

its chief victims in the 80 per cent. of the population commonly spoken of as wage-earners or working people. What I desire especially to emphasize is that which is so hard to measure statistically, viz., the silent but more permanent and far-reaching influences and effects which are the outcome of the intensity of life under modern urban conditions. It would be a matter for wonder if the ordinary city child did possess any particular knowledge of how his food is produced or where it comes from, other than from the corner grocery and brought by the delivery van. The same is true regarding his knowledge of the ordinary facts relating to his constant relations to the world around him; but which are knowledge at first hand to the country child or to the commuter. The earliest and most constant phenomena borne in upon the city child's consciousness are buildings across the street, street cars, elevated tracks, rooms in shadow, noises, as never-ceasing telephones, house bells, cries of newsboys and street hawkers of every sort. Similarly the knowledge set forth in the school-room is mostly presentations of facts at second-hand; the real facts for the school child are those of the street-life, viewed in the case of the child of the rich from the detachment of an automobile. Except for the occasional boat trip to some Coney Island for the ordinary city child or the home at the seaside for the children of the rich, it is apparent that the mind of such has in a very peculiar sense been deprived of opportunities for growth under conditions where the objects, which produce impressions upon the eye and ear and other senses are those natural ones which were the educative basis of a previous generation. It will be remembered that within thirty years this change has extended from 25 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the total population of the United States and Canada or to more than 30,000,000 people. It will further be realized, as we think of the matter, that the nursery toys or town office fixtures, the busy factory or the dark-some workshop of the sweated seamstress, the school primer or the bank ledger and the swift shuttle or the clanking machine are the objects whose reflected outlines create the impressions which enter into the consciousness and make up the intellectual world of most of this 30,000,000 from childhood to youth and create the permanent characteristics of the mind and form the chief subjects of their interest. Their literature from the daily press to the pictorial magazine never fails to keep repeating stories and pictures until certain modes of thought become permanent; and for good or ill the people of a city or even a nation come to reflect certain types of ideas too often but the echo of the teachings—whether shallow or profound—of some one or more clever writers or else come to be the votaries of some amusement cleverly promoted, whether it be the baseball game or the ubiquitous moving picture show. It will have been observed that in all these modes of building up the intellect and making public opinion very little part, indeed, has been taken by the sanitarian or public health