

EDITORIAL

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. ANNA SHAW.

By DANIEL DE LEON

BY special orders from the National Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage, the venerable Suffragist Dr. Anna Howard Shaw is henceforth to be excluded from all Anti platforms.

The reason given for the order is that Dr. Shaw “has reached a state of mind which prompts her to vilification, to make wild statements and employ insulting language which no woman should endure.”

And the reason given for this opinion is that, at a public hearing of the Senate Committee on Woman Suffrage Dr. Anna Shaw made the following statement:

“We do not fear that little band of professional anti women going around the country advocating home, Heaven and mother. The only purpose they serve is that by holding out their skirts they act as a screen for the liquor traffic and gamblers, the vicious and those interested in dance halls and places where young girls are ruined.”

Mildly tho’ the statement draws the picture of a substantial portion of the Antis, Dr. Anna Shaw deserves congratulations for having drawn the picture. There is no sense in mincing matters of this nature. He, or she, who dares not, only serves as encourager to wrong-doers.

But the congratulations, that Dr. Anna Shaw’s statement evokes, should be followed with a second “round” when one hears the reasons given by the Anti Association for holding the statement to be a “vilification” and “wild.” The reasons are that the women to whom Dr. Shaw referred are noted throughout the country “because of the wonderful things they have done in charitable, philanthropic, and municipal work.” Dr. Anna Shaw photographed the bulk, if not all, of the Antis. In this, the Antis’ statement about themselves, they photograph themselves. Whosoever knows aught of social conditions knows of the demoralization that these “charitable, phil-

anthropic and municipal” workers are the radiating centers—and, to a tremendous degree, the beneficiaries of.

Congratulations to Dr. Anna Howard Shaw!

Three distinct rounds of applause to the venerable matron—

One round for her statement before the Senate Committee;

A second round for the statement about themselves that her statement drew from the Antis;

A third round for their excluding her from their platform. The decree is a badge of honor to Dr. Anna Shaw—a homage to her integrity in the fray.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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