

IF COMES SLOWLY.

In an address before the Current Events class of the First Congregational church Sunday, Mrs. Ira Wallace Van Nert, president of the Negro Fellowship league, spoke of the discrimination which is constantly being made against the members of her race and pointed out the fact that there is an increasing tendency to enact laws and to establish precedents which are opposed to one of the principles upon which our government is supposed to stand, "that all men are created free and equal."

The charges which Mrs. Van Nert brought against the white race are only too true, alas, and the helplessness of her fellows a most unfortunate fact. The remedy lies largely in the development of the negro through education, an opportunity which our public school system and especially the vocational courses open to every colored child. The use that is made of that privilege lies with the negro himself to a great extent. The process must necessarily be slow, but the work of such leaders of the race as Mrs. Van Nert will materially hasten the desirable results which the various uplifting movements which are already instituted are endeavoring to bring about.

Mrs. Van Nert should have no quarrel with the bill now pending in the legislature regarding intermarriage between members of the negro and the white race. Such a regulation is quite as desirable for her people as for the white man. It can do no good to either party to enter into such a marriage because of the fact that it is not the desirable white element which is desirous of contracting such an alliance. Of the truth of her conclusion that similar drastic measures should be adopted in other cases of illegal marriage, Mrs. Van Nert will find confirmation. That there is need of reform in our marriage and divorce laws is only too evident and there can be no doubt but that the continuous agitation which is breathing more and more universal will effect that needed reform in the not very distant future.