

she is to demand it of him. In the majority of cases these duties are no doubt performed. On the other hand, and this is one of the most important considerations, the public must learn its own responsibility in the matter. People who are indignant at the injustice to shop-girls must ascertain who is guilty of it, and must be willing to pay such prices for goods as will enable the merchant to pay justly for his service. Then, again, they should see that the merchant does not profit by this at the expense of the shop-girl. It is not to be denied that the suggestion of such a course will appear preposterous. But Christian effort has done so much in the

past that much may be expected of it in the future. Christian organization and co-operation can do a great deal to diminish the power of men in business to drive honest trade to the wall. As it is to-day, the moral tone of business is brought down to the level of the worst man who can sustain himself in it, and he often does this by robbing his clerks of fair wages. Christian people can refuse to patronize such men. The problem, however, is a stupendous one, and is not to be solved easily. Nor have I space here to deal with it in detail. I can only suggest a universal reminder to Christian people of their responsibilities in the matter,

MISCELLANEOUS SECTION.

A Prophylactic Benevolence.

BY REV. A. McELROY WYLIE, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

THE rapid increase of the baser classes of immigrants who are pouring in upon our shores, together with the frightful growth of the saloon power, render it more necessary than ever that the benevolent shall see to it that their means shall be wasted as little as possible upon the designing and unworthy.

In all our larger towns and cities a not inconsiderable portion of our kind-hearted and well-to-do people are much engaged in field work where vice has left its victims in every stage of defacement, misery, and want.

The sights at the tail-races of human life, into which sin and crime thrust their victims after they have passed through the grinding mills of pleasure and passion, are enough to move a Nero with pity and horror.

The samples from the sample-rooms, the reek from the victims of debauchery, the rags, the stale and staggering confusion, the unutterable and swarming woes that follow in the track of the body of this death, tax to the uttermost

the sympathy of the feeling and the resources of the benevolent.

But amid all these swarms of vice's progeny, whether the woes are self-inflicted or imposed through the connection of family ties, there is a large proportion who make it a study to practise the most cunning deceptions upon those who are ready with the helping hand. Even visits of scrutiny do not always protect societies from the designs of the unworthy and the traps of those who do not need relief.

Do you say that those bare, dirty, and cold rooms in a tenement block tell their own tale of want, and you cannot mistake when you order clothing and ample supplies of food sent to those dens of destitution? But wait until you have reached further experience, and that very extreme emptiness of those apartments will awaken your suspicion; and a watch put upon the recipients after the goods and provisions have been handed in will disclose the sequel, and that sequel is the fact that our destitute pleaders have taken the donations in at the tenement-house only to carry them away to a well-provided home in another part of the ward or