

store, I'd give all my employés a good slice of roast beef at noon ; but I have not, and therefore give them plenty of time for a good lunch.'

The manager of another establishment, which was furnished with ample means of rest for the girls, said to me, 'A man that compels a girl to stand all day, ought to be flogged.'

He also showed me a clean, comfortable place in the basement in which the girls ate their lunches. It was supplied with a large cooking-stove, with a woman in constant attendance. Each girl had her own tea or coffee-pot, and time was given for a substantial and wholesome meal. I would rather pay ten per cent. more for goods at such shops than at others where women are treated as the cheapest kind of machines that are easily replaced when broken down.

Granting for the sake of argument, that customers may not be waited on quite so promptly, and the impression of a brisk business may not be given if many of the girls are seated, these are not sufficient reasons for inflicting torment on those who earn their bread in shops. I do not and cannot believe, however, that the rule is to the advantage of either employer or customer in the long run. It is not common sense that a girl, wearied almost beyond endurance, and distracted by pain, can give that pleasant, thoughtful attention to the purchaser which she could bestow were she in a normal condition. At very slight expense the proprietors of large shops could give all their employés a generous plate of soup and a cup of good tea or coffee. Many bring meagre and unwholesome lunches ; more dine on cake, pastry, and confectionery. These ill-taught girls are just as prone to sin against their bodies as the better taught children of the rich. If employers would give them something substantial at mid-day, and furnish small bracket seats which could be pulled out and pushed back within a second of time, they would find their business sustained by a corps of comfortable, cheerful, healthful employés ; and such a humane, sensible policy certainly ought to be sustained by all who have any sympathy with Mr. Bergh.

The belief of many, that the majority of the girls are broken down by dissipation, is as superficial as it is unjust. Undoubtedly, many do carry their evening recreation to an injurious excess, and come place themselves in the way of temp-