

the bodily powers to develop—when a wise discipline and training are most needed and would be most fruitful—the scholars are permitted, both by law and by the public opinion of their associates, to enter on the work of life without any further educational assistance or restraint. The results are disastrous, and full of peril to the community. The little learned at school soon leaks away ; the scholars are cut adrift without any real equipment for the work of life ; and fall an easy prey to the temptations which beset the idle or vacant-minded. They have no resources in themselves ; their homes are often dull and dirty ; while the streets teem with attractions. The glare and music of the public-house allure them ; they crowd into the cheap theatres, dancing and music-halls ; in many cases they form habits and companionships which corrupt their whole life, or, at the very best, by early marriage wreck their own happiness and aggravate the miseries which arise from overcrowding and from the multiplication of the unfit. Nor is this all. The results from an industrial point of view are no less menacing. Vast numbers of our youth are growing up year by year to swell the ranks of the unemployed because unskilled ; while, at the same time, the demand for unskilled labour is year by year decreasing. These are facts of serious import. They are the raw material of revolutions. They constitute a social and political danger of the first magnitude.

The Recreative Evening Schools Association¹ was instituted three years ago in order to bring these facts fairly before the nation, and to attempt to grapple with them. It aims at showing the necessity for night-schools, and tries, by recreative and practical methods, to make these schools popular among those who have left the day-school.

It takes long to awaken and arouse the public mind on such a subject ; but the growth of conviction and sentiment in the right direction during the last two or three years has been something phenomenal. Her Royal Highness Princess Louise, the President of the Association, has taken the deepest

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