

*In Darkest England, and the Way out* (1) is a work in Mr. Booth's Remedy. which the head of the Salvation Army details the method by which he proposes to do away with a great deal of the destitution that exists among the lower orders in this country. Every one will see at once whence the title of the work is derived; and most people, too, will easily guess who the "friend" is whose help was employed to put the subject-matter of the book into a form which should be the most striking to the public mind. We cannot help thinking that so serious a matter would have been better dealt with in a less sensational way. But then, "General" Booth is nothing if not sensational: all his works of charity and otherwise are done at the banging of a big drum. The book is divided into two parts, the first is entitled "Darkness," and describes the various classes of miserable beings whom it is proposed to assist and take care of. "The denizens in Darkest England, for whom I appeal," says the author, "are (1) those who, having no capital or income of their own, would in a month be dead from sheer starvation were they exclusively dependent upon the money earned by their own work; and (2) those who by their utmost exertions are unable to attain the regulation allowance of food which the law prescribes as indispensable, even for the worst of criminals." He says, "it would be Utopian in our present social arrangements to dream of attaining for every honest Englishman a gaol standard of all the necessities of life. Some time, perhaps, we may venture to hope that every honest worker on English soil will always be as warmly clad, as healthily housed, and as regularly fed as our criminal convicts, but that is not yet." Meanwhile, it is claimed that a very humble standard, if realized, would solve the worst problems of modern society. This standard is that of the London cab-horse, which is helped up if it falls down, and has a shelter for the night, food for its stomach, and work allotted to it by which it can earn its corn. It is estimated that Darkest England has a population equal to that of Scotland. "Three million men, women, and children, a vast despairing multitude, in a condition nominally free, but really enslaved: these it is whom we have to save;" and undoubtedly, if it can be done, it ought to be done. Such destitution, with its concomitants of vice and misery, are undoubtedly a detriment and a disgrace; nay, more, it is a deadly disease eating into the vitals of the body politic; and it ought to be attacked, and, if possible, cured; and that without delay. Details are given with regard to the homeless, the vicious,