

Sept 15/14

To the Combined

Public Morals Committee (3.30. *Chaple House*)

Brethren

I have spent a good deal of time in looking into the question of the Red Plague since our last meeting. I arranged further interviews with experts and with another member of the Committee met these gentlemen.

These experts all admit that the question is a "Moral" or "largely a Moral problem"

Re the important matter of Notification- they say without compulsion it is useless. Compulsory notification without Detention is worse than useless. Combined they are impracticable, for they say, it would involve too large a proportion of the population. None of them are in favour of the Contagious Diseases Acts as ^{they} ~~it~~ ^{have} been in the past, or as experienced in Queensland. They give illustrations of fraud etc practised under ^{them} ~~it~~. But on this head no one will be found to favour their revival..

Many are pessimistic and have been forced to the attitude of accepting the situation ~~as~~ a necessary evil. One or two "sounded" us to see whether we could not thus work with them on this understanding. The emphatic reply left absolutely no room for doubt in their minds,

All favour EDUCATION..And especially of the adolescent youth. They are aware of the difficulties in this respect. None of them think that Education is a sufficient remedy.

We have reason to believe that the "Night clinics" to be instituted by the Government will prove palliative but not remedial.

The alarmist articles written and warnings recently uttered concerning the danger of contagion whilst innocently pursuing our daily vocations is largely 'scare' and without foundation. These experts say there are not more than one or two per cent and some of these could and should by cleanliness be avoided.

In conclusion we beg to report that on the whole matters are worse than we imagine. The obstacles are tremendous, but the clamant needs of the victims and especially of those who are to be the innocent victims of the future, are so pathetic, that every patriot as well as every Christian man should vow ~~to do~~ a serious battle against this cruel enemy of our race. It is so entrenched that our progress must be necessarily slow. Every member of Committee should on this question be a vigilance Committee in himself.

Yours very faithfully,

Abraham Deans.

Joint Sec.