

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM 29

long their health was suffering from the poisonous surroundings and the long hours of work. The father's brain reeled at the prospect for his family, but the landlord was inexorable and the rent had to be paid, and they were driven to seek a cheaper lodging, and soon the whole family were living in a single room, in a district that was a hotbed of crime and nameless horrors, and work was harder to get because they came from a place of bad repute. "They were in the hands of men who sweat the last drop out of man and woman and child for wages that are the food only of despair." Before long the dirt and sickness and the social surroundings had robbed them of the last shreds of self-respect. There was a public-house near by, and "thither they fled one and all for shelter, for warmth and forgetfulness, and the outcome was that in a few months the father was in prison, the wife was dying, the son was a criminal, and the daughters were on the street." And the eminent minister says, "Multiply this case by half a million and you will be beneath the truth." And all of this takes place in Christian England, in her capital city, in the centre of the