, M.L.C.                            | ... 39, Free School Street.                          |
| Eric Studd, Esq. ...                               | ... 8, Mission Row.                                  |
| Dr. H. Suhrawardy, M.L.C.                          | ... 8, Ballygunge Circular Road.                     |
| A. N. Sudarisanam                                  | ... 5, Russel Street,                                |
| Mrs. Joseph Taylor ...                             | ... 96, Beadon Street.                               |
| Lieut. Commissioner Toft                           | ... 37, Dharamtala Street.                           |

## ANNUAL REPORT OF The Calcutta Vigilance Association.

The Annual Meeting of the Calcutta Vigilance Association was held on January 5th, 1923, 5-45 P.M. at 86, College Street. There were present Mr. A. Weddell, Rai Chuni Lal Bose Bahadur, the Most Rev. The Lord Bishop of Calcutta, Mr. M. M. Chatterji, Miss Ewing, Hon. Mr. Justice W. E. Greaves, Miss E. Lardner, Rev. P. E. Lee, Miss E. Maxey, Mr. R. D. Mehta, Principal H. C. Moitra, Dr. E. Muir, Dr. S. K. Mullick, Mr. C. S. Paterson, Sir Deva Prasad Sarbadhikary, Rev. T. E. T. Shore, Rev. J. D. Sinclair, Mrs. Joseph Taylor, Mr. A. N. Sudarisanam, Dr. H. Suhrawardy, Miss Higson and Mr. F. E. James.

The Secretary read the Annual Report which was as follows:—

The Calcutta Vigilance Association is a revival of the Calcutta Vigilance Society which had its origin in 1912, but which lapsed in 1915. The present Association was formed as a result of a conference convened by the Metropolitan in September, 1921. A meeting was held on November the 21st when a Constitution was adopted and an Executive appointed.

Four Sub-Committees were appointed to make investigation into the Indian, Anglo-Indian, European and Japanese brothel question. The Conveners of these Sub-Committees respectively were Mr. J. Niyogi, Miss Lardner, Rev. H. Anderson and Mr. S. N. Mullick. Another meeting of the Association was held in March, 1922, when reports were given and the question of finances was discussed. Three meetings of the Executive Committee have been held during the year.

2. The Sub-Committee on European and Anglo-Indian Brothels have presented reports. The Convener of the Sub-Committee on Indian Brothels left during the year for America before his work was completed. It is expected that he will return shortly however and that a full report will be forthcoming during the present year. Mr. Mullick, since his appointment, as acting Chairman of the Corporation, has not had time to investigate the Japanese problem, but the Secretary with Dr. S. K. Datta has been making enquiries and hopes to present a report at an early date.

3. A survey of Main Thoroughfares was made during the year and it was found that brothels existed on several of them. This unsatisfactory state of affairs was reported to the Government, the Corporation and the Police, but it was ascertained that nothing could be done to clear these thoroughfares except under the Public Nuisances clause of the Police Act. A memorial was sent to the Governor and to the Government pointing out the necessity for

amending the existing laws, so that a street once declared a Main Thoroughfare by the authorities should be maintained free from brothels. The question of 139, Upper Chitpore Road was taken up with the owner of the house and the Corporation, but it was discovered that nothing could be done to prevent that house from being let entirely for immoral purposes.

4. **Cinema Films**—The censorship of films was discussed several times during the year, and a communication was addressed to the Government of Bengal calling attention to the importance of this matter and suggesting that in the event of any vacancy occurring on the Board of Censors the Vigilance Association should be invited to nominate a representative thereon. The attention of the Board has been called to the presence of two or three undesirable films during the year, and action has been taken. The Association has also represented to the Bombay Board of Censors that a stricter control of films in the Bombay Presidency is necessary.

5. **Joy Mitter Street**—This case has engaged the attention of the Vigilance Association for many months, and Mr. Keshub Chandra Sen has been acting on its behalf. This case has been going on since 16th April, 1920, and at the last meeting of the Executive it was resolved that if the judgment was not satisfactory the Association should make it a test case and should take whatsoever public action it should deem necessary. On the 21st December, 1922, the accused were acquitted after

there had been no less than fifty-two adjournments. It would seem, therefore, that the time has come for a definite move to be made. The thanks of the Association are due to Mr. Sen who has interested himself in this case in an honorary capacity.

6. **Calcutta Municipal Bill**—The attention of the Association has been called to the insertion in the Bill by the Select Committee of a clause giving power to the Municipality to take steps to prevent venereal disease. The Executive is watching this matter very carefully and a memorandum is being drawn up which will be forwarded to the Minister in charge and to various members of the Select Committee. The Association has the assurance of the Minister that should a proposal be made in the Council during the passage of the Bill to delete this particular clause he will offer no objection. The thanks of the Association are due to Rev. B. A. Nag for calling their attention to this matter.

7. **Children Act**.—The Association decided to recommend to the Government the names of 12 people as suitable to be authorised persons under Section 27 of the Children Act. Nominations were made, but after consultation with the Legal Remembrancer it was decided to leave the matter in abeyance until the Government were ready to receive the recommendations of the Association.

8. **Immoral Traffic Bill**—In all the investigations of the Association the members of the various Sub-

Committees came to one conclusion, viz: that the clauses in the existing Police Acts dealing with the question of brothels, etc. were seriously defective. It was therefore decided to investigate the possibility of securing their amendment. A Sub-Committee was appointed and recommended that special local legislation might be secured somewhat on the lines of the Bill for the Suppression of Brothels and Immoral Traffic passed by the Government of Burma in 1921. Mr. J. S. Wilson drafted a Bill largely on the basis of recommendations previously made by him in regard to the amendment of the existing Police Act. The object of the Bill is to check the growth of commercialised vice by providing such legislation as will lead to the gradual suppression of brothels and immoral traffic. The main points of the Bill are:—

- (a) To enhance the present penalties for solicitation and to include the term "abetment of solicitation" in the clause, thereby bringing within the range of the law those who, such as garry-wallahs, infest the streets of Calcutta at night as touts for brothels.
- (b) To strengthen the hands of the authorities with regard to the discontinuance of a house as a brothel. At present, premises which may have been declared as a brothel, may be immediately re-opened with new tenants for the same purpose.



- (c) To bring under the scope of the law, owners of brothels, even if not in occupation. By this, the scandalous profiteering in vice on the part of certain landlords is directly aimed at. This is one of the most important clauses of the Bill.
- (d) To strengthen the hands of the authorities in regard to taking charge of minor girls in brothels.
- (e) To empower the police to remove procurers, pimps, and such persons as traffic in immorality. Prostitution itself may be only a vice, but its exploitation for gain violates every conception of humanity, and should be most severely dealt with.

The draft was sent to the Hon. Mr. Stephenson and he was interviewed by Mr. Anderson and the Secretary on 3rd January, 1923. He expressed the official view that while the Government could not itself introduce such a measure it would not oppose its introduction by a private member, but would take up an attitude of benevolent sympathy. Professor S. C. Mukerji has expressed his willingness to undertake the introduction of the Bill\* and every effort should be made to secure such support in and out of the Council that the Bill may be passed into Law

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\* The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Council on 12th January, 1923, for the First Reading. It is known as "The Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Bill, 1923." and a copy will be found at the end of the report.

during the present year. With regard to the legal aspect of commercialised vice, the Association can do very little until the present laws are changed, and therefore its immediate policy is to concentrate upon this and thus prepare the way for further action later on.

9. **Conclusion.**—The past year has not been one of achievement, so much as one of investigation. The Association is equipping itself with information and experience, which should eventually enable it to be a real power in the city. There are one or two things that should be part of its policy in 1923.

- (a) A regular means of awakening and enlightening public opinion on questions of civic and personal morality. Meetings should be planned during the year in various districts of the city, and members of the Association should be called upon to give active assistance at these gatherings. For after all prostitution is at bottom a moral question, and education on sex matters is surely needed.
- (b) The investigation of the Indian brothel problem should be pushed to a thorough conclusion. The collection of information here is not easy, and the evil is widely scattered. But it is a pressing necessity, as remedial measures cannot be proposed until the facts are thoroughly known.

- (c) The Government should be strongly pressed to allow the Association to nominate at least one member of the Calcutta Board of Censors and to increase the number of lady members to two. The film censorship is at present open to the grave charge that the moral aspect does not get sufficient attention. The Association should press for this to be more strongly emphasised in the future. The question of the advertisements of cinema film should also be taken up. The newspaper columns and public boardings have recently been increasingly used for the display of vulgar and suggestive pictures and descriptions, some of which would not be tolerated for a moment in England. At present the Board of Censors is powerless under the present Act, and efforts should be made to bring advertisements also within their scope.
- (d) The work of the Association would be greatly benefited if it could employ an agent to work with the Hon. Secretary, as a servant of the Executive. The present officers are all busy people and if the Association is to fulfil all the duties which properly belong to its sphere, it ought to consider the possibility of employing a full time, or at any rate, a half time officer. The Association can do much in Calcutta. There is scarcely any end to its influence

in those grave social questions that have remained for too long unattacked in any serious way. But until a suitable person can be found who is able to give at least half of his time to the Association, many opportunities for much needed service will have to be passed over.

- (e) Finally, it should be the duty of every member to pledge himself to support the principles of the proposed Bill for the Suppression of Immoral Traffic. Calcutta is a long way behind Colombo, Rangoon and Bombay in this matter. Solid support will probably secure the passage of the Bill through the Council before its dissolution. It is the first essential step to any real endeavour to deal with commercialised vice in Calcutta. Nothing can be done until the weaknesses and the anomalies of the present laws are set right, and the Association should by propaganda, personal and public, do all it can to secure these changes, and pave the way to real reform throughout the city.

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The Annual Meeting was followed by a crowded public meeting in Overtoun Hall under the Chairmanship of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta. The Speakers were Miss Higson, Rev. C. F. Andrews, Mr. S. N. Mullick, Rev. Herbert Anderson.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—“That this public meeting of the citizens of Calcutta calls attention to the serious problem of commercialised vice and prostitution in this city and strongly urges the Government to take the necessary legislative and executive action; and further calls upon all public bodies and institutions which have the welfare of the city at heart to join in a concerted effort to check the evil which is growing apace.”

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## Statement of Account ending December 31st, 1922.

| <b>Receipts.</b>                                     | <b>Payments.</b>                    |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| To subscriptions received in 1922.                   |                                     |
| Rs. A. P.  | Rs. A. P.                           |
| Justice W. E. Greaves 15 0 0                         | By Printing & Stationery ... 33 8 0 |
| Mr. J. S. Wilson ... 10 0 0                          | By Minute Book ... 2 6 0            |
| Oxford Mission and Oxford Mission Sisters ... 10 0 0 | By Postage Stamps ... 20 10 0       |
| Father J. Meunier ... 10 0 0                         |                                     |
| Mr. Joseph Taylor ... 10 0 0                         | Rs. 56 8 0                          |
| Lord Bishop of Calcutta 10 0 0                       | Balance in hand ... 93 8 0          |
| Miss E. Lardner ... 10 0 0                           |                                     |
| Mr. S. N. Mullick, M.L.C. 10 0 0                     | Rs. 150 0 0                         |
| Mr. A. W. Weddell ... 5 0 0                          |                                     |
| Miss Maxey ... 5 0 0                                 |                                     |
| Rev. J. D. Sinclair ... 5 0 0                        |                                     |
| Mr. C. S. Paterson ... 5 0 0                         |                                     |
| Mr. E. Muir ... 5 0 0                                |                                     |
| Mr. S. M. Bose, M.L.C. ... 4 0 0                     |                                     |
| Miss. N. R. Webb ... 3 0 0                           |                                     |
| Rev. H. Anderson ... 3 0 0                           |                                     |
| Rai Chuni Lal Bose                                   |                                     |
| Bahadur, C.I.E. ... 3 0 0                            |                                     |
| Mr. E. Studd ... 3 0 0                               |                                     |
| Mr. H. A. F. Lindsay, C.B.E. 3 0 0                   |                                     |
| Mr. M. M. Chatterjee ... 3 0 0                       |                                     |
| Prof. H. C. Moitra ... 3 0 0                         |                                     |
| Dr. D. Moitra ... 3 0 0                              |                                     |
| Lt. Col. J. G. Foster ... 3 0 0                      |                                     |
| Prof. S. C. Mukerji, M.L.C. 3 0 0                    |                                     |
| Sir D. P. Sarbadhikari 3 0 0                         |                                     |
| Rai Radha Charan Pal                                 |                                     |
| Bahadur ... 3 0 0                                    |                                     |
| Rs. 150 0 0  | Rs. 150 0 0                         |

R. D. MEHTA,  
*Hony. Treasurer.*

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**THE CONSTITUTION OF**  
**The Calcutta Vigilance Association.**

1. The name of the Association shall be "The Calcutta Vigilance Association."

2. Its object shall be the promotion of social purity, primarily in Calcutta, and of co-operation with organisations having the same object in other parts of India.

3. It shall seek to operate in the community by such methods of propaganda and social service as may be open to it from time to time, and through the public authorities for the suppression of commercialised vice.

4. It shall have a membership not exceeding fifty, and members shall be chosen for their sympathy with the aims of the Association, without restriction of race, religion or sex.

5. It shall have a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected each year by the Association at its annual business meeting.

6. These office-bearers with other five members, also elected at the annual business meeting, shall act as the Executive of the Association.

7. Proposals for additions to the membership from time to time may be submitted by members to the Executive at least a week before a meeting of the

Association, to which names approved by the Executive shall be submitted for election, provided always that the total membership shall not exceed fifty.

8. Meetings of the Association shall be called by the Executive as occasion arises, and the annual business meeting at a convenient date in the early part of the year. On the requisition of any four members the Secretary shall call a special meeting.

9. At the annual business meeting the annual report and the financial statement, having been previously approved by the Executive, shall be submitted by the Secretary and the Treasurer.

10. At meetings of the Association fifteen shall be a quorum.

11. At meetings of the Executive five shall be a quorum.

12. A fund shall be raised by voluntary contributions to meet the expenses of the Association.

13. The Chairman shall have both a deliberative and a casting vote.

14. Amendments of the Constitution shall be competent only at the annual business meeting and when notice in writing has been given to the Secretary at least fifteen days beforehand.



# THE CALCUTTA SUPPRESSION OF IMMORAL TRAFFIC BILL, 1923.

## STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS.

The object of this Bill is to provide legislation which will give to the authorities such powers as will materially aid them in checking the evil of commercialised vice, and as will lead to the gradual suppression of brothels and immoral traffic. The means which are suggested in the proposed Bill are :—

- (a) to increase the existing penalties for solicitation and the abetment of solicitation ;
- (b) to amend the present laws with regard to the power of the police to order the discontinuance of a house as a brothel ;
- (c) to strengthen the hand of the authorities in regard to taking charge of minor girls in brothels ; and
- (d) to strengthen the power of the Commissioner of Police with regard to the exclusion of procurers, pimps and managers of brothels, or such persons as traffic in prostitution, from the limit of his jurisdiction.

## A BILL

*for the suppression of Immoral Traffic in Calcutta  
and its suburbs.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to make better provision for the suppression of brothels, of the traffic in women and of the practice of solicitation and for other purposes of a like nature in Calcutta and its suburbs ;

AND WHEREAS the previous sanction of the Governor General has been obtained under sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act to the passing of this Act ;

1. It is hereby enacted as follows :—

(1) This Act may be called the Calcutta Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act, 1923.

(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Local Government may, by notification in the *Calcutta Gazette*, direct.

(3) The Act shall extend to the town of Calcutta and to the suburbs of Calcutta, as defined in any notification published in the *Calcutta Gazette*, under section 1 of the Calcutta Suburban Police Act 1866.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) "Brothel" or disorderly house means any house, room or place which the occupier or person in charge thereof habitually allows to be used by any other person for the purposes of prostitution ;

(2) "Commissioner of Police" means the Commissioner of Police for the town and suburbs of Calcutta.

3. Sections 43, 43A, 43B, 68B, and 72A, of the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, and sections 17, 17A, 17B, 41A, and 43A, of the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866 are hereby repealed.

4. (1) Whoever, in a street or public place or within sight of, and in such manner as to be seen or heard from any street or public place whether from within any house or building or not—

(a) by words, gestures, wilful and indecent exposure of the person or otherwise attracts or endeavours to attract attention for the purpose of prostitution,

(b) solicits or molests, or abets the solicitation or molestation of, any person to immorality, shall be punished with fine which may extend to one hundred rupees, or with imprisonment, for a term which may extend to one month, or with both, and if such person is again convicted after three previous convictions for the same offence, he shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months.

(2) Any police officer not below the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, specially empowered by rank or name in this behalf by the Commissioner of Police, may arrest without a warrant for any offence specified in sub-section (1).

5. (1) When the Commissioner of Police or a Deputy Commissioner of Police receives information that any house, room or place—

(a) is being used as a brothel or disorderly house, or for the purpose of carrying on the business of a common prostitute, in the vicinity of any educational institution or of any boarding house, hostel or mess used or occupied by students, or of any place of public worship or recreation, or

(b) is used as, or for the purpose, aforesaid to the annoyance of respectable inhabitants of the vicinity, or

(c) is used as, or for the purpose, aforesaid on any main thoroughfare which has been notified in this behalf by the Local Government on the recommendation of the Municipal Commissioners, or

(d) is used as a common place of assignation,—  
he may cause a notice to be served on the owner, lessor, manager or occupier of the house, room or place to appear before him, either in person or by agent, on a date to be fixed in such notice, and to show cause why, on the grounds to be stated in the notice, an order should not be passed for the discontinuance of such use of such house, room or place.

(2) If, on the date fixed, or on any subsequent date to which the hearing may be adjourned, the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police is

satisfied, after making such inquiry as he deems fit, that the house, room or place is used as described in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d) of sub-section (1), as the case may be, he may, by written order, direct such owner, lessor, manager or occupier, not less than ten days from the date thereof, to discontinue such use.

(3) Any such order passed under sub-section (2) by a Deputy Commissioner of Police shall be subject to confirmation by the Commissioner of Police.

(4) No house, room or place, concerning which order has been passed under sub-section (2), shall again be used, or allowed to be used, in any manner described in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d) of sub-section (1), as the case may be, and it shall be lawful for the Commissioner of Police, if such house, room or place is again used in such manner, without further inquiry, to direct the owner, lessor, manager or occupier of such house, room or place to discontinue such use within a period of seven days.

(5) The direction of the Commissioner of Police that a house, room or place is used in any manner, or for any purpose, described in clause (a), (b), (c) or (d) of sub-section (1) shall be final, and the legality or propriety thereof shall not be questioned in any trial or judicial proceeding in any Court.

(6) Who ever, after an order has been passed against him by the Commissioner of Police under sub-section (2) or subsection (4) or by a Deputy Commissioner of Police under sub-section (2) and confirmed under sub-section (3), uses, or allows to be used,

any house, room or place in a manner which contravenes such order after the period stated therein, shall be punished with fine which may extend to twenty-five rupees for every day after the expiration of the said period during which the breach continues, and shall, on a second conviction for the same offence, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months in addition to, or in lieu of, any fine imposed.

(7) Whoever, after an order under sub-section (4) uses or allows to be used, any house, room or place in a manner which contravenes such order after the period stated therein, shall be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees for every day after the expiration of the said period during which the breach continues, and shall, on a second conviction for the same offence, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months in addition to, or in lieu of, any fine imposed.

(8) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, the owner or lessor of any house, room or place, against the lessee, tenant or occupier of which an order has been passed directing the discontinuance of the use thereof as a brothel or disorderly house or for the purpose of carrying on the business of a common prostitute, or as a common place of assignation, shall be entitled forthwith to determine such lease, tenancy or occupation.

6. (1) The Commissioner of Police, or a Deputy

Commissioner of Police or a police officer not below the rank of Inspector, specially authorised in writing in this behalf by the Commissioner or a Deputy Commissioner of Police, shall be empowered to enter into any brothel or disorderly house or house of assignation, where he has knowledge or suspicion, or it is reported to him, that a girl, apparently under the age of sixteen years, is living in a house of ill fame or is carrying on, or is being made to carry on, the business of a common prostitute, and shall be entitled to remove such girl forthwith from such brothel, disorderly house or house of assignation.

(2) A girl who has been so removed shall be brought before a Juvenile Court constituted under section 37 of the Bengal Children Act, 1922 and if the Court is of opinion that she is under the age of fourteen years, it shall cause an inquiry to be made in manner provided in sub-section (3) of section 27 of the Bengal Children Act, 1922, and, if satisfied that the girl should be dealt with under the provisions of this Act, may pass an order that such girl may be sent to an industrial school for the period provided in clause (b) of section 23 of the Bengal Children Act, 1922.

(3) If the Court is of opinion that such girl is over the age of fourteen years but is under the age of sixteen years, the court, after a like inquiry, and if satisfied that the girl should be dealt with under the provisions of this Act, may direct that she be sent to

an industrial school established under the Bengal Children Act, 1922, until in the opinion of the Court she attains the age of sixteen years.

(4) In determining the industrial school to which the girl who is being dealt with under the provisions of sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) shall be sent, the Court shall have regard to the provisions of section 39 of the Bengal Children Act, 1922.

(5) For the determination whether a girl produced before a Court under the provisions of this section is under fourteen years of age or under sixteen years of age, as the case may be, the provisions of section 38 of the Bengal Children Act, 1922, shall apply.

7. When a girl has been removed from a brothel or disorderly house or house of assignation under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 6, the Commissioner or Deputy Commissioner of Police or other police officer carrying out the removal shall, until such girl can be brought before the Court, cause her to be detained in such place (other than a police station or jail) as may be prescribed in this behalf by the Local Government.

8. When an order has been passed under the provisions of section 6 that a girl be placed in an industrial school, the provisions of the Bengal Children Act, 1922, shall thereafter apply to the case of such girl as if she had been a child or young person dealt with under section 27 of that Act.

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