

interest in its work, and has stimulated by her presence at public functions and private meetings the interest of others. All the leading educational authorities are of opinion that the general aims and methods of the Association are on the right lines—that the weapons with which to protect our young people during their leisure hours from the perils of the streets at night, and to attack the industrial paralysis which arises from incompetence in handicraft, are to be forged in evening-schools of a recreative and practical kind.

The next step, therefore, must be to promote and facilitate such schools by legislative enactments. What is wanted is to make evening continuation schools an integral part of our educational system—raising the age of total exemption from day-school to thirteen so as to tally with the operation of the Factory Acts; and raising the exemption standard universally to the fifth or sixth, with the proviso, however, to meet the case of children of the very poor, that the last standard or standards may be taken in an evening continuation school, two years being allowed to pass one standard; and providing that there be two schedules in evening schools—(a) Elementary, for those under the sixth standard and under sixteen years of age. (b) Advanced, for those above the sixth standard and over sixteen years of age. In both schedules, with a view to giving an education which shall be more attractive, healthful, and useful for everyday life, recreative and practical subjects should be included. These proposals would have the effect of greatly increasing the number of half-time scholars, whose education should be better regulated than at present, and spread over a longer period. It will probably be found necessary, however, to exempt agricultural districts at present from the operation of any such Act, making it apply only to our large centres where the Factory Acts are in force.

In the meantime, the Association seeks to multiply and to make popular such schools as already exist by the adoption of the best possible methods. Those methods must be *educational*. Unorganised and uneducational philanthropy will do little or nothing to elevate the life. What is wanted is a distinctly educational element which shall smite the rock and