

The Slums' Greatest Curse.

LOW SALOONS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR A GREAT PART OF THE VICE IN CITIES.

"The greatest curse of slumdom is unquestionably the low saloon, where men with manhood sapped away, and women trodden down into the very dust, gather night after night to laugh and dance and drink, flinging away their poor, blighted lives in reckless revelry," writes Mrs. Ballington Booth, in the February *Ladies' Home Journal*. "It is ghastly merry-making—laughter without sound of mirth, dancing without step of agile feet, and a drinking that maddens the desperate brain and burns the parched lips. I have spent hour after hour within these places, talking to the hopeless women, and the utter despair of their life is something never to be effaced from the memory of those who have seen the bitterness of the poor soul behind the mask of brazen indifference. I have never gone down into these shadows and come back the same. I have always felt older after each experience, and life has been sadder to me forever afterward. Had my purpose been that of sightseeing or of 'doing the slums,' the cost would indeed have been too dear a one to have paid, and I would never have undertaken it."

Notes from Room 20 and the Depots.

The following gratifying note concerning the Flag Exercise has been received at Room 20.

OIL CITY.—"The 'Flag Exercise,' prepared and published at Room 20, has been successfully given by the Junior League of this place. The children acquitted themselves admirably, both in song and recitation, and we know of nothing that could arouse a deeper missionary spirit than this 'Exercise.' Parents and friends were not only delighted but deeply moved to see the boys and girls, so early in life, falling in line with this great missionary movement."

**THE FLAG
EXERCISE.**

Send to Room 20 or the Depots for a sample copy, price 5c. The twelve Large Flags required, and as many small Union Jacks as are necessary, can be rented from Room 20 for \$1.00, and the return express charges. The flags are to be returned the day after being used, care being requested in packing them.