

no part of the City of Glasgow where the working man, or any one else who may desire to, cannot obtain the maximum of food, well cooked and comfortably served, at the very minimum price possible. The large number of depots enables the benefits achieved to be distributed among all who choose to use the establishments. There has been a constant addition in the middle class of customers. Whatever prejudices may have existed, if any, have long since passed away. In fact, these dining halls are pleasant, comfortable and cheap restaurants, in which any sensible man would be pleased to sit and be served.

Of course I visited the dining halls, and, at a later hour, I had the satisfaction of sitting down to a repast in the largest establishment, the quantity of which, had it all been eaten, would have sufficed for two persons, and the cost of which was but one shilling. Of course the regular habits vary according to locality. Near the shipping you will find the depot frequented by the dock labourers, mechanics, clerks and sailors. In the foundry district, the mechanics are most frequent. In another place the majority of the customers are clerks and other persons employed in the prominent shops, &c. In still other establishments the custom is very largely transient. This is owing to locality or the prominent character of the building used. One of the most useful of these establishments is located near the ancient Glasgow University buildings and is the resort of the students.

The first one visited by me was that which attracted my attention on my arrival. Jamaica street is a very busy thoroughfare. Three large floors or "flats" are used, one room being set apart for women. The first thing that strikes you on entering is the lightness and cleanliness of the whole. It was just before the dinner hour, and the great counters were arranged with a most tempting display of the smaller dishes. The floor was uncovered but perfectly white and clean. The plate glass windows were spotless, and each window-seat had a flowering plant in it, these being the property of the employees. The furniture is simple but perfect for its purpose. A large number of plain tables about five feet long by two wide, covered with dark cloth, with a clear and sparkling water carafe in the middle of each, flanked by as clean tumblers and the necessary cruets, and a sufficiency of light easy benches, formed equipments. A few pictures on the walls, a pier glass over the mantle, perhaps a couple of vases and a Franklin stove in the fireplace, made up the furnishing. The girls were nicely and cleanly dressed, each wearing a spotless white bodice or jacket. In this establishment, consisting of three flats, about four hundred persons could be accommodated at once. The average run of customers is about fifteen hundred daily. During the two visits I made there I could see nothing different in the class of customers from those who are to be seen in the restaurants of Boston and New York. About three-fifths of the customers take dinners. Of the rest more than half take breakfast, and the remainder supper. It is the rule of all these depots to sell after five p. m. all soup and other articles, which otherwise must be thrown away, at half price. Large quantities are thus carried away, as well as consumed on the premises. Of course,

meat, vegetables, bread, etc., are entirely available, and are used for soup, &c.

In another establishment I visited I also dined. It is situated in Mitchell-Lane, but a step off Buchanan street, the Regent street of this city, and is frequented by the clerks and shop-women who are employed near by, as well as by many of a superior class. The ware in use is of a neat pattern and not coarse or common looking. My dinner consisted of a basin of good and most nutritious soup, very palatable, with a small roll and bun of light and digestible bread; a large plate of good roast beef, with an abundant supply of potatoes, bread, butter, a cup of fair coffee, and a large piece of excellent apple pie, in which the fruit was made more palatable by rich milk. The pastry was good, the bread excellent, the beef tender and well cooked. The soup alone, with bread, would have made a capital luncheon, and when the meat was added, the meal was far more than sufficient. As I said, the cost was a shilling—soup, bread, butter, potatoes, coffee, one penny each; pie two-pence, and the beef three-pence, I believe. There was some little addition which I have forgotten, amounting to two-pence more. I could have obtained a good dinner for an English sixpence, or about twelve cents. Sufficient to sustain nature could be got for little more than half that, while the matron informed me that it was very seldom that the female customers averaged more than two-pence-half-penny per head.

#### ARTIFICIAL STONE FOR BUILDINGS, GRINDSTONES, &c.

London *Engineering* gives a very interesting account of the progress made by Mr. Ransome, of England, in the production of artificial stone, its manufacture, &c. We give the following extract:—

"If Mr. Ransome has not found the philosopher's stone, he has at least produced a stone worthy a philosopher, and which promises to become the stone of the ages. For it appears to have the elements of great durability, and it certainly possesses every other quality desirable in building stone, whether for structure or ornament. Although five years are not five centuries, chemistry has analyzed even the tooth of time, and can produce, within the period of a comparatively brief experiment, results identical with those of ages of atmospheric corrosion and disintegration. Mr. Ransome's stone has been boiled, and roasted and frozen, and pickled in acids, and fumigated with foul gases, with no more effect than if it had been a boulder of granite or a chip of the blarney stone. It has been boiled and immediately placed on ice, so as to freeze whatever water might have been absorbed, and it has been also roasted to redness, and then plunged in ice water, but without any sign of cracking or softening, superficially or otherwise. Nor does its durability rest alone upon such evidence as this, for it is of the simplest chemical composition; and chemistry and geology alike testify to the durability, if not the indestructibility, of a stone which is nearly all silica, like flint, and onyx, and agate, and jasper. It has no oxydizable constituent; for silica, or silicic acid, is already oxydized, and thus it is unalterable in air; and as the new stone is