

28 CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM

THE WEAKER CLASSES CROWDED TO THE WALL.

Perhaps two or three concrete examples will illustrate the effect of this struggle for existence upon the physical and moral welfare of the less privileged classes of the people. The Rev. Stopford Brooke, an accomplished Church of England minister at the time, tells that when he was curate in Kensington, he often used to meet families drifting into London along the Hammersmith road. One day there came along a respectable laboring man, his wife and son and two daughters. "He had been employed for a long time on an estate in the country and with care they had managed to get along and save a little for 'the rainy day.' But the time came when their labor was not needed, and they were quietly turned out of the cottage. Where should they go? Of course to London, where they thought work would be plentiful." But the inevitable land question met them as soon as they arrived. They tried to get decent lodgings, but found that two rooms would cost \$2.50 a week. And food was dear and poor, and work was hard to get, and wages were low, and before