

There was a low wall between each house, and each had a separate way to the street. Flowers filled the plots and one was impressed by the general effect.

WHAT THE DOCTOR SAYS.

Dr. G. Arbour Stephens, of Swansen, giving evidence before the Departmental Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the advisability of establishing a working eight hours' day for miners, said the Welsh collier was a better man all round than the tinplater—heavier in weight, better in morals, and a more moderate drinker. The Welsh miner suffered to some extent from bronchial catarrh, but that affliction arose not from the atmosphere of the mine where he worked, but because of a curious custom in Wales of standing at street corners. "The miners of Wales," he added, "are fond of meeting in stuffy rooms and chapels, and that affects their health." The Welsh collier intellectually was a better man than the average English miner.

Professor Redmayne—Better than the Northumberland miner?

The Chairman (Mr. Russell Rea)—Ah, that is another exception. (Laughter.)

The Witness—But they beat the Northumberland miners for music.

The Chairman—The shorter the colliers' hours are the more discontented the men become? Yes, because in the Welsh hills there is nowhere for the miner to go to except the public-houses. The tinplate workers drink more than the colliers? Yes. And they have more time to consume drink?—That is so. The minimum of work is not synonymous with the maximum of health?—Too much work would be bad.

WELSH AND AMERICAN METHODS.

Mr. Henry Davies, Director of Mining Education for Glamorgan, who recently returned to Wales after a prolonged tour in the United States, lectured before the Pontypridd mining students a short time ago. Among other things he said there was a danger of the Welsh student beguiling himself with the idea that he makes sacrifices for the acquirement of education. Really there was no comparison in this respect between him and the American student. The latter, throwing pride and snobbishness to the winds, readily availed himself of any and every kind of work which would afford him the means of maintaining himself at school, college, or university. He was not above assisting at furniture removing, snow-shovelling, and even waiting upon his more fortunate school-fellows; and the lecturer instanced amongst others Harvard University, where 800 of the students earn their own living. To be more successful in the future even

than in the past, the Welshman must have brought home to him the necessity of making even greater sacrifices in the interests of true educational progress than he is now in the habit of making. A great deal has lately been said of the superior technical knowledge of the Germans as compared with the British. Mr. Davies evidently is not greatly exercised over this alleged superiority, for, turning to the educational side of his subject, the lecturer declared that a careful examination of the scheme of instruction for workmen in France, Germany and America found Wales well to the fore in this respect. He had no hesitation in declaring that in none of these countries was there any scheme in operation which would bear comparison with the scheme operating in Wales for the betterment of the young workman; and regarding the scheme of mining instruction under the Glamorgan County Council, President Roosevelt was so pleased with the work done at the evening classes under the scheme, that he is despatching to Glamorgan-shire a special commissioner to investigate and report. The lecturer wound up with an earnest appeal to the mining students to make the most of the opportunities now offered them, and to do their best to secure a scholarship out of the seventy offered for travelling, etc., by the education committee during the summer months.

RARITY OF PIT-CAGE DISASTERS.

In connection with the pit-cage disaster at the Orgreave colliery, near Sheffield, it is interesting to note how few accidents really occur during winding operations at our collieries. This fact has been clearly demonstrated by Mr. T. Ratcliffe Ellis, the solicitor and secretary of the Mining Association of Great Britain, the Federated Coal-Owners, and other bodies connected with the coal mining industry. Mr. Ellis, in his evidence before the select committee who had charge of the Steam Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill, showed that in a given year, the latest for which statistics were available, there were 324,223 men employed underground, and supposing the pits worked an average of five days a week for fifty weeks, it would mean that 156,000,000 were lowered into and raised out of the mines. Taking an average of ten persons in a cage, this would involve no less than 31,600,000 windings. Now, in the year under consideration there were ten overwinding accidents, which involved the death of five and the injury of fourteen persons. Presented in this light the facts were sufficient to warrant one eminent witness declaring that "a cage seemed to be one of the safest places to be in if the figures can be trusted."