

hausted. It is to be remembered that the directing to employment and public finding of employment make possible hygienic control, which, as in the case of waiters, waitresses, nurses, etc., is of public importance.

But let us return to our subject. Instruction and information, with a view to choice of employment, may in other ways be powerfully assisted. The labor organizations should especially be in a position to develop a decided activity in this direction. Again a general dissemination of knowledge and advice would be possible by means of articles in that part of the press which enjoys the widest circulation, as well as in other publications. An attempt in this direction which has come under my notice is Sommerfeld's Booklet, "The Choice of Employment," in which hygienic considerations and the disadvantages which are to be considered in connection with certain occupations, besides advice as to choice of employment, are dealt with. Moreover, I believe that it would be possible to give attention to hygienic considerations in the analysis and classification of employments or by means of a scientific dictionary of matters relating to occupations, as suggested by Mischler (Labor News, 1907, pages 79 and 204).

Again it would undoubtedly be possible to interest the guilds and labor organizations and unions to assist influentially in the matter of instruction and choice of employment.

The suggestion which also comes from Mischler, to direct large numbers of those possessing special physical qualifications to agriculture regarding them as agricultural apprentices and educating them for agricultural pursuits, is deserving of consideration from a hygienic standpoint.* This plan would unquestionably be suitable, not only to elevate the agricultural class by creating a healthy, sound and strong class of laborers, but would also do much to improve the health of the people generally.

Another method of attacking unemployment, well known and frequently resorted to, is by means of public works, municipal or State; an effort to meet the increasing unemployment by so-called emergency works. After what has been said it is clear that here, too, respect should be had to the physical capacity, the health of the needy as otherwise the evil might readily be increased and the needy injured. We

know that these emergency works consist for the most part of building, excavating and so forth, and, naturally, it is not every constitution that is adapted to such work. Selection—at least, of a sort, would assuredly be proper.

There is, besides, another point which I shall at this time only touch upon, of which I spoke at the meeting of the Austrian Institute for assisting labor at Prague, 1908, in support of a report by Furer. Upon the scarcity of suitable work at home there results very naturally the search for work abroad, that is to say, emigration. From a social hygienic standpoint there would be nothing to object to in an international exchange of workmen, I mean workmen suited to the respective requirements, but, as a matter of fact, the practice is very different. It is not necessary to waste many words on this point. The desire to emigrate is cleverly excited, the emigrant is often persuaded by promises and representations of unscrupulous agents influenced solely by desire for gain to quit the work which he is accustomed to in his home, the work to which he is adapted and for which he is physically fit to look for a utopia where he often succumbs or deteriorates, physically, because he is not adapted to foreign circumstances nor to work in the foreign country, and is carried off under unfavorable climatic conditions by contagious diseases, sicknesses peculiar to the tropics, and so forth. Foreign countries defend themselves in many ways against immigration of the physically unfit, and many a one is turned back and must, because of the health regulations of those countries, return. Of all this the emigrant is for the most part not informed and has scarcely any opportunity to inform himself. How much evil, which arises from what may actually be the merely supposed scarcity of suitable work at home might be avoided if bureaus were established where emigrants might be correctly informed as to the circumstances and laws affecting health in foreign countries and as to their own physical fitness for emigration to foreign countries, and if at the same time they could inform themselves thoroughly as to relative opportunities for work at home and abroad. Those who know the misery of emigration as I do will not doubt that it is the duty of all concerned to assist in this direction and to make such arrangements.

* Compare the suggestions above referred to, with those of Krejels regarding apprentices generally.