

DAS RAUHE HAUS ZU HORN BEI HAMBURG.

DR. WICHERN'S RENOWNED REFORMATORY.

THE story of this Institution, whose fame is now world-wide, is interesting from its inception to the present day, and cannot be too often repeated, for it is full of instruction, especially to young men. It was begun and has been carried on in faith, and by faith and prayer it has marvellously prospered.

JOHANN HEINRICH WICHERN (1808-1881).

One evening in October, 1832, while cholera still lingered in some of its streets and lanes, a few earnest men of different social ranks, and different occupations, met in a schoolmaster's room in Hamburg on the Elbe, to discuss measures for the alleviation of the sufferings of the poor, whose wretchedness at that time was known to all of them. Amongst the number was Herr Wichern, a young *Kandidat*, "thorough and clear in speech, with firm lines in his face, which, together with his deep-set eyes, betokened an energy and resolve that would grapple hard with most problems." He had long been a Sabbath school teacher in Hamburg, his native town, and had mixed, as a visitor, with the poorest and vilest in the city. He sought out the day laborers, sweepers of street crossings, costermongers and criminals, studied their peculiar characteristics, and habits and wants, and came to the conclusion that the only hope of benefitting their children, lay in separating them from the contaminating influences around them, before poverty and evil example had accustomed them to crime. True, this was not altogether a novel idea in Germany. Falk had established a reformatory at Weimar in 1814; and a similar one had been dedicated to the same object in 1819, at Dussethal, by the Counts von Volmerstein. Zeller began one in 1820, at Castle Beuggen, in Baden, and in 1825 a similar one was tried in Berlin. What distinguished the Hamburg movement from these, was the principle held by Wichern that in dealing with the young, the plan of the family must be adopted. This was the system devised by the Creator, and therefore the natural one for the child—the position in which the purest and strongest influences could be brought to bear upon him. This scheme he