

England and Ireland. He was extremely desirous that public attention should be directed to this question, and with that view he had consented to the presence of a reporter, that the public should have laid before them the views urged by the deputation. It was a very important question, and it was right that the attention of the public should be called, so as to bring out discussion upon the points raised. All he could say in the meantime was that he would take an early opportunity of bringing before the Government the views of the influential deputation he had had the honour of receiving. They would understand that the law with reference to some of those matters was not the same in Scotland as in England, and he believed that an assimilation of the laws, as much as possible, was desirable. More particularly with reference to the rights of persons, he could see no reason why the law should be different in both countries. He did not say that we should adopt the English law. We should adopt the best of both systems, and therefore an inquiry by a commission may in this respect be of great advantage. His Lordship concluded by again assuring the deputation that he would take an early opportunity of bringing the matter under the notice of the Government.

Mr. Commissioner BROWNE assured his Lordship that the society which the deputation had the honour of representing was not a local one, but composed of members from almost all countries.

The deputation having thanked his Lordship for his courtesy, withdrew.

*Lord Shaftesbury's Speeches.**

The volume before us may be said to contain a presentment of the political life of Lord Shaftesbury, in its relation to the reforms for which he has chiefly laboured, and there are few statesmen who can look back upon a life at once so consistent and so successful, upon objects so steadily pursued, upon aims so purely benevolent, upon victories so certainly the preludes of others yet to come. In every philanthropic effort in which Lord Shaftesbury has been engaged, some progress at least has been made, and such progress, by fulfilling the hopes and justifying the predictions of its promoters, has always prepared the way for more. The speeches now reprinted range over a period of nine-and-twenty years, and over a variety of topics; but they mostly reiterate certain cardinal *desiderata*, certain specifics against the well defined causes that add artificially to human sin and misery. At the very beginning of Lord Shaftesbury's public career these points were insisted upon, and in so far as they have not been

* Speeches of the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.G., upon subjects having relation chiefly to the claims and interests of the Labouring Class. With a Preface. Chapman and Hall. 1868.

carried they are insisted upon still. Domiciliary accommodation sufficient for health and decency, the enforcement of proper sanitary laws, the education of children, and the protection of helpless persons, such as children, women, and lunatics, from the greed or the carelessness of those upon whom they may be dependent—these have been the results aimed at, and, in a very considerable degree, attained. Proper and legitimate as they seem, they have not been attained in any degree but by overcoming the strenuous opposition of interested persons, and the scarcely less formidable apathy of persons who were uninterested. In recent years it has been a conspicuous evil of our system of party government that none but party questions have been rendered prominent in Parliament, and a party question must be one on which men of honour and principle can take different sides, under the guidance of essential differences of opinion. When it is proposed to house the poor decently, to make provision for their health and education, and to diminish the temptations that lead them to crime, there can be no differences of opinion about these ends, and no possibility of gaining a Parliamentary reputation by opposing them. There will, however, be room for differences about the wisdom or probable effect of the means proposed, and these differences will be used as pretexts for delay and for inaction. The abuses of our great cities and towns do not want for powerful supporters among persons who thrive, or fancy they thrive by them, and who belong to classes that have hitherto greatly influenced elections, and in other ways have possessed and exerted great political power. Whether in the future their power will wane and their obstructiveness cease to be felt, the future must itself disclose.

The first speeches in the volume refer to the Factory Acts, and, although the abuses against which these Acts were directed have long ceased to exist, yet it is fully worth while to refer to them as matters of history. Lord Shaftesbury's speeches avoid, as a rule, any detailed account of these abuses, and refer his hearers to the published Reports of the various Commissions that had been from time to time appointed. Still we have been able to mark passages sufficient for our purpose, and capable of conveying some conception of the cruelty, the disease, and the vice that attended upon a system now happily passed away. As regards cruelty, we read with reference to pin-making :—

Children go at a very early age, at 5 years old, and work from 6 in the morning till 8 at night. There are as many girls as boys. One witness, a pin-header, aged 12, said, 'I have seen the children much beaten ten times a day, so that with some the blood comes many a time; none of the children where I work can either read or write.' Another witness said, 'It is a sedentary employment, requiring great stress upon the eyes, and a constant motion of the foot, finger, and eyes.' This is fully confirmed in a letter I have just received. There it is stated that eyesight is much affected; the overseers of the poor have sent many cases of this nature to the Eye Institution at Manchester. Each child, reports Mr. Commissioner Tuffnell, is in a position continually bent in the form of the letter C, its head being about eight inches from the table. My inquiries,

he adds, fully corroborated the account of its being the practice of parents to borrow sums of money on the credit of their children's labour and then let them out to pin-heading till it is paid. One woman had let out both her children for ten months, and another had sold hers for a year. Here I must entreat the attention of hon. members to this system of legalised slavery; and I cannot better invite it than by reading an extract from a letter which I have lately received 'You also know,' says my informant, 'the practice of the masters in securing the services of these little slaves. One man in this town employs from four to five hundred of them. A very ordinary practice is for the master to send for the parents or guardians, offer them an advance of money—an irresistible temptation—and then extract a bond, *which the magistrates enforce*, that the payment of the loan shall be effected through the labour of the child. A child of tender age can rarely earn more than from 9d. to 1s. a week. Thus the master becomes bodily possessor of the children as his *bonâ fide* slaves, and works them according to his pleasure. And now mark this—If he continues with the employment to pay wages and keep the loan hanging over the head of the parents, who do not refuse to take the wages, yet cannot repay the loan, the master may keep possession of the child as his slave for an indefinite time. This is done to a great extent; the relieving officer has tried in vain to break through the iniquitous practice, but it seems that the magistrates have not power to do it.'

Lord Shaftesbury next quotes from Mr. Tuffnell the following statement. "Knowing," says he,—

The cruelties that are sometimes practised in order to keep those infants at work, I was not surprised at being told by a manufacturer that he had left the trade owing to the disgust he felt at this part of the business. . . . From my own observation of the effect of the trade as now carried on I do not hesitate to say that it is the cause of utter ruin, temporal and spiritual, to eight out of every ten children that are employed in it.

The abominations of calico printing are next dealt with, and are thus described, on the authority of Mr. Horner:—

It is by no means uncommon for children to work as *teer* boys as early as six and seven years of age, and sometimes as young as five. Children of six, seven, and eight years old may be seen going to work at—what hour will the House think? at what hour of a winter's night? or at what hour of the night at all? Why, he proceeds, at 12 o'clock of a winter's night, in large numbers, sometimes having to walk a mile or two to the works. When they are twelving the first set goes at 12 o'clock in the day and works till 12 at night. Sometimes they do not send away those who have worked from 12 in the day to 12 at night, but let them sleep a few hours in the works and then set them on again. There is no interval for meals in the night set, except breakfast, the children taking something with them; and even their breakfast is taken at the works. The custom of taking their meals in the works is very injurious, for they do not wash their hands, and they consequently sometimes swallow deleterious colouring matter. A person whose name is not given, states that, being frequently detained in his counting-house late at night till 12 or 1 o'clock, he has often, in going home in the depth of winter, met mothers taking their children to the neighbouring print works, the children crying. All this I can confirm and exceed by the statements of a letter I hold in my hand from a medical gentleman living in the very centre of the print works. I wish there were time to read the whole of it, but I fear I have already fatigued the House by the number of my extracts. 'Many children,' he writes, 'are only six years of age; one-half of them, he believes, are under nine; the labour of children is not only harder but of longer duration. During nightwork the men are obliged to shake their *teerers* to keep them awake,

and they are not seldom roused by blows. This work is very fatiguing to the eyes; their sight consequently fails at a very early age. They have to clean the blocks; this is done at the margin of the brook on which the works stand. I often see these little creatures standing up to the calves of their legs in the water, and this even in the severest weather, after being kept all day in rooms heated to a most oppressive degree. The injurious effect of this close and heated atmosphere is much aggravated by the effluvia of the colours; these are, in most cases, metallic salts, and . . . very noxious. The atmosphere of the room is, consequently, continually loaded with poisonous gases of different kinds.'

The effects of such a system as this upon health and morals can scarcely need to be described; and those whose memories extend back to the time at which such abuses existed will remember that the very name of "factory people" was once expressive of everything calculated to shock the good and to revolt the fastidious. Children dragged up through these scenes of brutality could scarcely fail, if ever they reached maturity, to be themselves sickly, and cruel, and vicious, and degraded. It is unnecessary to quote much evidence upon the point, and we shall be content with extracts that are few, although significant:—

Since 1816 80 surgeons and physicians have asserted the prodigious evil of the system. The Government Commissioners themselves furnish a summary of particulars:—The excessive fatigue, privation of sleep, pain in various parts of the body, and swelling of the feet, experienced by the young workers, coupled with the constant standing, the peculiar attitudes of the body, and the peculiar motion of the limbs required in the labour of the factory, together with the elevated temperature, and the impure atmosphere in which the labour is often carried on, ultimately terminate in the production of serious, permanent, and incurable diseases. When I was myself in the manufacturing districts, in the year 1841, I went over many of the hospitals, and consulted many of the medical men in that part of the country. The result is contained in a note which I drew up at the time, and which is as follows:—Scrofulous cases apparently universal; the wards were filled with scrofulous knees, hips, ankles, &c. The medical gentleman informed me that they were nearly invariably factory cases. He attributed the presence of scrofula to factory employment under all its circumstances of great heat, low diet, bad ventilation, and protracted toil. . . . Hence arise many serious evils to the working classes. None greater than the early prostration of their strength, their premature superannuation, and utter incapacity to sustain their families by the labour of their hands. . . . The ages above 40 are seldom found in this employment.

Upon the question of vice it will be sufficient to show the habits and condition of the women:—

Mr. Braidley, when boroughreeve of Manchester, stated that in one ginshop during eight successive Saturday evenings, from 7 till 10 o'clock, he observed, on an average rate, 412 persons enter by the hour, of whom the females were 60 per cent. . . . Sir Charles Shaw, for some years the Superintendent of the Police at Manchester, says:—'Women by being employed in a factory lose the station ordained them by Providence, and become similar to the female followers of an army, wearing the garb of women but actuated by the worst passions of men. The women are the leaders and excitors of the young men to violence in every riot and outbreak in the manufacturing districts, and the language they indulge in is of a horrid description. While they are themselves demoralized, they contaminate all that comes within their reach.'

If we now turn from this revolting picture, in order to see what is the actual condition of factory people in the present day, we shall find a contrast such as has never before, perhaps, been produced by wise and beneficent legislation. Even in the same county or district the state of the operatives differs widely according to the interest felt by their employers in promoting their physical and moral welfare; but the worst condition which would now be possible in no way approaches that which was the rule five-and-twenty years ago. Of the general improvement no better proof could be given than the exemplary conduct of the cotton hands during the distress produced by the American civil war. If we descend to particulars, we find that "factory diseases" have simply ceased to be, that the health and physical development of the operatives is fully equal to that of any other labouring class, or differs for the worse, if it ever does so, only because the occupation thus carefully fenced and sheltered by the law has become absolutely a source of comfort and of protection to the weak. Children now labour in a manner fitted to their powers, and women are enabled to assist in the maintenance of their families, or to support themselves, without injury either to health or morals, and without being compelled to neglect all the duties of home. With the growth of a generation accustomed to these advantages, there has risen up a more healthy tone of opinion. In places where operatives are clustered in out-of-the-way villages, distant from the mills, and little visited by any but their own class, great moral evils still exist and are likely to continue. When, on the contrary, the masters will exercise supervision over the fitness of their dwellings, when these dwellings are situated on high roads and in frequented places, and when a certain standard of respectability is insisted upon as a condition of continued employment, the operatives of the present time will be found to be worthy and well-conducted people, industrious, temperate, and frugal. Mills in which these conditions exist become more and more frequent, and each one of them serves to elevate the general tone of the operatives in the neighbourhood in which it stands.

A most important part of the factory legislation has been the provision made for the education of children. In this way great good has been accomplished, but still very much less than could be desired. In 1838 Lord Shaftesbury says—

Since 1816 no less than 60 clergymen, either by documents or in person, had exhibited the vicious and awful condition of those districts, and the utter hopelessness of any efforts to impart to people engaged in factory labour anything like moral or religious instruction. In 1835 a petition was presented from 200 Sunday school teachers, declaring that it was quite impossible, even on the Sabbath day, to convey to their minds, wearied and exhausted as they were, any beneficial instruction whatever.

In a speech in the House of Commons in 1843 on the education of the working classes, we find the following statements:—

At Wolverhampton, Mr. Horne says:—'Among all the children and young persons I examined I found, with very few exceptions, their minds as stunted as their bodies, their moral feelings stagnant. . . . The children and young persons possess but little sense of moral duty towards their parents, and have little affection for them. . . . One child believed that Pontius Pilate and Goliath were apostles; another, 14 or 15 years of age, did not know how many two and two made. In my evidence, taken in this town alone, as many as five children and young persons had never heard even the name of Jesus Christ. . . . You will find boys who have never heard of such a place as London, and of Willenhall (only three miles distant), who have never heard the name of the Queen, or of such names as Wellington, Nelson, Bonaparte, or King George.' . . . In the north of England the replies of many of the children who were questioned by the Commissioners show a state of things utterly disgraceful to the character of a Christian country. One of the children replied to a question put to him, 'I never heard of France; I never heard of Scotland or Ireland; I do not know what America is.' James Taylor, a boy 11 years old, said that he 'has never heard of Jesus Christ; has never heard of God, but has heard the men in the pit say "God damn them;" never heard of London.' A girl, 18 years old, said, 'I never heard of Christ at all.' This, indeed, the Commissioner adds, is very common among children and young persons. She proceeded to say, 'never go to church or chapel;' again, 'I don't know who God is.' The sub-commissioner who visited Halifax has recorded this sentence, 'You have expressed surprise,' says an employer, 'at Thomas Mitchell not having heard of God; I judge there are very few colliers hereabout that have.'

It is well known to all who are conversant with schools that the answers of children and young persons to strangers are frequently deceptive. A formidable looking Commissioner, armed with a despatch box, invested by the imaginations of the young with awful and irresponsible power, and addressing questions in literary English to an audience accustomed only to a provincial dialect, would almost certainly, even now, be astonished at the abysses of ignorance that he would discover. Such ignorance would be to a great extent apparent rather than real; and, granting that it might be real in some cases, the facts remain that schools exist, and that the children attend them. Of the children now working in factories, perhaps, not more than five per cent. are unable to read. Probably 90 per cent. can both read and write in some fashion; a very large proportion can cipher. The actual deficiencies of the schools of the present day are mainly two—want of discipline and want of method.

Besides the questions on which it is now possible to look with some complacency at principles actually established, and upon progress that is itself a guarantee for the future, the speeches before us deal with others that are still in the stage of inquiry preliminary to legislation. Foremost among these is the system of agricultural labour in gangs. Next, not as being secondary in importance, but as being more complicated, and therefore less easy of immediate settlement, are amendments in the Poor Law, in the sanitary laws, and in the laws affecting the dwellings of the industrial classes. Upon each and all of these there is one moral to be drawn from the volume of which we treat. In proportion as the social reforms suggested and advocated by Lord Shaftesbury have been carried into

effect, so has been the improvement in the general condition, not of the labouring classes only, but of the whole community as influenced by them. The improvement has been so great as to be well nigh incredible by a generation in which the horrors of the past are either unknown or forgotten. It is good sometimes to call these horrors to remembrance; and it is justifiable to conclude that wisdom thus tested by experience may be accepted as a safe and certain guide for the social legislation of the future.—*The Times*, October 21.

The Westminster Review on Obscure Diseases of the Brain.

The fourth edition of Dr. Winslow's *Obscure Diseases of the Brain and Mind* proves the interest which the public feel in sensational anecdotes of madness, and in a medley of quotations from all sorts of authors concerning it. The reader is not unlikely to finish the perusal of the book with a conviction that any confusion which its incoherent character may naturally have produced, is an indication of some obscure disease of the brain or mind requiring instant medical advice. In that case, the book may possibly have answered its purpose.—*The Westminster Review*, October, 1868.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Education, Position, and Pay of Assistant Medical Officers of County Asylums.

We have received the following letter from Dr. Crichton Browne with reference to the *Occasional Note* on the "Education, Position, and Pay of Assistant Medical Officers of County Asylums," published in the October number of the *Journal of Mental Science* :—

West Riding Asylum, Wakefield,
22nd September, 1868.

MY DEAR DR. ROBERTSON,—

The medical staff of this Asylum consists of a Medical Director, two Assistant Medical Officers—one acting in the male and one in the female department—and two Clinical Clerks—one acting under the direction of each of the Medical Assistants. The salary of the Senior Medical Assistant for the time being is £125, with the usual allowances, and that of the Junior, £100, while the Clinical Clerks receive no salary, but only furnished apartments, board, &c., and instruction in mental and nervous diseases, in return for their services. After eighteen months' experience of them, I am strongly impressed with the value of these Clinical Clerks, and should not now like to be without them. They are of great service, not merely in keeping the case books, but in widening and extending that general and unremitting supervision which I believe to be so important in a large establishment like this, and in helping on the medical work in various ways. It is almost impossible for me to describe to