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Brass Workers of Berlin and of Birmingham




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A COMPARISON.

**The Brassworkers
of Berlin and of 
Birmingham.  **

One Penny.

BIRMINGHAM:
HUDSON & SON,
EDMUND STREET AND LIVERY STREET.





A NEW INDUSTRY

(IN SHEET METAL REPOUSSE' CHASING).

See page 15.

THE
BRASSWORKERS OF BERLIN
AND OF BIRMINGHAM.

A COMPARISON.

JOINT REPORT OF

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Chairman of Best & Lloyd, Ltd., Cambray Works, Handsworth;
Chairman of the Gas and Electric Light Fittings Masters'
Association, and Conciliation Board; President of the Nelson
Street Adult Early Morning School;

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Secretary of the National Society of Amalgamated Brassworkers
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Canvasser and Representative of the Birmingham Hospital
Saturday Fund, and Member of the Committee of the General
Dispensary, Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM;
HUDSON & SON
EDMUND STREET
AND LIVERY ST.

1905.

PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION.

We desire to preface this cheap edition with a few remarks in reply to some of the criticisms which our report has called forth.

It has been said that a visit of ten days was not sufficiently long to obtain correct information. The answer to this criticism is that the report is the outcome of much labour, very careful verification, and of forty years' intimate acquaintance with Germany on the part of one of our members. For more than thirty years of that time his business journeys were taken regularly twice a year, and during this time he has been greatly impressed with the much greater progress made by Germany in comparison with our own country.

We have frequently been asked, "Wherein lies the cause of the better social conditions of the Berlin brassworker?" The answer is well supplied by the *Times* criticism of our report, and is summed up in the words "*duty, responsibility, discipline, work, order, and method.*" These qualities are much in evidence among the officials and employers of labour, and the workpeople.

We have also been asked what are our views on the Fiscal Policy. One of us is a Protectionist, one a Free Trader, and one has an open mind on the Fiscal question. Therefore, we wish our report to be regarded as written without any political bias.

In this edition slight corrections have been supplied by the headmaster, Mr. Kleine, in the report of his "Parish School" (page 8); and the whole of the report on the "Artisans' School for Berlin" (page 12) has been revised by its director, Mr. H. Tradt. The essential features remain the same, but additional details are supplied which make it more instructive.

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INTRODUCTION.

This report records the observations and conclusions arrived at during a visit to Berlin, which was instituted for the purpose of enquiring whether the brassworkers in that city have succeeded in attaining a more desirable physical and industrial life than that led by the brassworkers of Birmingham; and, if such be the case, as has been asserted, to endeavour to get below the surface, and to enquire into their ideals and the method of working their institutions, and to obtain information as to the main lines of policy which differ from our own.

The report concerns Berlin in particular, and compares not Berlin as a capital with Birmingham as a provincial city, but the condition of the brassworker in one city with that of the same worker in another city—the dominant idea being that what can be done in Berlin ought to be done in Birmingham if it is better, irrespective of the size and position of the two cities.

We have to thank the President of the Poor Law Board, Town Councillor Dr. Münsterberg; the Lord Mayor of Berlin, Dr. Kirschner; and the President of the "National Old Age and Infirmary Institution," Dr. Jur. Richard Freund, for their letters of introduction.

By means of our introductions we were enabled to visit the various institutions herein described; and we have to acknowledge the invariable kindness of the officials and their heartiness in granting us (as our letters of introduction expressed it), "every furtherance and help in accordance with every one of our wishes."

Our visits occurred at any time, in season or out of season; and without exception we were received with a "spare no trouble" manner, which we found to be characteristic of Berlin.

By the kindness of Mr. Beisswenger (a Berlin manufacturer), we were enabled to visit the primary and secondary schools; and by the kindness of Mr. Cohen, the Secretary of the Brassworkers' Trades Union, we were enabled to visit workmen's houses and a manufactory.

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Our report is a joint report, on which we are agreed. It is compiled from our three separate reports, and arranged in a consecutive manner.

We reached Berlin on Thursday evening, April 20th, 1905, and stayed there ten days. One of our party had frequently been there before, but it was new to the others.

In travelling through Prussia or Northern Germany one is struck with the condition of the land: hardly an acre is uncultivated. There are five golf links in Germany, and over one thousand in the United Kingdom. It is difficult to find land for a golf course, so well is the country laid out for agricultural purposes. There are no stately oak or elm trees to please the eye, the timber being mostly grown for commerce and largely for fuel.

The population of Berlin in December, 1903, was 1,955,910.

Our first impressions were that it was a city of cleanliness, orderliness, and thoroughness, a place for fine statues, monuments, and handsome buildings; everything neat and clean, and with no mud or litter in the streets.

All the horse roads are asphalted; and one is particularly struck with the fact that scarcely a scrap of waste paper or a bit of rubbish can be found in either horse or footways. The people are smart, clean, and orderly, and appear to take a pride in themselves and in their town. The women and girls do not don much finery in the shape of various coloured ribbons, etc., but they are comfortably and well clad.

The Principal of the Birmingham University (Sir Oliver Lodge) has recently expressed himself to the effect that the elimination of the ugly is the starting point for the cultivation of the beautiful.

It is evident that the Berliners have made this **cleanliness the starting point** in beautifying their city, and in all their social relations. Perhaps it assists them in their self-respect and good manners, and in the training of their young persons, for we found it everywhere, and it appeared to have grown into their nature. It starts at the top, among their officials, and permeates to the lowest classes. The street cleaners are themselves cleanly clad—their boots are blacked—and the cleansing of the streets is done thoroughly, Sundays and week-days: Sunday being the day, above all others, when Berlin is spick and span.

The old English saying, "Cleanliness is next to godliness," is one of their beliefs, for we saw on Sunday, in Mauer Street, four youths in a small gang tidying up one of the main streets. We noticed also a hotel porter, in the same street, at 11 p.m. on Sunday, sweeping the footpath in front of the hotel door. We

enquired if he were doing this according to Berlin bye-laws, and ascertained from him that he was sweeping it voluntarily.

One rarely sees a horse and cart for removing dirt, as it does not accumulate in large quantities: a small push cart, like a large perambulator, is used by the street cleaners. The gang is made up of foremen, earning four shillings a day, and learners, earning three shillings. All clothes, except boots and underclothes, are found by the town. The street cleaning costs, including wages, £107,921; and for additional help, £3,213, during the year ending March 31st, 1903 (Statistics Book, p. 29[#]). During a snowy winter as many as 340,000 loads of snow are carted away at an additional cost. The system in a street like Mauer Street (a central street with asphalt road) is to clean it twice a day and once at night, and the footpath once a day. The cleaning is done as follows:—

First, the road is watered, and then roughly cleansed with a sweeping machine, drawn by a horse; after this a second swilling is given; and this is followed by a final cleaning by men and boys, with rubber squeegees. The result is highly satisfactory.

* “Statistisches Jahrbuch der Stadt Berlin, for the year 1903. Twenty-eighth year, by order of the Municipal Council. Prepared by Professor D. E. Hirschberg, Director of the Statistical Bureau of Berlin; published by P. Stankiewicz, Berlin.” This will be quoted in future reference as “Statistics.”

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THE BRASSWORKERS OF BERLIN AND OF BIRMINGHAM.

THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILD OF A BRASSWORKER.

HOME AND CHILDHOOD.

We were greatly impressed with the cleanliness and tidiness of the children playing about in the streets, courts, and squares. Of all the thousands of children we saw, there was not one who was not clean, neat, and tidy. All the girls had their hair neatly tied up and wore clean pinafores. The children romped and played about in the true English fashion, and where practicable the town authorities place large heaps of sand for the youngsters to play on; and to see fifty to sixty children enjoying themselves on one of these sand heaps showed they appreciated the consideration of the town authorities.

The question whether the family of the Berlin Brassworker is united, whether it forms "the unit" of the nation, or whether the family is broken up at the commencement into "segregated groups, knowing little of each other and caring less," is unmistakably answered, for one sees that the family does keep together and does not break up into separate interests so early in life as in Birmingham. Working men with their families take their coffee, their beer, and their walks together to a much greater extent than they do in Birmingham.

The evidence of this at the close of a Bank Holiday was very marked. The children were more under the eye and the control of their parents and taught to treat their elders with outward forms of deference. It was a very significant and pretty sight to see a three-year-old boy in the house of a workman spontaneously stand up and give us the official military salute. On all hands we received from children more outward deference than is usual here. The child is more accustomed to training and control from the commencement. "Spare the rod and spoil the child" is a working maxim which the Berliners still consider to hold good. They are not less kind to their children, but they hold that the foundation of a child's welfare rests on his willingness to obey. The simplest and usual form of punishment is by means of the cane on the hand, and this is used as a means of government to a greater extent than in Birmingham.

GEMEINDESCHULE (MUNICIPAL PARISH SCHOOL), equivalent to our Board or Council School.

At the end of March, 1904, there were educated free in—

265 Parish Schools	217,959	children.
Municipal Orphan Schools at Rummelsberg ..	280	„
Rearing Schools at Lichtenberg and Klein ..	20	„
Idiot Asylum	188	„
Refuges for Homeless Persons	30	„
Epileptic Institution	54	„
Deaf and Dumb School	199	„
Blind School	68	„
	<hr/>	
Total	218,798	

exclusive of the higher schools.

The cost per child per year was, in 1898, 61s. 8d.; in 1901, 68s. 6d.; and in 1903, 72s. 2d.*

The cost of the Bathing (shower baths) in 1903 was £1,700.

The cost of Teachers is 120s. to 220s. monthly, according to length of service, plus an addition for living quarters. The advancement of the teachers commences after three years' service. The teachers are in due course pensioned by the State with £30 per annum—otherwise all expenses are borne by the town.

The population of Birmingham in 1901 was 522,204, as compared with Berlin in 1903, 1,955,910.

The average cost per child per annum in Council Schools in Birmingham, for the year ending November, 1904, was £3 4s. 7d., plus 16s. 3d. interest, &c. The average number attending these Council Schools was 65,379. In addition to which, 29,539 attended voluntary schools, in respect of which the figure of cost per head is not available.

We visited a Parish School in the Rigaer Strasse—a quarter inhabited by the poorer classes. We saw no case of underfed, poorly clad, or untidy children, either in the streets or in the school. The children of needy parents receive shoes and clothes from the Municipal Poor Guardians and Societies. They must come clean and well dressed. There are thirty-six official school doctors in Berlin, each having a group of about seven schools to attend to. Every new scholar is examined by them, and doubtful children are thoroughly examined in the presence of their parents. If needful they are kept under medical supervision, and special seats are provided where defective vision or hearing render it advisable. Spectacles or instruments are provided. The school we inspected was one of the most recently built schools, and had the latest improvements, with accommodation for 1,000 boys and 1,000 girls (2,000 children). The Director has funds supplied with which to help needy children with food; but the sum required was practically nothing, for it only amounted to £4 per annum among the 2,000. In the basement were extensive bathing accommodations, principally warm shower baths. Each of the 2,000 children received a shower bath weekly. Soap was provided, but they brought their own towels. The class-rooms were large, about 26ft. by 20ft. by 13ft. high, for classes of forty to fifty scholars. The floors were of wood and were swept every day, and oiled four times per year.

The desk with seat is hinged to the floor, so that it lifts up for cleaning purposes, but it cannot be displaced. The desks are washed every day with

* "Magistrat," No. 8, pp. 6, 11, and 12.

water. The w.c.'s were indoors, and all were perfectly clean and sweet. Each closet is separate, with a separate flushing cistern, and the children are trusted not to choke up the pans.

The attendant looks through a glazed porthole into the class rooms from the passages, so that he can see a good large thermometer inside, and regulate the temperature. On the top floor is a hall for festivities, about 50ft. by 36ft., and there is a gymnasium about 72ft. by 36ft.; also two conference rooms are provided for the teachers. We saw a class at work drawing flowers and plants from nature; another class was drawing the same objects from memory, and doing excellent work. On our entering all the scholars rose from their seats and remained standing until told to sit down. Discipline is maintained if necessary by every teacher caning the posterior in the case of the boys, and the hand in the case of the girls. The Scriptures are read and explained according to Evangelical Lutheran tenets (three or four hours weekly are given to this subject); other denominational children must prove that they attend their own religious classes.

The hours of attendance, etc., are:—

Class.	Age.	School commences—		School closes—		Hours per Week.	Home Lessons.
		In Winter.	In Summer.	In Winter.	In Summer.		
VIII.	6—7 years.	9 a.m.	8 a.m.	12—1 o'clock	11-12 o'clock	20	6 to 12 hours weekly.
VII.	7—8 "	8 a.m.	7 a.m.	About 1 o'clock.	About 12 o'clock.	22	—
VI.	8—9 "	"	"	"	"	24	—
V.	9—10 "	"	"	"	"	28	—
IV.	10—11 "	"	"	"	"	28	—
III.	11—12 "	"	"	"	"	32	—
II.	12—13 "	"	"	"	"	—	—
I.	13—14½ " according to date of birthday.	"	"	"	"	—	—

There are four intervals for rest during the five hours devoted to work. The first interval consists of five minutes rest in the class room, the second of twenty minutes in the fresh air, the third of ten minutes, and the fourth of fifteen minutes, both in the fresh air. Lunch is taken at 10 a.m. in winter, and 9 a.m. in summer. Generally the lunch is a sandwich and milk; the caretaker sells milk of approved quality. If children desire to work at an employment in the afternoons they must get permission from the police. In this school from fifteen to twenty boys are so occupied, mostly on errands; and from ten to fifteen girls as little minders of children. No child vendors of newspapers are seen in the streets. No young girls are permitted by the authorities to stand in the gutters selling flowers. Schoolboy smoking is not allowed. The boy would have his cigarette knocked out of his mouth if seen by a workman in the street, and the workman would be thanked by the parents for so doing.

We visited a Birmingham Board School in a workman's neighbourhood, inhabited by the poorer classes. This School has been built over thirty years. The children were mostly dirty and tattered ; a large number wore very bad boots, not cleaned ; and some with soles so dilapidated that the toes showed through. The physique of the children was puny.

The morning was warm, and although the windows were wide open, the smell was oppressive and unclean.

The classes consisted of from thirty-five to forty and up to seventy scholars. The class-rooms and desks were washed seven times a year and swept daily. The closets (latrines) were on the yard and flushed daily. They smelled offensively ; a pool of strong-smelling urine lay in the entrance to the urinal, made by the lads who preferred not to go further inside. Outside the school there were evidences that the children of the neighbourhood were undisciplined and out of control. In comparison with the Berlin School, everything was very dirty and untidy. There was one thermometer in the large class-room and none in the three smaller class-rooms. The hours of attendance were from 9 a.m. to 12, and from 2 to 4.30 p.m., with an interval of fifteen minutes at 10.30 and ten minutes at 3.20. No home lessons were given.

A great number were employed as *Daily Mail* boys, in barbers' shops, on errands, or in small businesses.

There were many underfed children. The ages were from eight to fourteen, but many leave at thirteen if the standard has been passed. A stroke on the hand is the form of punishment. The gymnastic appliances were meagre.

There is one official medical officer in Birmingham and one assistant lady medical officer. He visits this School once a year, and the parents of the children who are unfit are advised to get them attended to.

APPRENTICESHIP.

On leaving school, the son of a brassworker is usually apprenticed to a firm to learn his trade properly. He commences with about 3s. wages, and ends with 10s. At eighteen years, or when his apprenticeship is terminated, he is expected to be well grounded in his trade, and in the first year after the completion of his apprenticeship he receives very nearly the minimum wage of 6d. per hour, viz., 45 pfg. (5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.).

This is different from Birmingham, where so many boys are not apprenticed to learn a trade, but are put to learn a "process" or a section of the trade. By "process" we mean working continuously at one operation, such as edging or filing the fraze from the castings. The disadvantage to a boy in being kept to such work is that he only learns to do a boy's work, and does not learn a man's occupation or trade. He is valuable to a pieceworker, and receives good money to start with because he is doing the work the head man would hardly do more quickly ; but after a few years he is scarcely of more value than at first ; he has not been working at a skilled trade, and often as a man he joins the ranks of the "unskilled labourers."

There is no desire on the part of the Trade Society in Berlin to limit the number of the apprentices. "If the boys do not go to our trade, they either go to another or remain unskilled, and so damage the workman," said the men's secretary. But the Trade Society, by means of information which they possess, will assist the boy to an apprenticeship in a works where the boy can really learn his trade, and where no attempt will be made to use him as a "process" worker. The hours of work are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. for six days. Youths from fourteen to sixteen years old work forty-eight hours per week, and have at least two hours per day for meals taken at three times, and the meals must be taken outside the works, viz., breakfast, dinner and coffee. After sixteen years of age the Factory Act does not compel these meals, nor need they be taken outside the factory. The working time

is then nine hours per day or fifty-four hours per week ; overtime is not allowed as a regular thing, but is paid for at 25 per cent. extra.

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.

Young persons leave school at fourteen years of age ; and, since April 1st, 1905, when the law came into effect, they have now to attend a secondary school until they are seventeen years of age.

It must not be supposed that voluntary secondary education on a large scale has not been popular, and that compulsory legislation has been necessary because young persons were averse to attending the classes ; on the contrary, it may be stated that compulsory attendance has become possible in consequence of the willingness to learn. It is a development for which the voluntary system prepared the way, as can be seen from the statistics of attendances previous to the compulsory law. These young persons must attend for a minimum average of four hours weekly, and a maximum average of six hours weekly during the year. Certain classes of children are, however, exempted, such as girls who are employed in business, apprentices and assistants in apothecaries' shops, young people engaged in lawyers' offices, and employes in railway and insurance undertakings, as well as employes in the State service. Exemption from attending the compulsory school can also be obtained by young men who can show that they have already obtained the general education which it is the object of the school to impart ; and by young people of both sexes who suffer from mental or physical weakness. Complete or partial exemption is also offered to scholars who are in regular attendance at technical and guild schools.

This new law (vide *Times*, January 3rd, 1905, for further details) has caused thirty thousand additional students, between the ages of fourteen and seventeen, to attend secondary schools in Berlin. The hours of attendance are generally from six to seven p.m. Young people usually leave work at five o'clock, and employers are required to dismiss them punctually so that they may have ample time to prepare for school. Instruction is free, but employers are responsible for the provision of material. If a scholar stays away only one hour, employers receive from the school an enquiry as to the reason.

The following figures from "Statistics" (page 406) refer to the subjects taken at the Municipal Evening Schools, and the attendance :—

MUNICIPAL CONTINUATION SCHOOLS (STÄDTISCHE FORTBILDUNGS-SCHULEN).

For German, French, English, history, geography, law, exchange, singing, gymnastics, drawing, trade drawing, sign painting, flower painting, water-colour painting, modelling, ornamental writing, shorthand, typing, commercial correspondence, book-keeping, commercial science, commercial calculating, arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, physics and chemistry, electric-technology, needlework, millinery, sewing machine, tailoring, mending, cutting-out (linen), ironing, and cooking.

There are twenty-two schools, with an attendance of 14,839 scholars in the summer term of 1903-4, viz. : 11,252 youths and 3,587 girls ; and in the winter term 16,420, viz. : 12,677 youths and 3,743 girls.

In addition to these there are special continuation schools for the deaf and dumb and for the blind.

MUNICIPAL TRADE SCHOOLS (STÄDTISCHE FACHSCHULEN).

No. 1. Berliner Handwerker Schule (Artisans' School) attendance 1903-4—
Summer, 1,846 ; Winter, 2,514.

No. 2. Berliner Handwerker Schule (Artisans' School) attendance 1903-4 —
 Summer, 1,562; Winter, 2,465.

Berlin Tischler Schule (Cabinet-makers' School) attendance 1903-4—
 Summer, 1,215; Winter, 1,385.

Trade Schools for various branches of trade, for bricklayers and carpenters, saddlers, painters, chimney sweeps, barbers and hairdressers, wheelwrights, glaziers, shoe-makers, smiths, paperhangers, basket makers, bookbinders, gardeners, printers, photographers, tailors, potters, and tinsmiths—
 Summer, 3,264; Winter, 4,903.

Total attendance in Continuation and Trade Schools—
 Summer, 22,726; Winter, 27,687.

These do not include the Technical High School at Charlottenburg.

The two schools called the "Handwerker Schule zu Berlin," or the "Artisans' School for Berlin," are especially fitted to give instruction and training in the industrial arts. We visited the one at Andreas Strasse. This school cost £39,000 to build, and the land £22,500 (without teaching apparatus), while £7,500 per annum beyond the school fees is spent in teaching and up-keep, exclusive of depreciation. Each evening scholar costs 60/- per annum, or 85/-, if the sinking fund is reckoned.

The Teachers consist of Engineers, Architects, Artists, Modellers, Art and Handicraftsmen, Designers, Science Teachers, and Accountants. A certain number of them are teachers by profession, but the greater number teach in this school as a side occupation. For two hours during the evening they receive 3/- to 5/- per hour, in their business occupation they would earn from 1/6 to 3/- per hour.

The hours of attendance are as follows:—

Day	8 to 12 morning; 3 to 7 afternoon.
Evening	7 to 9, including Saturday.
Sunday	8.30 to 12.30, morning.

A church adjoining the School is open for a short service every Sunday morning from 8 to 8.30, and in connection with the service a singing class is held at the School twice a week, from 9.15 to 10.15 p.m.

The evening and Sunday classes are attended by the largest numbers.

The average attendance in 1904 was eight and a half hours per week per scholar during the summer term; 1,819 scholars attended the summer term, and 2,928 attended the winter term (with a slightly higher average of hours per week).

The teaching for the year is during 40 weeks—280 days. The Summer term begins in April, the Winter term in October in each year.

The Summer Term commences April 6th, and finishes 30th September	178 days.
The Holidays are: April 20th to 26th; June 10th to 14th; July 8th to August 12th; also June 1st and September 2nd	50 "
Total working days in Summer Term ..	128 "

The coming Winter Term will consist of 152 days.

The Scholars are of all ages, from fourteen to sixty-three; nearly as many adults (underhands and mastermen) as youths (apprentices).

In Summer the Birmingham Technical School for Evening Classes is open twenty-nine days in comparison with one hundred and twenty-eight days in Berlin. It is noteworthy that the students in Berlin did not seem to be overworked, or unwilling workers, so far as we could judge from their personal appearance. All were well-dressed, wore clean collars, and had well-blacked boots.

The charge per scholar is 6s. for a half-year, for an attendance of eight hours weekly. If the scholar attends for longer hours he pays 9s. for twelve hours, and 12s. for thirteen or more hours.

For the day classes the charge is 30s. per term. There are eighty-three teachers, and each teacher has an average of thirty scholars in his class.

The cost of this school is borne entirely by the town. The only contribution by the State is the sum of £1,000 to the No. 1 Handwerker Schule. Some of the shops resembled large Workshops, where the men were hard at work at their anvils, and the noise was deafening.

The design of a church—from a sketch by the teacher—was shown to us. This was the work of a young man who had attended the school for three and a half years. It comprised specification of quantities, and costs for the same.

The accompanying list of teachers shows how carefully the Science, Technical, Designing, practical and artistic requirements of a scholar's training are provided for, according to the vocation he desires to follow.

In this list the teachers are grouped according to their special departments.

One sees that sixty-seven teachers (groups II., III. and IV.) are employed on the artistic and the higher technical side of the Industrial Arts.

Teachers for—		
Mathematics	11	} For the Science and Engineering branches (I. group), 16 Teachers.
Chemistry and Chemical Analysis	1	
Physics, Mechanics and Electro-Technics	1	
Book-keeping and Calculating	2	
Singing	1	

Teachers for—		
Mechanical Drawing	} 16	} For the Draughts- manship, Architec- tural and Artists branches (II. group), 16 Teachers.
Projective		
Geometrical		
Freehand		
Of plants, ornament from models and from Nature		

Teachers for Drawing connected with the Building Trade, Mechanical, Machine and Industrial Trades	18	} For Architects, Engineers and the Workman's Branches (III. group) 18 Teachers.
---	----	--

Teachers for the Artistic Industries—

Drawing in Different Trades	10	
Figure Drawing and Painting	3	
Drawing and Painting of Flowers, Fruit and Still Life	3	
Decorative Painting	3	
Marbling and Graining	1	For the
Ornament Modelling	3	Artistic
Figure Modelling	1	Industries,
Teachers for Practical Exercises—		the Architect
False Core Moulding for Casting	1	and the Artists'
Artistic Smithing	1	branches
Chasing and Repoussé	1	(IV. group),
Engraving	1	33 Teachers.
Dental Work	2	
Porcelain Work	1	
Lithographing and Kindred Trades	1	
Photographic and Chemical Reproduction	1	
	—	
Total.... 83 Teachers.	33	

It will be observed from the foregoing that certain branches, such as elementary drawing, elementary casting, filing, turning, soldering and simple metal working (as taught in the Birmingham Technical School) are omitted from the Berlin curriculum, because the youth learns this elementary knowledge at the workshop, and this kind of drawing at his board and continuation school. The Berlin Brassworker, however, gets an artistic training in the industrial arts of a kind which is absent in our Birmingham Technical and Art Schools.

The student is first taught to draw and to study architectural styles, he is then allowed to model and finally to work at ornamental iron smithing, or sheet brass beating. This system of training extends over a graduated course of three years, and may be briefly summed up in the Director's own words, "first draw, then model, then work in plastic metal."

The Director informed us that he found the drawing instruction which pupils acquired before coming to this school was not always sufficient for their needs, and often required developing, and frequently altering (often at much loss of time) before it was really serviceable, and that a proper preparation in drawing in his special branch of trade, under its special teachers, was indispensable before proceeding to the higher branches of his trade.

The Director, Mr. H. Tradt, had been for twenty-five years as engineer, and during the last twenty years as Managing Director of the firm of S. Elster, Berlin, one of the first and largest firms in the gas chandelier trade, and in the production of real bronzes.

Before the building of this school was commenced, the municipality empowered the Director in the following manner, namely, that in consideration of his practical experience, all the principal questions concerning the internal arrangements should be discussed with him, and such requirements as he deemed practical having been framed by him, and approved by the municipality, should be taken notice of in the construction of the building, thus ensuring his consent as the practical business man to all the arrangements. From the commencement he worked personally at the plans. The appointments and fitments were in some cases his own invention, notably the arc lamps for the drawing and painting class-rooms, which, by means of a lamellæ reflector, a fan-like arrangement of sheets of opal glass, which gives a light partly diffused, partly direct, and partly reflected from the ceiling, so that no direct rays of light strike on the eye. By this arrangement the natural colour of the light enables the painting which has been

commenced during the daylight to be continued during the evening. We have never met with a better and more economical light than this.

With the exception of instruction in the Science Classes, every scholar in the Drawing, Modelling and Trade Classes, as also in the practical exercises in the workshops, receives personal and individual instruction.

Much attention is given to calculating, so that when commencing on his own account, or as foreman, he may understand costing.

It must be remembered that the metric system of weights and measures, and the decimal system of reckoning, give the Berlin youth a wide-reaching advantage over the Birmingham youth, or even the Birmingham manufacturer, who is retarded and hindered in his business by our complex system of reckoning, and by our weights and measures.

Advanced pupils of this school draw up independent prime costs from their own working drawings.

For beginners and for less advanced pupils, from about five weeks are set aside for the study of costing. Quite simple objects are taken in order that the weaker scholars may be entrusted with the methods of calculating; and the teacher proceeds as follows:—

He sketches on the blackboard an article such as a chandelier. He gives the number required and the style of ornament, and then explains the method of ascertaining cost of material, wages, general standing charges for rent, light, wear and tear of machinery, and the addition of profit. The scholars then, from the lesson they have received, have to ascertain the cost of materials and wages, and, after providing for cost of standing charges, they fix the selling price which they think they should require.

At this lesson the teacher explains the difference between the standing charges and cost of production in small works with hand power, as against the large works with power and appliances.

In the day classes for "Makers up," for the workers in ornamental smithing and for decorators and kindred trades, a prize is given under the following conditions:—At 8 a.m. the teacher announces that a chandelier or other article has been ordered, and gives the style of decoration, dimensions and the price that it may cost. At the end of the instruction (*i.e.*, after six hours) the student not only will have designed and neatly drawn the chandelier or other article on white or tinted paper in colours, but will give the price of materials and workmanship and working charges. Students overstepping the cost are disqualified. The result of this training of skilled workmen is, that the working classes have moved up from the bottom all along the line; the congested surplus of unemployed non-skilled labour has disappeared, and at the top a well-employed and numerous set of skilled workmen are busy at work to a much more general extent than is the case in Birmingham.

Such a group (principal, workmen, and apprentices) is shown in our frontispiece (see front page). Their work lies in the artistic hammering and chasing of sheet copper and brass—a Berlin speciality which may be regarded as a created industry.

The artistic sheet-metal worker has a profusion of his handicraft on the shop fronts, the public buildings, public monuments; and, notably, at the new cathedral, where are figures and statues which one would take for bronze castings, but which are in reality sheet copper, fixed upon wrought iron framework. These adorn and stand over the entrance. They are equally decorative, but cost only a quarter the price of cast bronze statues, and are examples of a created artistic handicraft, which is, as far as the sheet-metal statuary is concerned at the present time, non-existent in this country. At the close of our visit we had the honour of being the first visitors to enter our names in the new visitors' book, and, in reply to our expressions of appreciation and thanks for the courtesy and the attention given by the Director to our enquiries, the Director, Mr. Tradt, said he was very delighted to know we so much appreciated what we had seen. He said that in his school

they were endeavouring as far as possible to accomplish or perform good work, and if, as the result of our visit, it would be of any advantage or benefit for the interests we represented, enabling them to do the same kind of work, it would give him much happiness, and he expressed in very cordial words his pleasure to know that we were the representatives of the brass trade in Birmingham.

BIRMINGHAM MUNICIPAL TRADE AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL.

With reference to our criticisms on the methods of the Technical School, we feel we ought to explain that as far back as June, 1904, a sub-committee, consisting of Mr. Councillor Jephcott and Mr. C. B. Bragg, was constituted to take into consideration the general working and equipment of the Brass classes connected with that institution. In the course of their investigations Mr. Bragg had an interview with Mr. R. H. Best, as the result of which he was invited to form one of our deputation to Berlin, and would have done so, but was unfortunately prevented from doing so by illness. Since the return of the deputation from Berlin, Councillor Jephcott and Mr. Bragg have had an informal conference with us on the matter, and we trust that the general result will be one of benefit to the brass-working students of the Technical School, and eventually to the trade in general.

In endeavouring to point out some practical comparisons it may be accepted that the finish of the work of Birmingham manufacturers, particularly their polished brass work, is most excellent. It is probably impossible to beat it, and the price is right. The designs and models also are excellent, so long as they are confined to the production of such plain articles as characterise our national schools, the "Queen Anne" and the "Guild of Handicraft" styles in particular. In these styles, which are of a plain character, models may be produced without plastic treatment and without aid from the trained artist in wax and plaster; and as long as the Birmingham manufacturer keeps to such styles and maintains his excellence of finish with low price he finds a market for the same, limited to the admirers of those styles. But it is when he desires to get away from the English styles, to compete in such styles as the German, French or Italian renaissance, that he finds himself in difficulties. In such styles the educated artist and modeller is the life of the work.

The manufacturer's difficulty is first to get the designs and the models. To make them is not difficult.

The Berlin training schools have produced these artists, and also a class of artisans with artistic talent; they find ready employment and are of great assistance to the employers. In the "making up" or "fitting," when the pattern is of intricate construction, it is not necessary to give the workman so much constructional detail in the drawing he has to work to. A proper apprenticeship to his trade has fitted him and placed him in a position to supply the internal construction of intricate work without every minute detail being put down for him on paper. In the bronzing and treatment of the finish a greater freedom is apparent and a greater variety and novelty; in fact, they lead the way and we follow.

The finish may not be so substantial and durable as the Birmingham well-tried methods, but that is probably merely a matter of commercial expediency.

It is on the intellectual side that Birmingham requires to adapt itself to changed conditions—not to cheapening its wares, but to getting more conception into them. As one of the largest buyers in London says:—"The Birmingham things are now too cheap. We want to have the £3 articles improved to sell for £5, and extra beauty and originality put in them with which to tempt the public and to increase the returns."

It is for the want of opportunities to cultivate the artistic side of their trade that Birmingham employers and employés necessarily devote so much

attention to the cheapening of manufactures—opportunities which, as we have already described, are enjoyed and taken advantage of in Berlin.

This is not the fault of the employer nor the employé, but is no doubt accounted for by our having adopted an entirely different system of instruction from that in vogue at the Berlin Technical Schools.

Given the same conditions of training, the Birmingham workman would without doubt turn out equally artistic work. The work done at the Technical School for the brass trade is of too elementary a character, the bronzing and colouring department being the only class in which the artistic side is touched, though this class is very efficiently worked.

MILITARY SERVICE.

On attaining eighteen years, and having finished his apprenticeship, the youth must serve two years in military service, not necessarily at once—it may be postponed. The age to serve is some time between eighteen and twenty-three years of age. It is compulsory on all who are medically fit for service, with few exceptions; as, for example, the only son of a widow is exempt. The term of service may, however, be reduced from two years to one year by passing a fairly severe intellectual examination. This is now frequently passed by the sons of the working classes, and it is their ambition to do so. This examination also frees the "one-year soldier" from barrack life. He has the privilege of living at home or in lodgings if stationed away; in fact, it confers a higher social status. But in the regiment the "one-year" and "two-year" men serve side by side, and generally the proportion is one "one-year" man to sixteen "two-year" men.

The necessity for the better-to-do classes to pass this examination is probably the key to the intellectual growth and training of the German nation, as it is looked upon as a stigma for life to have failed and to have been compelled to serve two years in barracks instead of one year in lodgings.

So far as our knowledge goes, the Germans look back on their term of service with pleasure, but do not look forward to it. Whether one-year or two-year men, they emerge from it with a stamp upon them which lasts for life.

They have to get up early and be out on the exercising grounds between five and six in the morning. The brain is rested, but the physical side of the man is now developed; good food, plenty of exercise, fresh air, baths and cleanliness, neatness and orderliness, are his daily associates. He learns to hold himself uprightly, to march forward and to keep his hands out of his pockets; and if a young man has not already learned deportment and obedience he does so during his military service.

It is a question for consideration whether such a man has progressed or gone back in character.

We put the following question to Mr. Beisswenger, a manufacturer, and to Mr. Cohen, the secretary of the workmen:—

"Does a term of two years' military service have a good or a bad effect on an apprentice when he resumes his work?"

Mr. Cohen did not approve of the military service. It is contrary to the socialist tenets of the trade unionist.

Mr. Beisswenger did. He considered the service made the man "less soft," more "reliable," "better ordered," and a better man to have in employment; and of the two men—the apprentice without the military training and the apprentice with the military training—he would decidedly engage the latter as the better man for employment.

One cannot help being struck with the superior physique and bearing, whether of the soldier in uniform or out of uniform, in observing the populace of Berlin.

The effect of the training is seen in the people as distinctly as the effect of the cleaning and washing is noticeable in the streets.

There is not the physically deteriorated, untrained, unmended look about the people. The Berlin young fellow has from infancy been under better care and training at home, at school, at the works, and in the army; consequently as a man he is now fit to be entrusted with the liberty which the Birmingham youth has perhaps from childhood only abused.

"Liberty is fatal or life-giving according to the use made of it. Is it liberty still when it is the prerogative of criminals or heedless blunderers? Liberty is an atmosphere of a higher life, and it is only by a slow and patient inward transformation that one becomes capable of breathing it." ("The Simple Life," Wagner.)

Is liberty to be granted to the young hooligan who neither fears God nor man? Would not proper training at school, in apprenticeship, and in the "Service" be the making of him, and help the community, his family, and himself most of all?

CHARACTER, RELIGION, AMUSEMENTS, ETC.

The Berlin people attend church less than in this country, but religious festivities, such as Good Friday, are more reverently observed. The Roman Catholics are the most devout and regular in church attendance.

Sunday Schools for religious instruction are practically non-existent, religious dogmatic instruction being imparted in the day school. In the year 1903, 108,078 boys received religious instruction in the municipal elementary schools, among whom were:—

89.02 per cent.	..	..	..	..	Evangelical Lutheran.
8.86 " "	..	..	..	..	Roman Catholics.
0.20 " "	..	..	..	..	Dissenters.
1.90 " "	..	..	..	..	Jews ("Statistics," p.81*).

The Berlin brassworker generally is a "Socialist" in politics, and a "free-thinker" in religious belief. At school he is taught dogmatic theology. He is duly confirmed, but afterwards rarely goes to church, except in connection with births, deaths, and marriages. He is in opposition to conservatism and clericalism; these have in the past opposed social democracy, and he regards them now as against progress and combats them on the political platform. We have in him a remarkable phenomenon; for, in spite of his religious education at school and of his confirmation, he is usually a free-thinker. Moreover, as a child, and as a youth, he has been accustomed (in the company of his parents) to attend the public-house, and yet, to quote the words of Mr. Cohen, "he is a good fellow" ("Grundehrliche Leute"). "We are proud of them." "I could trust them with all my property if they had not a farthing" (speaking of two workmen we had just visited). "We do not hold with a man going to a public-house and drinking on Sundays, but in reading good things, getting broad in thought, learning what is going on, discussing and thrashing out social problems; he should get out in the country and be with his family. Our fellows are looking ahead and thinking of the future."

"In case of a man giving way to drink and neglecting his wife, we send for him and tell him he is not behaving as becomes a member, and caution him to alter before he loses his situation" (Cohen). Such are the utterances and opinions of their trade secretary.

During our visit we came to the conclusion that the above fairly represents the mental attitude of the Berlin brassworker, and that he is in reality "a good fellow."

They are fond of good reading, and in their homes they possess a small library of good literature, and at their trade union is a library containing

chiefly serious books and works on trade union subjects from all countries. The serious books are mostly read. In their amusements the intellectual side finds favour, and they are fond of singing societies.

The working men of Berlin have formed a society, which is called "People's Free Theatres" (freie Volksbühne). It numbers 14,000 subscribers, and is growing vastly; the subscription is 80 pf. (9d.) monthly. The society hires each Sunday afternoon one of the largest theatres, and engages a staff of actors at a cost of £40 to £50 for the performance. Serious plays are generally given; most of Shakespeare's have been performed, and Schiller's and Goethe's.

The workmen's beer-house or cafe is liberally provided with newspapers. One, in which there are eighty newspapers, charges 1d. per cup of coffee. Chess and cards are favourite games; in the latter recreation very small stakes are played for, less for the money than for the entertainment. Betting on sports, horse racing, &c., is not indulged in, but shares in lotteries are often bought. In these lotteries the chances are about 7 to 6 against the tickets; for instance, we noticed that the ninth lottery on behalf of the spire of Ulm Cathedral for £17,500 gives back £15,000 in prizes, retaining the balance, £2,500; the prizes ranging from two of £250 each down to 6,000 at 10s. each. In this way the cathedral of Ulm gets the workman's money instead of the bookmaker, but in a less degree, for they indulge their gambling propensities where the chances are more in their favour.

Outdoor recreations consist of rowing, gymnastics, skittles, swimming, football (a little), skating, country outings, and railway excursions.

In disposition the workman is social and fond of company. He takes his wife out with him to the beer-house as an unwritten law. He would be regarded as unusual if he did not do so. Remarks would be made if he left her at home. Total abstainers rarely exist, but the men are temperate in the midst of opportunity. They refrain because it unfits them for work. They do not assume virtue with regard to temperance, but regard temperance or moderation as the best from a general point of view. We met several gentlemen who abstain in private and take alcohol only in company as a pleasant social obligation. At their trade union building there is an assembly hall to seat 1,200 persons at small tables. At these meetings speeches are made, there is smoking and drinking, but "no one forgets himself" (Cohen). They have at these meetings their parliamentary leaders and representatives; altogether eighty-one members, including Bebel, Bernstein, Körsten, and Ligien, are in Parliament.

As Social Democrats, one of their principal objects is to alter the existing law, which confers on a landowner more voting power than a workman possesses. The workman has already an equal vote for members to the Reichstag, but not in the Landtag. He desires an equal vote on all questions, and regards our English system as the one to copy.

As trade unionists, their main aims are concisely expressed as "shorter hours and more wages" (Cohen). This latter reply was given in answer to our remark, "What do they want? they seem to have everything already, and we don't see what they are agitating for."

REPORT OF A VISIT TO WORKMEN'S HOME, BERLIN, APRIL 25TH.

The first home we visited was that of Mr. A., of——. This man's earnings were from 35s. to 38s. per week. The rent of the home was 7s. per week, and it was situated on the fourth floor (counting the ground floor as the first floor), fronting the street. The street itself was so wide and the building so substantial and well built that we hardly believed ourselves to be in a working man's quarters, but in reality nearly every house in the street, on the

upper stories, was so occupied. The houses are on the flat system. The staircase from the street, scrupulously clean and neatly matted, served for two families on each floor. A well-ordered w.c., absolutely clean and situated on the staircase landing, was shared by the two families. On ringing the landing door bell, we were kindly received by Mrs. A., who did not know of our intended visit, and shown into the bedroom sitting-room. This was a large room with two large double-glazed windows, each window with double sashes opening vertically and looking on the street. It was well and substantially furnished, two single beds, about 6ft. 6in. by 4ft. wide, lying along one side of the room with a child's bed filling up the space between. Babies are not allowed by law to share the bed with the mother. They must have a cradle to sleep in, and so no cases of "overlying" are reported. Double beds are unknown in Germany, every person sleeping separately in a single bed. We were astonished at the well-to-do look of the house and furniture, and could hardly believe it was a working man's house. They had been married for some years and had two children, but such care had been taken of the furniture that it appeared to be new.

The heating stove was a beautiful structure about 8ft. high by 3ft. wide by 2ft. deep, built of glazed white tiles. There is scarcely any heat wasted in these stoves, and one cannot see the fire as in an English fire-grate, as it is all closed up with double doors. There is no dust or smoke of any kind from this class of stove. It is not easy to convey to anyone who has not seen one of them the exact idea of what they are like, but that they serve the purpose of heating the room in a most uniform and economic manner is at once apparent. The stoves can best be described as large radiators, and give out the heat to great advantage. The fuel used is not ordinary coal, but a patent fuel, which is in oblong blocks of about the size of half a brick, and costs about 1s. per week, and may have something to do with the comparative absence of smoke in Berlin.

The kitchen was scrupulously clean, and in perfect order; nearly all of the cooking utensils were of crock. In the kitchen there was a large gas cooking stove which was inlaid with beautiful white tiles; not a speck of grease or dirt could be found anywhere. The gas costs 1s. per week for cooking and lighting purposes. We obtained a little information as to cost of food, clothing, &c., which we give on page 42.

We considered some articles of food decidedly dearer than in England, but that for some reason the working people were unmistakably better nourished. They appear to enjoy their work more, and to be able to work more easily, and with more satisfaction, and also to have a better time than our brassworkers in Birmingham. Nothing is wasted. Everything is utilised and made the most of—nourishing broths from scraps of meat, bones, &c.—soups being a daily fare. Cooking is not taught in the Board Schools, but by the mother. The system of payment is always cash, all clothing, boots, and food stuffs are paid for by cash—no credit. The wife goes round and buys in provisions herself. The system of co-operative stores for working people is making headway in Berlin; in Leipsic there are from 15,000 to 20,000 workmen members.

Savings banks ("Statistics," page 54) show that in the Berlin Municipal Savings Banks there stood to the credit of the depositors:—

1880	1890	1900—1901	1903—1904
£1½ millions	£6¼ millions	£12½ millions	£14¾ millions

while the same authority ("Statistics," page 55) shows that the pawn-shops are doing a decreasing trade. The pawn-shops are in the hands of the Government—there were 210,986 transactions in the year 1871, and only 160,280

in 1903-4—but, while the average value of a pledge was 16s. 9d. in 1871, it had increased to 28s. in 1903-4.

We next visited Mr. B.'s home in — Street. He was a workman earning from 32s. to 33s. per week. Here, again, they had no idea of our intended visit, but as at the previous house everything was in perfect order and scrupulously clean. The home was on the same principle, viz., the flat system, and on the fourth storey from the ground: two families living on that storey. The flat was 6s. per week, furnished very well indeed, the furniture in good order and excellent condition. A beautiful sideboard and other equally good furniture was in the room. As in the last house, the best room is a bed-sitting room, but on measuring the size of the room, we found it to be 10ft. by 13ft. by 10ft., which is more than a third larger than the rooms in the ordinary workman's home in Birmingham. The kitchen was a model of cleanliness and good order, and from what we could see, all the houses or flats are kept clean and in good order.

Mr. B. was at home on account of stock-taking. He was a fine, handsome man, standing about 5ft. 10in., and weighing about thirteen stone, and a most intelligent, thrifty, and interesting specimen of a workman. He was most interested in our visit, and spared no pains to give all the information he possibly could. We could see at a glance that he was house-proud; he showed us some very fine specimens of his work, in the way of brass picture frames, figures, &c. We noticed the clever way in which he had converted a lamp from oil to gas. It was a handsome shade lamp with outside candles, hanging in the centre of his room. He had brought the gas to the centre light by neatly bringing a gas tube down one of the suspending chains. Mr. B. also showed us his library of very good books, and he was particularly proud of some excellent drawings executed by his son, a lad of fourteen years, who, he informed us, he was having trained as a teacher. Altogether, the visit to these homes was very interesting and pleasing; every question was most willingly and readily answered, and any information which they thought would be useful and interesting was given without being asked for.

Coffee is the general beverage rather than tea. It is brewed stronger and fresher than here, *i.e.*, sooner after the roasting of the berries.

The meals are usually at the following hours, and comprise a selection from the various viands, &c. :—

Coffee	6 to 6.30.	Cup of coffee and roll.
Breakfast ..	8.30 to 9.	Bread, bacon, cheese, sausage, meat, beer.
Dinner	12 to 1, 12 to 1.30.	Soup, meat, vegetables, beer.
Tea	4.0	Bread, coffee.
Supper	7.0	Sausage, cheese, fish, bacon, ham, tea, coffee, white beer (an extremely weak beer).

We are able to give the prices paid for large quantities of food in the Moabit Hospital, Berlin, and the General Hospital, Birmingham, which are interesting, as they show the relative costs of food at two similar institutions, and thus afford a fair comparison of Birmingham prices with Berlin prices. These will be found on pages 41 and 42.

The price for meat shows that more is paid per pound in Berlin, but the Birmingham Hospital meat is mostly New Zealand and chilled, while the Berlin is best homegrown.

Tobacco and cigars are cheap. Cigars at one halfpenny are pleasant smoking, and rather above the price usually paid by a workman.

It is usual for working men to have an allotment garden in which a certain amount of vegetables are grown. From what we could gather, meat, butter, ham, and bacon were dearer than in England, bread a little dearer, and eggs and milk cheaper. Clothing costs about the same, but more economy is practised and more care is taken of the garments. The clothes worn are substantial, quiet in colour, scrupulously tidy and well cared for. When at work men wear long stout holland overalls with sleeves and fastened with a spring clasp over the shoulder; the coats are hung up in the "garderobe" as specified by the Factory Act. No men, women, or children are to be seen in the streets or in the works in an unattended condition.

There are anomalies here which we do not attempt to account for—but, in the face of the people being undoubtedly better nourished than in England, and enjoying a higher social life, it would appear that cheap food is not the only important consideration in a nation's welfare, but that the intelligence and self-restraint with which it is used may be of even greater importance.

REPORT OF A VISIT TO THE BEER GARDENS AND BEER HALLS ON EASTER MONDAY, APRIL 24TH, 1905.

Starting from Berlin at about 3 o'clock, we were conveyed to some of the Beer Gardens at Treptow. *En route* we were surprised at the abundance of allotment gardens rented by the working men of Berlin. On every allotment was an exceedingly neat and well-constructed summer-house, nicely arranged with doors and windows; the latter often prettily curtained. On enquiry we found that the owners of these frequently had their friends and families for a whole day, making the place "a home from home."

It must be remembered that the cost of travelling is very little; one can travel twelve miles by electric tram for 10 pfgr., or about 1½d. English money, so that the expense of taking a family into the country is very small. All these allotments were beautifully kept, and the owners appeared to vie with each other in keeping the summer-houses and gardens in good order. The numerous flags on the summer-houses looked gay and festive. After passing these we came to the working man's beer gardens and halls, the most important of which are run by brewers' companies. Some of these gardens are capable of seating five thousand persons. Here on a holiday Monday we were privileged to see the Berlin working man taking his enjoyment. For the first part of our visit, viz., about 4 o'clock till 6 or 6-30, hardly a glass of beer could be seen, and one could be excused for believing that one was at a huge tea party. There was ample accommodation at small tea tables, each seating four, six, or perhaps eight persons, nicely covered with clean table cloths, and the only drinks that could be seen (with a few exceptions) were coffee or milk. In most cases the people took their own food, and their ground coffee and sugar; the management provided crocks, hot water and hot milk at a small cost. Here we saw whole families, husband, wife, and children, enjoying each other's company and having a good meal in the open air. The question of the unity of the family in Berlin is solved by a glance at these places. The unit is undoubtedly the family proper. It was rare to see a married man unless he was accompanied by his wife and children at this or other beer gardens.

In a large square in the grounds, railed off and covered with about three inches of soft sand, was a play ground for the children; a giant stride, climbing ropes, horizontal bars, and other gymnastic appliances were provided for their amusement. A fine military band was playing good music, and was much appreciated by the people. As the evening wore on, the coffee cups and milk glasses disappeared, and in the space of about an hour the coffee and milk were quite the exception. The beer glasses now made their

appearance. One would naturally think with the changed conditions, the temper and behaviour of the people would undergo a corresponding change; but nothing of the kind. They were in the same happy condition, girls with their sweethearts drinking their glasses of beer just the same as the men; all were very orderly and decorous, and not an uncouth shout or loud-mouthed expression could be heard anywhere—all were chatting and laughing. What struck us as much as anything was the parental control over the children. Not a scolding word could be heard; if father or mother gave a word of command, it was instantly obeyed with a smiling cheerfulness which was a pleasure to behold. Among all these thousands of people not one could be seen other than neatly and properly dressed; every garment was whole and neat and quiet in colour, neither could a flashy nor a ragged and untidy person be seen anywhere. We were looking for faults, but found none.

After spending an hour or two in the gardens we next visited the large dancing hall in connection with the place. On a raised platform, which was beautifully decorated with palms and flowers, etc., at the farthest end of the hall was a good orchestral band, consisting of four violins, piano, and several other instruments. Here everything was orderly and splendidly managed. The cost of taking part in the whole of the dances for the evening was one shilling per couple. If, however, a man and a girl could not make it convenient to stay the whole evening dancing, or would prefer to spend part of the evening in some other way, the couple could take part in any single dance at a nominal cost of 10 pfg. or 1½d. English money. This is a capital arrangement, as it gives one a variety of choice in spending a holiday. The hall was a beautiful building, with fine vaulted ceilings, very finely decorated and furnished with a magnificent electrolier augmented by handsome side brackets, giving a most pleasing impression to the visitor. The M.C. was here, there and everywhere, conducting and controlling the large crowd in a masterly manner. The people seem to do as they are asked naturally, and without a grumble, each one trying to give pleasure to his friend and neighbour. The men are particularly kind and thoughtful to their women folk, showing them little attentions, and generally making things as happy as they possibly can.

After this we inspected the bowling or skittles alley. This was in a large place with every facility for playing bowls under the best conditions. Here again the wives were present while the men were enjoying their game of bowls; they were chatting and enjoying themselves to their hearts' content. There appears to be no restrictions, and so far as we could see they take no advantage of the license which is given them. The soldiers are well represented, as is to be expected in a country where nearly every able-bodied man receives a military training, and fine specimens of manhood they are; their smart uniforms lend a charm to the place. They appear to be well trained in manners, as well as military discipline, and the training which they receive serves them well in after life. The last place we visited was a large hall. We were served with a glass of lager beer, which was deliciously cool and refreshing; it was about ten minutes to eleven when we went in, and, although folks can stay later if they choose, there appears to be an unwritten law that eleven o'clock is late enough for a working man and his wife and family to be away from home, and so, as with a general consent, the people put on their coats and wraps to go to their respective homes. It may be interesting to note that at these places for working people very good accommodation is provided for coats, cloaks, hats, &c. An attendant is there for this purpose, who very courteously assists the people on with their clothes, etc.

We left this place at 11.15, when of all the eight hundred people who were there less than an hour before not more than thirty or forty remained. From this time till 12-30 we spent in looking round the streets, and, although

we looked for drunkenness and rowdyism we found absolutely none. We saw one drunken "gentleman" being supported by two male companions, and a little before we saw a man who was very shaky. With these exceptions we saw nothing which could in any way shock the susceptibilities of the most exacting persons.

During the whole of this Easter Monday we saw no untidy man, woman or child, everyone was well clad and scrupulously clean, and the general physique and deportment of the people was distinctly a grade higher than one sees at home. Apart from the thousands who were conveyed to these places by train, it was most interesting to notice the crowds of families who walked there, the roads presenting a most animated appearance, most of the parents carrying little parcels of food to be consumed with their coffee and beer. There was a distinct characteristic in these crowds which is absent in an English beer-house company of people, which we ascribe first to the light wholesome beer, secondly to the presence of wives and families, and thirdly to the training and discipline to which every German child and youth is subjected.

THE TEMPERANCE QUESTION.

BEER.

THE Berlin community does not permit foreign ingredients in the beer. We were strongly of the opinion that if the Birmingham brassworkers had the opportunity of getting the same beer as the Berliners they would prefer it, and that it would greatly assist the cause of temperance. The cost is, usually, 1½d. per $\frac{3}{4}$ pint (a trifle less than 1¼d. per $\frac{3}{4}$ pint).

Our first drink of beer in Berlin was not at a bar such as one would see at home, but in an "automatic" shop, a veritable penny-in-the-slot and a beautifully appointed place, where one could have a good glass of beer for 10pfg., or 1½d. English money. You put a glass under a tap and drop your coin into the slot, and in return receive a delicious glass of light beer, bright and clear as crystal, about fifty degrees Fahrenheit, cool and refreshing. Some eight or ten different varieties of beer, wines, spirits and liqueurs may be tapped in the same way and for the same price. The white beer, which is usually taken with an addition of fruit syrup to flavour it, is scarcely stronger than some temperance drinks, but all beers are pure, light, and properly served; iced if necessary, and forced up by means of a cylinder of compressed carbonic acid gas when a counter tap is used.

At the same place you can have a variety of tasty little sandwiches (consisting of half a dinner roll) served in the same way and at the same price, and plates of food up to 6d. for a lobster salad. All the sandwiches are in full view under glass cases, so that you can choose from eight to ten different kinds. Among the sandwiches were to be found sardines, Swedish sandwiches, Russian sardines, smoked ham, cooked ham, pickled cucumber, meat, anchovies, smoked salmon, egg and cheese. In this way one can get a refreshing drink and snack for about 2½d. In the same place you can get a cup of beef tea, or coffee or cocoa served with separate jug of milk and sugar. We were particularly struck with the number of girls and women who, apparently after leaving business, availed themselves of such a useful place.

We spent about twenty minutes in here, and there was not one of the persons remaining there when we came out who was there when we went in, proving that the place served a useful purpose, but did not encourage drinking to excess. The place was scrupulously clean, an attendant being there constantly keeping the place in order. Not a scrap of paper or litter of any kind could be found.

In many factories it is customary for a brewer to supply the works with bottled beer. He charges 8s. per hundred bottles, each containing rather

less than three-quarters of a pint. The workman is charged at the rate of 10s. per hundred bottles (*i.e.*, at 1½d. per bottle). In this way a profit of 25 per cent. on cost is made and saved until it amounts to a sufficient sum, and is generally spent in a summer outing together.

In summer the brewer delivers ice free, and this is put in the storage case and keeps the beer cool and refreshing, thereby assisting temperance.

The beer is taken charge of by a youth, who has a list of the workmen supplied, settlement being made at the week's end.

In some factories there is worked by the men a co-operative canteen, where beer, sandwiches, coffee, etc., can be obtained.

TEETOTALISM.

The figures taken from the Berlin Statistical Book of 1903, page 422, are given below. It will be seen that there were 931 members of moderation societies and twenty-six total abstainers.

Six societies were asked for their statistics, but only three replied.

	Estab- lished.	Members		
		1901.	1902.	1903.
(1) District Association against Misuse of Alcoholic Drinks.	1883	229	224	216
(2) Bradenbourg Provincial Association against Misuse of Alcoholic Drinks.	1888	—	—	715
				931
(3) Berlin Association of Abstainers : Business Men.	1902	—	21	26

It will be noticed that most of the members belong to temperance societies, and not to total abstinence societies. We have no statistics of the number of abstainers in Birmingham to compare with Berlin. We can only form a rough estimate, based on Rowntree and Sherwell's figures, that there were 3,000,000 teetotallers and 23,000,000 non-teetotallers, above the age of fifteen, in the United Kingdom. At this rate Berlin would have 200,000 teetotallers, whereas, as a matter of fact, total abstainers are rarely met with.

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS IN BERLIN ("STATISTICS," p. 62).

	1899.	1900.	1901.	1902.	1903.	Per 1,000 head.
Arrests	6494	6068	6025	6043	6200	= 3 per 1,000
Released when sober ..	5354	5018	4879	4796	4983	—
Delivered to Police and tried	543	552	650	689	765	= 0.4 per 1,000.
Punished	597	497	495	558	393	0.2 per 1,000.
Died at the Lockup	—	1	1	—	—	—
Sent to Hospitals	—	—	—	—	3	—
Taken Home	—	—	—	—	56	—

The number of persons convicted of drunkenness in Birmingham, 1904, was 3,478 (Birmingham Police Report for year ending December, 1904), being above thirty times greater than Berlin in proportion to the respective numbers of its inhabitants.

These statistics are what we should expect to find after our observations in the beer halls and the streets on Bank Holiday, and point to the conclusion that a greater number of licences with a fewer number of total abstainers does not tend to drunkenness.

The Berlin workpeople have more freedom with regard to drink regulations, as they may drink all Sunday or all night if they like to do so. The purity and quality of the beer, along with the encouragement of its temperate use, is the principal "drink question" in Berlin. They are more trusted to manage their own affairs in some directions, while in others their liberty is curtailed. For instance, among the limitations no one may loaf, beg, sponge, or insult the authorities, but would be stopped at once if found offending; while in England much greater liberty is allowed in this direction.

We wish to call attention to this different adjustment of the liberty in the two countries, as this is an important question. We should be very sorry to treat with disrespect the many agencies for the promotion of temperance, and the great numbers of high-minded workers in the cause. We share with the most ardent abstainers a desire to help to remedy the appalling evils arising from intemperance, but when we recognise the better results Berlin has arrived at—without total abstinence—it is time to consider whether our national attitude of offering the pledge as the only cure for drunkenness is not wrong as a working principle. It is good in some cases as a detail, but doomed to failure as a national remedy for this gigantic evil of intemperance. We have to consider that eight people out of nine (above fifteen years of age) are non-abstainers. In Berlin this section of the community is provided for—in Birmingham it is not. There a man is trusted to stand up against excess; here he is not. We say temptation ought to be removed, and try to prop him up. We say "drunkenness is the cause of ignorance." In Berlin they reverse it, and say "ignorance or want of proper training in youth is the cause of drunkenness." Here we allow our young people to grow up untrained and unskilled, and offer them the pledge later on when they are down in the gutter. There compulsory training helps to keep them out of the gutter, and the pledge is not relied on. As an illustration of our national specific we quote a speaker at the Conference of the "National Unitarian Temperance Association," in a paper read by him on "The Importance of the Pledge." (*Daily Post*, June 24th, 1905.)

"Temperance organisations throughout the land should unite and make one solid attack on the drink traffic, which constituted the chief difficulty that the schoolmaster, the clergyman, the statesman, and the philanthropist had to fear and to face. In fighting the drink evil they were fighting ignorance, brutality, impurity and greed, and were helping to make it possible that England might still hold her own amongst the educated and truly civilised nations of the world."

We would point out that the weakness of this is that by means of the pledge we are only indirectly fighting ignorance, brutality, impurity and greed. In Berlin these are fought directly, and with the very best appliances. Much time is *not* spent in reclaiming drunkards nor in advocating total abstinence (although these are seen to as details), but the greatest energy on all hands is devoted to the training of infants, children and young persons, and, until their military service is complete, care and training (almost regardless of cost) is the atmosphere the young people live in. The aim is to fit them for their position as men among men. It is not to fit them for specially prepared surroundings removed from temptation, but to give them the very

best training, so that when surrounded by temptations they may act as men. The better result is evident on all hands.

Slums, such as ours, do not exist, and we have no doubt that the temperance question is being solved more satisfactorily there than in Birmingham. During the ten days of our visit (Easter holidays included) we saw only three drunken persons in the streets, and we visited likely places, and were on the look out all the Easter Monday, from noon to midnight, whereas on Whit Monday in Birmingham, in a tram ride of only forty minutes, in broad daylight (viz., from Handsworth to West Bromwich and back) we counted six reelingly drunken persons—five men and one woman. The unemployed question is being solved by an uplifting of the unskilled labour market through fitting it for better and more skilled employment.

The skilled labour at the top has gone still higher to make room for that at the bottom, and in its ranks are to be found a class of men with an artistic branch of industry in their hands of more value to them than that which exists here. The pledge has not done this, but sheer application and hard work under the best conditions which the community could devise. With our system the damage is done during the youth's early years, and afterwards to offer the pledge as the remedy is like offering a tract to feed a hungry man. Take the case of a lad in an ordinary workman's district; he has had no home training, he sees dirt and untidiness in the streets and in his home, while at school ragged clothes are the rule and not the exception. He leaves school and gets a job; his master usually discharges him for incompetency; then four out of ten lads don't try to get another place—they loaf about the streets, a terror to the neighbourhood, a nuisance to the police, and, when old enough, perhaps, join the militia and go up for training one month in the year (six weeks the first year). They return from camp with new boots, shirt, stockings, and money; part of which is spent in excess on their first night's return after training and part goes to purchase a pair of "peaky blinder" trousers. Then the lads hang about the streets until the next year's training month arrives.

Is it reasonable to imagine that such a young life can be put straight by offering the pledge? It is too late; the tree will grow as the twig is bent. We have already trained the loafer and drunkard, then we compass sea and land to reclaim him. The remedy is better understood in Berlin by men who have a clear vision and a capacity for thoroughness and hard work, the result of their own and their fathers' training in generations gone by.

LICENCES, ("BERLIN STATISTICS," p. 184).

Small dealers with spirits	..	..	..	..	3,357
Restaurants (better class)	..	..	..	190	
" (lower class)	..	..	..	295	485
Wine shops	..	..	..	..	303
Beer houses (better class)	..	..	..	895	
" (lower class)	..	..	..	8,214	9,109
					<hr/> 13,254

1903, Berlin (1 to 148 head of population).

1904, Birmingham (1 to 258 head of population).

The licensed premises are not limited in any way in size, and are usually much larger than our English beer houses. Smoking, dancing, music and cards are allowed in them in Berlin, and the only thing which is insisted upon is that the holder of the licence must have a good character. This is a stringent rule.

New licences are easy to obtain at a nominal sum, if for service by male waiters and to close at eleven o'clock p.m. For female attendance it is difficult, if not impossible, to get licences for later hours than eleven o'clock p.m. There are many existing beer houses and public houses which remain open all night, particularly in the centre of the town away from the workmen's districts, but these are "vested interests" from former times, and the tendency now is towards early closing hours and male service.

There are two different classes of public houses for working people. One is called the "distillation." It resembles a small shop or small public house, and it is more likely a drinking bar; beer and all kinds of spirits are sold, but not much food. Spirits are very cheap. The cost of "schnaps" (the spirit usually sold) is three farthings for a small wine glassful. It resembles "Hollands gin." The beer house, beer garden, beer hall, and "restauration" (see description) cater in a more varied style, providing coffee, food and "attractions," such as papers, music, billiards, dancing, merry-go-rounds, playgrounds for children, skittles, cards, dice and dominoes (gambling not permitted).

These are places where women and children are as much in evidence as men. The gardens are open in summer and closed in winter. In winter large warm rooms and halls are used instead of the gardens, and the beer is equally popular in winter and summer.

This is mentioned because one often hears the remark "the climate is so different that we cannot have the like in England."

Music halls and theatres are largely replaced by the beer gardens and the beer halls; instrumental bands are very general in consequence of the military system, each regiment having its own band.

MORALITY.

It would hardly be fitting to close the enquiry without some allusion to the question of morality. It is said that Berlin is one of the most immoral capital towns in Europe. We are not in a position to discuss the relative immorality, but it may be of service to know certain conditions which we ascertained.

The State recognises that every child has a father who must contribute towards its support. Soldiers are exempted from contributing during their two years' service, but at the expiration they are liable for the keep of children born during the term. The lowest woman can claim help from the Poor Law Guardians to assist her to enforce this law and to help her to look after the child, to see that it grows up well nourished, clean, and trained from the very start. Any man among a number is liable to be called upon to contribute, if the mother can prove he was the possible father. Loose women are under weekly medical and police control: any woman without other employment who accosts in a public place comes under this supervision, but a loose woman who can prove she is earning wages at other employments, say serving in a bar or shop, is exempt from the control. She then ranks and is treated as a *worker*, although her moral character is well known. There are in Berlin many hundreds of small beer houses served by two or three waitresses who are of this class, but the authorities compel the use of a red "danger" lantern outside in the street in order to protect a stranger unwittingly entering.

In the centre of the town are large cafés, the meeting places of loose women, unmistakable on entering at the door. At other public places, beer houses, cafés, restaurants, and in the streets, everything is orderly as far as appears

on the surface. Except to those who know or seek them, the other places may be said not to exist. The general underlying principle appears to be the same here as in the licensing question—greater liberty to the individual with more safeguards against his unwittingly being injured.

CRIME.

The Berlin Statistical Book, pages 345 to 390, gives very clear information. On pages 370 and 371 the crimes and offences are grouped under four headings, as follows:—

- No. I.—Crimes against the State, public order, and religion.
- No. II.—Crimes against the person.
- No. III.—Crimes against property.
- No. IV.—Crimes by officials.

These are again subdivided into minor groups and are easy to understand.

In endeavouring to make comparisons with the figures given in the Birmingham "Blue Book," we were unsuccessful in consequence of the complicated method of arrangements in groups:—

- A. Indictable offences.
- B. Non-indictable offences.
- C. Cases tried summarily.

TRADE CONDITIONS.

WE are indebted to Mr. Adolf Cohen for the following information as to trade conditions. Mr. Cohen is a most intelligent, indefatigable and able secretary, who willingly gave us all the time and information we desired. The trades are very various and grouped in communities of interest to a much greater extent than is the case in this country. The workers in all metals are federated throughout Germany and act jointly, co-operating as far as possible in all movements, such as proposals for increased wages, reductions in hours of work, and improved factory regulations. Mr. Cohen is the secretary of the brassworkers of Berlin. The society consists of the amalgamated branches of metalworkers, chandelier, electrolier, lamp (both in brass and zinc), plumbing, and cabinet brass.

All workmen engaged in these metals, as well as ironsmiths, or ironworkers employed in brass or zinc works, are included in the amalgamation.

Mr. Cohen estimated that in the whole of Germany there are 50,000 brass and zinc workers, and in Berlin alone 18,000 men above eighteen years of age; of these, 14,000 are in the trade union.

There are electric works in Berlin employing large numbers of hands.

There are chandelier and electrolier manufacturers which employ 600, 500, 400, 350, and 120 hands, and there are a great number of smaller makers. They show their patterns freely in their showroom windows, so that walking along street after street one sees a succession of showrooms, with choice samples of style and finish exhibited to view; manufacturers are not afraid of exhibiting their patterns. In this way the goods they make are always in evidence, and the system forms a general advertisement for the trade as a whole.

The minimum wage of makers is 6d. per hour, turners 6d., polishers 6½d.; casters are divided into sections, viz., moulders 6d., furnacemen 6d., core-makers 5½d., mixers 5½d., fitters 6d. bare, sundry helpers 5d., but the actual wages earned range from the minimum of 27s. up to 42s. per week of 54 hours, according to the skill of the workman.

The system of work is mostly piece work with a minimum payment, *i.e.*, if the total earnings come to less than the minimum, the minimum has to be paid. The work in the chandelier shops is "part work"; everyone makes single parts, and the "mounter" puts the parts together. In "castings" payment is usually by so much per "side" or "box," and not by weight.

In Birmingham the minimum wage is 24s. 4d. per week of 54 hours (4½d. per hour, plus 20 per cent. bonus), but the actual wages earned range from 24s. 4d. up to 60s. and more per week, according to the skill and the number of underhands employed by the workman. The system of piecework in which a workman employs and pays his own underhands is more general in Birmingham than in Berlin.

The exchange value of a mark is barely a shilling, being two per cent. less, but the purchasing power of a mark is greater in Germany.*

The hours of work (over sixteen years of age) are fifty-four hours, commencing at seven and ending at five, Saturdays included; with half an hour for breakfast and dinner at 8.30 and 12.30. At four o'clock coffee or beer is taken without any official pause.

The system of treating, *i.e.*, taking turns to pay glasses round, is no longer customary, each man when out with others usually paying his own; the exception to this being a birthday or some special occasion, when it is usual for the workman to pay for his companions, and they do not consider it necessary to treat him in return. There is no Sunday labour; overtime is paid 25 per cent. extra and is allowed exceptionally. The holidays are at Christmas, two days; Easter, two and a half days (including Saturday afternoon); Ascension, one day; Whitsuntide, one day; total, with stocktaking, eight days. There is no Saint Monday. As a rule, the overtime is about the same as the holiday, and balances or makes up for the holidays. Wages are paid on Saturday when the work is done, and all are employed and paid by the firm direct. Mr. Cohen stated that there was no surplus of unskilled labour out of employment.

THE CHARACTER SYSTEM.—A character given to a workman on leaving a firm is inspected by a new employer, but remains the property of the workman. If a firm retains it, it must be returned to the workman when he leaves. It is not unusual for a workman to have three or more of these references, and what may be called his State papers, to produce at any time when required, to show his ability as a mechanic and his respectability as a citizen.

There is no aversion on the part of the trade union to boys or to females coming into the trade subject to certain conditions; and for women there is a branch of the trade union with 3,500 members. The general broad objection to women in factories is that the proper place for the wife is at home with the children, but if they do come to work there are certain branches which are looked upon as suitable for women, such as wrapping up, packing, lacquering, bronzing, stamping, and machine work such as small electric fittings, drilling, &c. If they do men's work they are paid men's wages.

They earn 12s., 14s., 16s., and 18s. per week on women's work proper and leave earlier on Saturdays.

The regulations under their factory Act deal ably with sanitary questions,

* Page 32, Table A8. Official Guide to the Workmen's Insurance of the German Empire for the St. Louis Exhibition; Asher & Co., London.

but inspection is not frequent enough. A proper place for keeping clothes clean when hanging up and washing is enforced. It is customary for the employés to bring their own towels or to pay a trifle a week to some one in the factory to do the washing.

“GEWERKSCHAFTSHAUS,” ENGEL UFER 15.—REPORT OF A VISIT TO TRADES UNION HALL, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26TH.

This visit was very interesting, as we learnt the magnitude and usefulness to which, by united efforts, trades unionism could be worked up.

The building is a very fine one and cost £85,000 to build, and at the present time it is proposed to spend another £100,000 in enlarging it.

In it the united trades unions of Germany have their central offices, different branches having their respective departments. The principal officials are M.P.'s, who extended to us (through Mr. Davis) a hearty welcome. Altogether we visited it on three separate days, and on each occasion there were at least 600 or 700 men within its portals.

We first inspected the quarters for travellers, called the “Herberge,” or Inn. Here every convenience is found for men out of employment or visiting Berlin. A man out of work and travelling from one place to another can put up at the lodging quarters. He can have a bed costing 5½d. if in company with ten fellow travellers (with intermediate prices according to number sharing room), and pays 1s. 6d. for room to himself; meals are provided very cheaply, a fairly good meal of wholesome food and pure beer for 2½d. (the beer costs ¾d. for ⅔ of a pint).

If a member is unable to pay, the cost of “bed, etc.,” is charged to his society. The large room is very well adapted for men out of employment. Newspapers are supplied, and small tables are placed about the room where men can sit in small groups and chat. Writing tables and materials are also provided; the rooms are heated by radiators, as also are the bedrooms (everything absolutely clean). Each room contained a radiator, good furniture and electric light, also washing bowl with separate tap. In the basement baths are provided, and men can have a shower bath for 1¼d., including soap and towel, and hot and cold water. The kitchen arrangements are very good indeed.

We next visited the business quarters, and were first of all conducted to the societies' office, where the official in charge, who is the equivalent of a lawyer, represents the interests of the workmen in cases for the Accident and Old Age Pension Department.

We then visited the splendid library, which is at the services of the members. The catalogue arrangements are the same as in the Birmingham Free Libraries, with small pieces of wood arranged to show which books are in and which are out.

The librarian told us that although the books numbered 20,000, there are only about 20 lost per annum. The library contains mostly serious books, and is complete with all the standard English works on trade unionism, which are held in high esteem. Statistics show it is mostly serious books which are asked for and read.

There is a very fine yard, well paved and having tables and chairs arranged for the men in warm weather, and trees and shrubs planted in properly made tubs were placed about the yard, giving it a very nice appearance. This yard is the beer garden of the place, and is in connection with the large restaurant fronting the street, which is also a beer-house open to the public. There is also a skittle alley with two alleys, each about thirty yards long.

In the “out of work” department, men who are on the funds have to register their names three times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday,

and come every week to receive their "out of work" pay. On enquiry we found that only one man out of 50,000 had been found who could not sign his name. Men apply to their various secretaries for any place that may be vacant. Employers also apply for any men they may want; the telephone is fixed, so that an employer can make enquiries as to whether there are any men out of employment who would be likely to suit him. A very large delegates' room was also attached to the building, capable of seating 1,500. It is approached by a large vestibule or hall.

Arrangements are made for men to hang up their clothes, hats, etc. There are 1,140 hat pegs in the vestibule, suspended from movable stands about six or seven feet long, in charge of an attendant. This method of having their clothes properly looked after is no doubt responsible in no small degree for the very smart and tidy appearance of nearly every man in Berlin; wherever one goes, and in whatever place of amusement or restaurant, the same thing may be seen, viz., a proper place for hats, coats, &c.

The hall is used for speeches and meetings, and contains the usual small tables where men can eat, drink, and smoke. There are smaller halls for sections, sub-committees and editorial offices, the organisation of the Press being an extensive and well-ordered department of the central society. All the officials seem to have their heart in the work; they were very busy, but had time for a friendly word or nod.

VISIT TO THE CENTRAL REGISTRY OFFICE FOR SKILLED AND UNSKILLED WORKMEN, FRIDAY, APRIL 28TH, 1905.

A report of this is given on page 85, "Report to the Board of Trade on the Unemployed in Foreign Countries," by Mr. D. F. Schloss; price 1s.

This is an institution for men and women out of employment. The cost, including land, was £55,000. The town provides £2,000 per annum towards the expenses; there are also between seven and eight hundred subscribers (employers and corporate societies) paying a minimum of 4s. and a maximum of £20 per annum. There are separate halls or rooms for skilled and unskilled labour; there are also separate rooms for female labour. All who use this place pay a sum of 2d. for their card, lasting until employment is found. This entitles them to the use of the hall, library, &c. There is a very good library of five hundred books. Various newspapers are provided, including twenty-three trade society journals. Men who are out of employment can wait in the large hall, and the place is so popular that about one thousand five hundred situations are found every week. The institution is in telephonic communication with the central station, so that any employer in want of a man can telephone to the place and one or more men are sent for his selection; failing the telephone, messengers or letters are sent, and the director or superintendent deals with the same at once, sending a labourer or skilled workman or woman.

At the time of our visit three or four hundred men were waiting in the large hall for situations, grouped according to their trades. In case of illness or accident a ward is provided with first-aid appliances. The institution also employs a lawyer, who gives free advice to any workman requiring same who is not in a position to pay. In case a man brings a claim and he is successful he has to pay fifteen per cent. of his claim to the institution, but if not successful he pays nothing; in the month of March three hundred and eighty-nine claims were attended to by this lawyer. Men belonging to the "National Assurance Society" can have their cards registered, as well as members of the sick society.

There are laws to regulate the business of the institution in case of strike. The board of management consists of equal representation of employers

and employed. In cases of strikes no advice whatever is given either way ; the authorities are strictly neutral. Beer and other refreshments are supplied to the men at very moderate charges, beer a little over $\frac{1}{4}$ d. glass, milk ditto, and coffee ditto. A tailor and bootmaker are employed and paid by the authorities, and the men can have their boots repaired for 1d. (this repairing would cost at least 1s. 6d. in the ordinary way), and the tailor also repaired garments for this uniform amount. This fact, no doubt, was responsible in a great measure for the clean and tidy appearance of the Berlin man who was out of employment. Of all the hundreds who were waiting there was not one untidy or dirty ; it is really surprising how clean and respectable the "out-of-work" people keep themselves. The bath arrangements are very good indeed, a most astonishingly large gas-heating apparatus supplying the water. A man can have a bath, including hot and cold water, towel and soap, for $\frac{1}{2}$ d. On enquiry we were informed that the women obtained employment more easily than the men. We were also informed that the institution was very popular with employers of labour, skilled or unskilled ; it rarely happened that they could not get suited with the man or woman they required.

TRADE UNION SOCIETY, 6D. WEEKLY.

Trade Union Society.—The Berlin brassworker contributes 6d. weekly ; for this he receives in return strike-pay 15s. a week, and 1s. per week per child under fourteen as long as the strike lasts, with 15s. per week for three months if not set on at the end of the strike.

The "out-of-work" pay depends on the length of time he has been a member ; the highest pay is 10s. per week, and the lowest 6s. per week, and the pay continues for a maximum of ten weeks. According to scale a funeral benefit is granted ; the maximum payment being £7 10s., but none at the death of the wife or child. No sick pay is given by the trade society, as he gets this from his sick insurance society and invalid society.

At the Metal Workers' Conference in Leipsic, June 16th, 1905, it was decided to amend the rules so as to give a small sick pay without increasing the members' contributions.

NATIONAL COMPULSORY INSURANCE : SICKNESS, OLD AGE, AND INFIRMITY.

Our earnest consideration was given to the provision for working men and women in case of sickness, accident, old age and infirmity. These are obtained by a system of national insurance which is well described in a pamphlet, "Guide to the Workmen's Insurance of the German Empire," revised edition, brought up-to-date for the Universal Exposition at St. Louis, 1904 ; officially compiled by Dr. Zacher, President of Senate in the Imperial Insurance Department (published by A. Asher & Co., 13 Bedford Street, London, W.C., price 3d.).

The system was first introduced to the Reichstag on November 17th, 1881, and the spirit underlying it is expressed in the message of His Majesty the Emperor, William I. This message, as communicated by the Imperial Chancellor, Prince Bismarck, reads as follows :—

"We consider it our Imperial duty to impress upon the Reichstag the necessity of furthering the welfare of the working people. We should review with increased satisfaction the manifold successes with which the Lord has blessed our reign, could we carry with us to the grave the consciousness and

lasting assurance of internal peace, and the conviction that we have rendered the needy that assistance to which they are justly entitled."

The expression "to render the needy that assistance to which they are justly entitled" fundamentally distinguishes their system from ours, where hospitals, sanatoria, and medical dispensaries for the working classes are regarded as instruments for the dispensation of voluntary subscriptions devoted to the relief of such as are "objects of charity." In Germany the contributions for the assistance of the "justly entitled" are compulsory, and are made by employers, employed, and by the Government in certain proportions. The contributions to the "Sick Insurance Society" are made thus:—One-third of the amount by the employer and two-thirds by employed; to the "Old Age and Infirmity Pension," by the employer and employed in equal shares, with a grant by the Government; and the "Accident Insurance" is maintained by the employers alone.

From the commencement to the end of 1903, about sixty millions of persons (sick, accident, invalided, and pension, or their families) had received £200,000,000 as compensation, and have accumulated funds to the amount of £75,000,000. (Page 32, "Guide to Workmen's Insurance.")

As it is impossible in a short report to give all the conditions of insurance on various wages, we shall get an idea by taking as a specific example the case of a brassworker in Berlin, and by seeing what weekly contributions he is liable to, and the benefits he derives from the same. We give the case of a provident workman earning an average wage of 30s. weekly, calculated on the basis of assessed yearly wages from figures supplied by Mr. A. Cohen, secretary of the Brassworkers' Trade Society in Berlin. The contributions would not vary very much either above or below this wage. The benefits are the same for a higher or lower wage as far as concerns hospital and sick treatment in the various institutions; sick pay and pension only varying according to wage and length of membership.

CASE OF WORKMAN EARNING AN AVERAGE 30S. WEEKLY.

Compulsory for Workman.

A. Sick Insurance	..	..	..	..	..	6½d.
B. Old Age and Infirmity Insurance Club	..	..	..	..	..	2¼d.
C. Rates and Taxes	..	..	..	..	..	7¼d.
Total compulsory per week						1s. 3¾d.

Voluntary.

D. Trade Union	..	..	..	..	..	6d.
E. Secondary Sick Club	..	..	..	..	..	7¾d.
						1s. 1¾d.
Total per week						2s. 5½d.

Compulsory for Employer.

A. Sick Club	..	..	..	..	..	3½d.
B. Old Age Pension and Infirmity Club	..	..	..	..	..	2¼d.
C. Rates and Taxes (according to Income).	..	..	..	..	..
F. Accident Assurance, probably	..	..	..	..	..	1½d.
						6½d.

Total Compulsory Contributions.

	EMPLOYER.	EMPLOYED.	
A. Sick Club	one-third.	two-thirds.	9½d.
B. Old Age and Infirmity ..	half	half.	4½d.
F. Accident	the whole.	—	1½d.
			1s. 3¾d.

The State.

- B. The State also grants 50s. per annum towards each pension granted, which costs the State ¾d. per week per person insured. This applies only to Old Age and Infirmity Insurance, not to Sick and Accident Insurance.

"It is evident from the relative proportions of the contributions to the pensions that such favourable conditions can be offered to working people by no private scheme, for the insured obtain the State subsidy and the employers' contributions without giving any equivalent." ("Guide to Workmen's Insurance of the German Empire," page 27.)

A.—SICK INSURANCE (ORTS KRANKEN KASSE).

For the compulsory payment of 6½d. to the insurance club (A) he would receive free medical attendance from the best doctors in the town, and medicine from the commencement of his illness, likewise spectacles, trusses, bandages, etc.

(2) In case of incapacity for work, commencing from the third day of the illness, he would receive from 10s. 6d. to 12s. per week. This is paid for a minimum of twenty-six weeks—most clubs pay thirty-nine weeks, and some fifty-two weeks in the year. At the termination of sick insurance club pay, if still ill, the Old Age and Infirmity Society steps in, or the workman is given free admittance to a hospital, together with half the sick pay for the family. Burial money, about £4. This is the minimum sum. The law allows relief to be extended.

Similar relief for women in childbed for six weeks.

For the voluntary payment (E) to secondary sick club, which is usual among provident workmen, he gets an additional sick pay of from 10s. 6d. to 12s., making a total sick pay of from 21s. to 24s. per week.

It will repay us to try to understand and realise this system of national insurance, because it is so different from anything we are accustomed to in this country. The whole system depends on a willingness to conform to laws, which by bringing all into line, constrain the individual for the good of the community. It is binding alike on the poorest charwoman and the wealthiest employer. The idea of compulsion in such cases is perhaps repugnant to the traditions of Englishmen but it is a matter for thoughtful consideration whether this sort of submission denotes that the German is ahead or behind the Briton in his attitude towards it.

The "National Sick Society," under the supervision of the Government, is managed by local associations organised for the various branches of trade,

On the board of management one-third its number are employers' representatives, and two-thirds are workmen's representatives, being the same proportion as their contributions.

The insured persons comprise all those engaged in trade and commerce

working for wages, up to £100 per annum. The contribution is based on the rate of wages earned. Every employer is compelled to collect and hand over the contributions to the officials, who usually call every six weeks. Even labourers in labour colonies are not free from this contribution. The clerking involves considerable labour in a manufacturer's office. Every workman must have a card, and for a workman earning 30s. weekly, every week a stamp, representing 6½d., must be affixed on its dated square, the cost being apportioned by the employed and its share (two-thirds) charged to the workmen. To use the words of a Berlin manufacturer, who accompanied us on a visit to "the halt and sick and the lame," "I used to begrudge the trouble of collecting the money, but now knowing better what it provides, I shall always do it willingly in future."

In connection with his Sick Insurance Club a little directory is given to the workman from which he can make a free selection from among five hundred and thirty of the leading doctors of Berlin. The addresses are arranged in districts, with hours of consultation. The club doctor and dispensary as we have them here do not exist. In their stead leading doctors and specialists (with very few exceptions) are at the service of the working man or woman. In addition to the doctors, specialists are classified: they number 42 for the eye, 26 surgical, 41 for women, 38 ear and throat, 46 skin and lock, 5 internal, 9 stomach and bowels, 11 nerves (with electric treatment), 6 orthopaedic, 1 gymnastic cure and massage, 4 homeopathic, 4 water cure, 73 teeth doctors, 44 teeth artists, 225 masseurs, 51 bandages, 54 opticians, for spectacles—total 1,210 of doctors and specialists.

(The average income of the Berlin doctors is about £460 per annum—"Berlin Statistics.")

The directory also contains a list of seventeen public hospitals and forty-one private special hospitals (in fact all the medical institutions in Berlin are open to the workman), the addresses of six institutions for the transport of the sick, a list of telephone numbers to ambulance stations, accident, health corps, rescue corps, and hospitals with rescue corps and instructions as to how to proceed. These stations are open day and night, and give information as to which hospitals have empty beds. They are in telephonic communication with the stations for the transport of the sick so that carriages for the sick man can be dispatched at any time. The opening notice in the book is noteworthy:—"The Committee beg members to make in writing, and at any time, any complaints against the doctors. The Committee will endeavour as far as possible to remedy the same." If a doctor considers the workman needs hospital treatment, he sends him at once to a suitable one, and the hospital is paid by his sick insurance club at the rate of 2s. 6d. per day, the same price as would be received from a "paying patient." It is not a question of charity; he is treated in exactly the same manner as a person who is paying for his treatment, although a wealthy person may have one of a limited number of wards to himself under exceptional conditions.

It struck us that there was not the same haste to get the patient out of the hospital as in Birmingham, that all was cleaner, in better order, more money at the back, food more varied and tasty, and altogether a distinctly better place for a working man to be in than our General Hospital. The idea of "charity" was entirely absent, the spirit was "to render the needy that assistance to which they are justly entitled," as a duty.

B.—OLD AGE AND INFIRMITY INSURANCE (LANDESVERSICHERUNGS ANSTALT). COST 2½D. WEEKLY, COMPULSORY.

The Pension for Infirmary or Chronic Illness is granted, irrespective of age, to every insured person who is permanently disabled, *i.e.*, no longer able

to earn at least one-third of his average wages ; also to persons not permanently disabled but who for half a year (or when their sick insurance club pay expires) are unfit for work. The pension is calculated on certain fixed principles, and is paid for the remaining period of their disability, thus offering a compensation for the loss of capacity of work. The invalidated pension is subject to four previous years' regular contribution, and amounts to from £7 10s. to £22 10s. per annum, depending on length of membership. He is entitled to relief for his family while he is receiving treatment at any of the different sanatoria, consumption homes, sea-side and other watering-places, and free medical care. The best is done for him to prevent permanent invalidity.

If a claim for a pension is to be apprehended in consequence of continued illness and incapacity for employment, then sick relief may be granted with other relief to the family. The insured have a right to the recovery of contributions : (1) women who marry before attaining an annuity who desire to discontinue membership ; (2) survivors of insured persons who die before the annuity becomes attainable (widows, widowers unfit for work, orphans under fifteen years of age and children of deserted wives) ; (3) those who become invalidated by accident and who get a higher pension in the accident section. The pension of old age is given the workman on reaching his seventieth year, it is granted independently of disability, and forms an addition to the earnings of the old. It requires a membership of twenty-three years, and amounts to £11 10s. per annum.

The Board of Management is subject also to Government supervision. It consists of equal numbers of representatives of employers and employed, in accordance with the amounts of their contributions, and the Government assists the pensions with a grant of 50s. per annum.

The Government also assists and pays the contributions of workmen while serving in the army or navy. It subjects to compulsory insurance from the completed sixteenth year : (1) all persons working for wages in any branch of trade, apprentices and servants included ; (2) managing officials, clerks, teachers or tutors, provided that their regular year's earnings do not exceed £100.

No person (male or female) may do a day's work without the weekly stamp being affixed to his or her card, on the square division provided for the purpose. The employer is responsible for the stamp being affixed. The employer contributes 2½d. and the workman 2½d. in the highest scale of payment. Not even a charwoman may work a day unless the stamp is put on. It is usual for the mistress to pay the whole of the stamp. The first person employing her in the week is responsible for the stamp.

This card lasts twelve months, and on each new card is stated the number of years the member has contributed. The name, address, and official number of the workman appears on it also, and distinctive stamps for working weeks and for "out of work" weeks show at a glance what time the person has worked since the date of his card.

It stamps him as **worker** and entitles him to the same treatment as the highest class workman in the town at the various sea-side places and magnificent sanatoria : an idea of what these are like may be formed from the fact that the Berlitz Consumptive Home cost £800,000.

A wide gulf separates the treatment of the worker from the treatment of the non-worker, viz., from the vagrant, the loafer, the beggar, the pimp, and the brawler. These latter are kindly but wisely treated, and are classed together and segregated (or kept quite separate). The word segregated carries with it the separation of the sexes, a treatment with a far-reaching effect. This willingness to work and obey the laws is in Germany the main consideration in the different treatment of those we call "the deserving" and "the undeserving."

This provides him with water, education for children, and, in the case of need, hospice for old people, infirmary for incurables, out-door poor relief, medical attendance, and hospital, all of which are municipal institutions and supported principally by rates and taxes.

We have seen that hospital and medical treatment is free to the members of a sick society under the system of compulsory insurance, but these same hospitals, etc., are equally free to well-behaved needy persons who for some cause have fallen out of benefit, the payment for them being made by the municipality from these rates and taxes. A certificate from a doctor of the poor law board secures admission to any hospital for these people.

In the 7½d. for rates and taxes a workman contributes his share towards the upkeep of hospitals, education, poor relief, and other institutions, and also for State purposes.

In the case of education in the higher schools, the fees are paid by the parents, but the public elementary schools in Berlin are free.

We have seen that in case of hospital treatment a workman is paid for by the sick society, and we know that if he has been in work he must necessarily have been a member of a sick society, but if from any cause he is not "in benefit," and providing he has not broken the civil laws, providing he is not a loafer, vagrant, pimp, "workshy," or disorderly person, he will be paid for at the hospital out of the rates and taxes at 2s. 6d. per day, and be treated exactly in the same way as the patient who is paid for at 2s. 6d. per day by his sick society, and in the same way as the patient who is charged 2s. 6d. per day as a paying patient. There is no charity about it, and there is only one treatment. No one asks the question, "Is he a deserving object of charity?" but it is regarded as a duty "to render the needy that assistance to which they are justly entitled." He may have been too fond of drink; though not a drunkard, drinking may have indirectly been the cause of his illness, but the community regard it as their first interest and their first duty to put him on his legs and to get him well again, as soon as possible, to make him fit to earn a living for himself and his family instead of remaining on their hands.

The honest person who "is willing to work" is helped out of the rates and taxes which are set aside for the needy. These rates are administered by 4,000 guardians under the Elberfeld system, with town councillor Dr. Münsterberg at the head. On the other hand, a distinct treatment is reserved for the "workshy" person, drunkard, able-bodied, beggar, pimp and disorderly woman. These latter are separated and kept in a "workhouse" (in reality a house of correction), where they are compelled to work for small wages for periods of not less than six months and not exceeding two years. They are employed in fields, labouring, sawing, chopping wood or any trade they know. On coming out at the termination of their detention a suit of clothes, suitable to the season, is given to them, with such a sum of money in their pockets as they have been able to save in order to give them a fair chance to get work. They are also looked after by a private benevolence society. During this period of segregation the sexes have been separated with obvious advantages to the community, and they have been assisted to acquire a taste for work and have partly been earning their keep. They are also kept in a separate hospice if they are chronic invalids and too old to work.

They are not mixed up with the honest needy persons who still have a home about them and whose treatment (see "Directions for the Poor Law Guardians of Berlin," 1902) is regarded from quite a different standpoint. ("Anweisung betreffend die Verwaltung der Offenen Armenpflege der Stadt Berlin": Carl Koepsel, Kommandanten Str., 46, Berlin, 1902.)

The following are extracts from this book, and indicate the lines of treatment.

Rule 46.—In case of exceptional circumstances, such as illness or death

of the head of the family, or shortness of work, the guardians are advised to give assistance. "A little assistance at the right time can often render great help."

Rule 48.—They make cash payments of 20s. or above per month with the sanction of the Central Board; can give firing in winter, soup, storage of furniture, &c., when temporarily homeless; free medical treatment, free medicine, dietary for sickness, for example—(a) milk, wine, &c.; (b) truss, spectacles, bandages, artificial limbs, baths, and disinfections, help at childbirth, and further treatment during recovery, also free burial.

There are in Berlin institutions for chronic invalids, aged and infirm persons of good reputation, where poor and penniless persons live side by side with, and receive precisely the same treatment as, those whose relatives pay for them. Such a one is: (a) The "Municipal Siechenhouse or Infirmary"—for old, infirm and incurable persons of blameless reputation, not suitable for admission to hospitals, and who would not get the necessary attention and care in their own homes, even with a higher grant of money relief from the poor guardians. (b) The Friedrich Wilhelm Municipal Hospice is provided for persons of good reputation who are no longer able to maintain themselves, and who, even with a larger money relief than the customary one, could not exist outside the institution, and for such as have no legally responsible relatives able to maintain them. In such an institution an old married couple would have a room to themselves. (c) Also private charitable institutions are available, which take in infirm and incurable persons, and are in touch with the guardians. There are 1,000 beds in such private institutions (p. 328, "Statistics"). Blind asylums, lunatic, idiot, and epileptic orphanages are available as town institutions for the reception of such as the guardians to the poor see fit.

Rule 88.—The children of widows, or mothers who have been deserted by their husbands, are granted money assistance if necessary; widows or single women, who on account of young children would be hindered from going out to earn their living, may be helped by having their children taken care of during the day.

Rule 99.—At "Confirmation" children left without anyone to take care of them, who have not the proper clothing for them to enter properly into the "citizen life," may be assisted with clothes so that they may obtain a necessary wage.

Rule 100.—Free burial where necessary funds are otherwise not to hand.

Rule 103.—Also for children.

The Birmingham brassworker, when a member of a provident society, and when a member of his trade union, enjoys advantages and provisions for old age, but we see from the foregoing that the Berlin brassworker, with all other workers, is better provided for and relieved from so great an anxiety with regard to old age, sickness or loss of work. In Berlin the stigma of "charity" has been removed. It is recognised there must inevitably be "needy persons of good reputation," who are "justly entitled to assistance," and the community "sees to it." Those at the head are hard workers; our first appointment with the chairman of the poor board, Dr. Münsterberg, was at his office at eight o'clock on a Monday morning, where we found him busy, but quite at our disposal, and from his international library on social questions we were able to make use of the most complete range of English works, publications, and reports we had up to that time ever seen.

INSTITUTIONS.

VISIT TO MOABIT HOSPITAL, SATURDAY, APRIL 22ND, 1905.

A visit was paid on this day to the Moabit Municipal Hospital, built on the detached ward principle, each ward being of one storey only; it has accommodation for 1,000 patients, men, women and children. At the date of our visit 830 beds were occupied, leaving a good margin for emergency and infectious cases. It had 105 nurses, or one to every eight patients. Patients who can afford to pay are charged 2s. 6d. per day for adults; children whose parents can pay are charged 2s. per day.

Persons who are not insured and are not in a position to pay are paid for by the municipal authorities. As every workman contributes to the rates and taxes, therefore every workman contributes his quota towards the maintenance of the hospitals. The question as to who are in a position to pay is decided by the poor law guardians. The poor people receive the same treatment as those who pay. If not chargeable on the town as inhabitants they are charged to the local authorities at their birthplace. If, however, at any future time the patient is found to have means (if he comes into money) he is expected to pay for the treatment he has received.

The well-to-do people can have small private wards, but have to pay more in proportion; only a limited number of these wards are to be had. If vacancies occur, suburban people may be admitted.

In 1903 the actual cost per patient was 4s. 3½d. per day, inclusive of 3½ per cent. interest on capital, or 3s. 5½d. exclusive of interest. A sum of £44,314 was paid by the municipality to make up the balance between the contributions of the patients and the actual cost. ("Magistrat," No. 18, for 1903, page 14.) This sum of £44,314 represents about 66 per cent. of the total cost, or 2s. 10¼d. per patient; consequently the contributions and sundry revenue averaging 1s. 5¼d. per day per patient. The cost per head per annum was £63 2s. 4d., excluding interest! while for the same year in Birmingham the cost in the General Hospital per bed per annum on total ordinary expenditure was £61 1s. 9d.

The total cost of General Hospital ordinary expenditure for 1903 was £24,842; so that had it been situated in Berlin, £16,400 of this would have been paid by the municipality, and £8,442 by patients.

We are able to supply a statement comparing the quantities of the staple articles of food supplied to the inmates in the two institutions, from which it will be seen that although the total cost of each patient is rather more in Berlin than in Birmingham, the dietary of Berlin is apparently more generous.

STATEMENT indicating average of diet consumed by inmates, including staff, per annum at Birmingham Hospital, calculated on an average number of patients, 275½, and at Berlin Hospital, on an average number of patients, 845.

Note.—When information is not available for comparison by quantities, money values are used.

	BIRMINGHAM.	BERLIN.
	Per annum.	Per annum.
Meat	264 lbs. (includes Bacon and Meat).	291 lbs. (includes Meat and Sausage).
Fish	Costs £1 1s. 8d.	Costs £0 7s. 10¼d.
Poultry	„ £0 10s. 2½d.	„ £0 1s. 10d.
Butter	43¾ lbs.	55¾ lbs.

THE BRASSWORKERS OF

		BIRMINGHAM.		BERLIN.	
		Per annum.		Per annum.	
Cheese	.. ..	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	.. ..	13 lbs.	
Eggs	.. ..	131	.. ..	390	
Milk	.. ..	114 $\frac{1}{2}$ Gals.	.. ..	135 Gals.	
Bread	.. ..	Costs £1 10s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	.. ..	Costs £1 14s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Sugar	.. ..	63 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	.. ..	20 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	
Tea	.. ..	8 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	.. ..	Nil.	
Coffee	.. ..	5 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	.. ..	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	
Rice, Sago, Oatmeal,	Costs	£0 3s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	.. ..	Costs £0 5s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
&c.	.. ..	£1 0s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	.. ..	£0 13s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.	
Malt Liquors and	.. ..	£0 11s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	.. ..	£1 17s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	
Wines.					

The conditions of the contract for the supply of meat to the Moabit Hospital are as follows :

“ Only the meat from beasts which have been slaughtered at the Municipal Central Slaughter House may be delivered, and as follows :—

A. Beef from full-meated, thoroughly fattened oxen up to seven years old.

B. Veal of the finest fatted calves, fed on mothers' milk.

C. Pork from full-meated pigs of the finer breeds or their cross breeds from three quarters to one and a quarter years old.

D. Mutton, from young fatted sheep, excepting rams and mother beasts.”

The contract prices for 1903—1904 per lb. were :—

		BIRMINGHAM.		BERLIN.	
A. Beef	.. ..	6·75d.	.. ..	6·54d.	
B. Veal	.. ..	7·25d.	.. ..	8·18d.	
C. Pork	.. ..	5·50d.	.. ..	6·70d.	
D. Mutton	.. ..	5·75d.	.. ..	6·86d.	

Birmingham General Hospital contract conditions were :—

Beef, chilled, to consist of prime joints as ordered, about 6 cwt. weekly.

Veal, about 40 lbs. weekly.

Pork, about 30 lbs. weekly.

Mutton, good Canterbury wether mutton, to consist of legs, shoulders, and necks, as required, about 4 cwt. weekly.

The proportion of their consumption was :—

		BIRMINGHAM.		BERLIN.	
Beef	.. ..	56·50 per cent.	.. ..	52 per cent.	
Veal	.. ..	3·25	.. ..	16	..
Pork	.. ..	2·75	.. ..	13	..
Mutton	.. ..	37·50	.. ..	19	..

STATEMENT SHOWING AVERAGE COST PER LB. OR PER ARTICLE AT BIRMINGHAM HOSPITAL AND BERLIN HOSPITAL.

	BIRMINGHAM.		BERLIN.	
	Average cost.		Average cost.	
	s.	d.	s.	d.
Fish	0	3'66 per lb.	0	6'31 per lb.
Fowl	2	0 each ..	1	9'18 each.
Pigeons		Information not ascertained.	0	7'43 ..
Butter	1	0'50 per lb.	1	0'50 per lb.
Cheese	0	5'76 ..	0	5'69 ..
Eggs	0	1 each	0	0'63 each.
Milk	0	8'13 per gal.	0	5'77 per gal.
Cream		Nil.	2	8'75 ..
Bread	0	0'93 per lb.	0	1'01 per lb.
Wheat-flour Rolls		Nil.	0	1'32 ..
Milk Bread	0	6' per loaf		Nil.
Sugar	0	2'01 per lb.	0	2'67 per lb.
Tea	1	3'88 ..		Nil.
Coffee	0	9'26 ..	0	10'15 per lb.
Cocoa	1	8'91 ..		Nil.
Rice	0	1'62 ..	0	1'47 per lb.
Potatoes	0	0'50 ..	0	0'25 ..
Lager Beer		Information not ascertained.	0	0'92 per bot.
White Beer		"	0	0'84 ..
Malt Beer	0	9 per gall.	0	0'90 ..
Seltzers		Information not ascertained.	0	0'47 ..
Red Wine		"	0	7'69 ..
Greek Wine		"	0	9'60 ..
White Wine		"	0	8'01 ..

The meals for the mildly ill or convalescent patients at the Moabit consist of :—

Early breakfast	Coffec, &c.
Second	Sandwiches (according to Doctor's orders).
Dinner	Meat and vegetables.
Afternoon	Coffee.
Evening	Meat or herring, potatoes, cheese, sandwiches of warm sausage, &c., or soup.

According to the official diet list the above is made up from a very varied assortment. Extras, according to doctor's orders, include veal cutlets fried in egg, warm or cold beef, pork, veal, or mutton, calf's brains, calf's sweetbread, veal broths, grated meat, beefsteak fried with egg, "mock hare" (made with beef, pork, and egg), ham, fine sausage, brawn, bacon, herring, rice and milk, pickled cucumber, salad, fresh fruit, baked fruit, preserves, oranges and lemons, lager beer, wine soup (wine, egg and sago), cocoa, butter milk, egg cake (two eggs), apple sauce, cream, and beef tea. ("Tables of Feeding Rules," fol. 24.)

We were struck with the appointments of the hospital, and with the kindly courtesy with which the staff treated the patients, also with the liberality of the diet. The diet at this institution is looked upon by the medical staff as "of more importance than medicine."

We had an opportunity of tasting the very varied and appetising food ; we also tasted and became admirers of the "Patzenhofer" lager beer, such as is given to the patients. It is a very good light beer, brewed with malt and hops only ; no other ingredients are allowed to be used by the brewer. Each patient who is able to take it and likes to have it receives a bottle per day, containing a shade under three-quarters of a pint, and costing a fraction under a penny ; other patients have instead malt extract, seltzer water, wine or milk. Amongst the foods, we tasted six different kinds of sausages made on the place ; while raw smoked ham, cooked ham, beef, etc., and best home-grown meat formed part of the diet. These articles of diet are kept in hot weather in "Bahr's patent cooking room ice stores."

From the meat stores, a lift communicated with the pickling and smoking room below.

There was also a large tank to keep live fresh-water fish in. The boiled meat was very tender, and excellent in taste ; it was served with a brown gravy.

The cooking apparatus for boiling was made by Senking & Co. We saw their apparatus at the most up-to-date institutions. We noticed a very effective bottle-washing machine and towel dryers.

A large quantity of eggs were ready to be served out to the patients, and kept in specially constructed trays which allowed the air to circulate properly round them, thus keeping them from becoming rapidly stale.

Among the diet was oatmeal, barley, groats, oat flakes, potato flour, rice flour, fine macaroni, bead macaroni, tapioca, sago, green corn (for soup), raisins, currants, prunes, dried apples, haricot beans, lentils, peas, millet (cooked in milk), and rice.

We noticed the wine being measured off in little bottles on the decimal system.

The doctors receive three bottles of beer daily, and half a bottle of wine on Sunday. The nurses have two bottles of beer daily, and the porters also two bottles daily.

We paid a visit to the nurses' quarters, which were detached from the wards. All the bathrooms were particularly well fitted. The children's department was very interesting, about thirty being in the ward we visited. A playing-ground for children with sand heaps was provided for the convalescent children in the grounds.

The nurses were noticeable for their spotless white coats, resembling long overcoats. All the patients are provided with special washable clothing, which is worn during convalescence. It is of a uniform pattern and resembles a bright striped tennis suiting. It consists of a long dressing gown, cap, and slippers with thick felt soles, about three-eighths of an inch thick.

We can only say that the visit gave us the impression that everything was being done for the patients to bring about a thorough recovery. We were

treated with every kindness and courtesy by the Director, Mr. Otto Borchart, and the secretary, Mr. Fischer, and invited to come again.

In making a comparison between the Municipal Hospital Moabit and the charitable institution, the Birmingham General Hospital, we are of opinion that the finest home-grown meat as used in the one, and New Zealand mutton and chilled meat as used in the other, fairly represents the difference in the two kinds of institutions. In the one the funds allow the purchase of the best, in the other the best would be obtained if the funds permitted.

VISIT TO FRIEDERICHSHAIN HOSPITAL.

On Good Friday, April 21st, 1905, we visited the Friederichshain Municipal Hospital. It was conducted on the same lines as the Moabit Hospital already described, and it accommodates about the same number of patients at about the same cost.

The municipality contributed £42,717 in 1903.

The time of our visit happened to be the visiting day. It was interesting to watch the friends of the patients, who were waiting for admission, their clean and orderly appearance, and good behaviour. The waiting room was large and clean; having large wrought-iron gates up to the ceiling, but they are glazed on the inside to keep out the wind. The patients wear special clothes during convalescence, which were very comfortable and warm; these are provided by the hospital authorities. The Orthopædic ward is a hall about 60ft. by 25ft., fitted with exercising apparatus of a kind which are not in our Birmingham hospitals, but which we met with in other institutions in Berlin. They were arranged in all suitable varieties for the purpose of strengthening particular joints and muscles, and were easily adjustable to any required strength.

The city of Berlin contains many other hospitals, municipal, State, and private.

BIRMINGHAM ORTHOPÆDIC HOSPITAL.

We visited the Birmingham Orthopædic Hospital, and found there a very antiquated gymnasium, situated in a small loft. The apparatus consisted of a horizontal bar and a bent ladder on which to lean back. There is a shortage of 50 to 60 beds at this institution, and a scarcity of hospital notes.

VISIT TO CONSUMPTIVE SANATORIUM AT BEELITZ.

(Lungenheilstätten Beelitz), APRIL 23RD, 1905.

On this day we visited the homes at Beelitz for cure of diseases of the lungs (consumption). The train left Berlin at 8.30 a.m. After a journey of one and a quarter hours, we arrived at the station, which is situated in the midst of a pine forest. On alighting from the train (which was very full of passengers) we were surprised to find nearly everyone else leaving the train. Standing by the station palings were a large number of men clad in most befitting tweed suits of greeny-brown colour, and looking in very good health. We at first thought it was some excursion party who had come to the country by an early train, and were joined by their wives and friends for the day. We were surprised to find, however, that these men were all patients from the Institution. We happened to be paying our visit on the day that the patients had their visitors. After five minutes' walk we came in sight of a magnificent building; this was the home for consumptives. In the midst

of a pine forest was this huge building, to which men and women who were suffering from consumption and other lung troubles could come, and where every possible chance was given them to get well and strong again. To attempt to describe the place is very difficult; one cannot do justice to it. The huge building cost £800,000. The ventilating arrangements alone cost £10,000, or enough to build and equip a very good convalescent home. Everything is on the most up-to-date principle. The corridors are of great length; the sleeping compartments leading therefrom being beautifully appointed.

We were met by the lady superintendent—Miss Bertha Brockmuller—who proved to be an admirer of England and the English, and the third assistant doctor—Dr. Frederick Berthel. They did not know of our intended visit, but they received us in a very friendly way.

The doctor, once he knew the object of our visit, laid himself out to show and explain everything to us in a manner which delighted us. He showed us the bedrooms, the laboratory, and put several test cases of sputum under the microscope for us to see; he explained how all the expectoration was boiled and the germs destroyed. He also explained how every patient was provided with a spitting cup or box, and how these were disinfected. He showed and demonstrated the "Röntgen Rays." We were then conducted to Dr. Schillenberg, the first assistant, and had the opportunity of seeing him administer an injection of the famous Koch serum. He next conducted us to the bath department, which was a splendid hall, fitted with every conceivable bathing apparatus. All the fittings were of nickel, like burnished silver; he showed us the various sprays, hot and cold, to which the patients were subjected; also special baths for the feet, and a very wonderful electric light bath, into which the patient was put with only the head visible.

When the patient is in this bath a cold water cap is fitted to the head, made of a coil of flexible metal tubing, through which passes a constant stream of cold water, to keep the patient from feeling faint.

The patients take warm shower baths every day, also forest walks. The doctor conducted us to a very fine exercising room, where the patients have all kinds of gymnastic appliances. These apparatus are capable of easily variable adjustments to suit them to the strength of the patients.

On enquiry, we found that 30 per cent. of the patients were cured, 60 per cent. relieved, and 10 per cent. incurable.

Patients can remain twelve, fifteen, eighteen, or twenty months, or even longer, so long as there is a chance of a cure. The dining room was very large, seating 200 persons; at the end of this room was a very fine electric organ which plays during meal times, and which cost £400 (each roll of music costs 35s.).

The menu for the establishment was a sumptuous and varied one. For the convalescent patients we give the menu for the week ending April 18th, 1905:—

Convalescent Patients' Menu (for week ending April 18th, 1905).

Breakfast.—Smoked ham, cooked ham, bacon, sausages of tongue, fine liver sausages, blut sausages, brawn sausages, schlag and swibel sausages, anchovy paste, mortadella, lard, grated meat, plain cheese, Swiss cheese, Limburger cheese, Talister cheese, and herb cheese, milk and beer.

Dinner.—Mutton soup, beef tea with rice soup, wine soup, thickened soup, groat soup, bread soup, rolled meat, salted meat, beef, veal, pork, venison, mock hare, Kasseler sausage, roast sausage, beef with mustard, white cabbage, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, peas, sauer kraut, cucumber, cranberries, oranges, chocolate pudding, vanilla sauce, apple fritters, apple and rice.

Supper.—Oatmeal soup, wine soup, grated beefsteak, ham sandwiches, schlag sausage, brawn sausage, Zwiebel sausage, Jauerisch sausage, sardines, boiled eggs, steamed kidneys and roast potatoes, pickled herrings, Swiss cheese, Tilister cheese, potato salad, tea and beer.

In the ground were open-air pavilions provided with beds, where patients could recline at their leisure.

The institution is for working men and women only, and was built and equipped and is supported by them through their "National Old Age and Infirmary Insurance Institution."

If a member is found apparently suffering from consumption, he or she is at once sent for examination to the Institution at Beelitz, and, if necessary, is admitted as a patient. No enquiry as to personal character is made. The only qualification necessary for admission is to be a Berlin member.

The cost of each patient is 5s. 7d. per day, including interest on capital outlay, and depreciations, and all other dead charges, of which the food and drink cost 1s. 4½d. On leaving the institution we were of opinion that it was a most ideal treatment for consumptive people.

VISIT TO HOME FOR CONSUMPTIVE WOMEN AT MALCHOW,

APRIL 25TH, 1905.

This institution was started as a special department and to relieve the town hospital, and was originally for men and women; of late, however, it has been used for women patients only.

The inmates of this sanatorium are persons who are not entitled to be sent to the Beelitz Institution, *i.e.*, they are not members of the Old Age and Infirmary Insurance Institution. Some can afford to pay, and do so; others the municipality pays for on the recommendation of the guardians of the poor, but there is no distinction as to the treatment.

The hospital is situated in the open country in a suburb of Berlin, and the treatment is the open-air one. The couches or beds are arranged in rows in large pavilions. The patients recline for four periods per day of about one hour each. The couches have wire mattresses arranged so that they can be raised to any angle; this gives the patient a variety of positions, and breaks the monotony of lying in one position. The resident doctor was exceedingly kind and gave us every possible information. We asked him if the patients were allowed to talk whilst lying in the open-air; he laughingly said that "they were not allowed to talk, but they did so as long as they were alive."

There are 104 beds, and the charge per head is 2s., but the cost works out at 3s. 3½d., the difference being paid by the municipality.

It is not easy to get any reliable statistics as to cures, etc., as the patients belong to a class who find it very difficult to stay long enough to give the treatment a proper trial.

All the patients must be resident in the municipality of Berlin.

The very worst cases are not accepted except in rare instances "to give the patients courage."

The Koch serum is not administered here, as the arrangements of the institution are not suitable, it being rather an old one. At the time of our visit the patients were reclining on the couches in the open air, although the weather was cold. The kitchens are very well appointed, and the food very liberal. All milk is obtained from cows belonging to the institution, and boiled before using, surplus milk being made into butter.

The bath-rooms are well arranged; various kinds of baths are provided, including shower and ordinary baths.

The clothes of the patient on admission are exchanged for a uniform of warm material, their own clothing being carefully put into canvas bags and hung full length in a store room. The visit was a most interesting one, and gave us the impression that the authorities of Berlin are trying their best to cope with consumption.

Our next visit was to the municipal infirmary for old and incurable people, called :—

“THE FREDERICK WILLIAM HOSPICE.”

This is equivalent to our workhouse, but it has this fundamental distinction, that it is only for persons of good character. Here they do not admit disreputable persons, such as infirm and aged vagrants, idlers, drinkers, beggars, pimps and brawlers; these must go to the “Hospice” belonging to the House of Correction at Rummelsberg.

There were at the time of our visit 1,300 patients, persons no longer able to maintain themselves; or who, even with ample money relief, had not the relatives to look after them properly.

The average cost of patients per head per day was 1s. 10d., including administration, interest on capital, and other charges. The food is liberally provided, and includes a bottle of beer daily in many cases. The institution was beautifully clean and orderly. The superintendent was kind and polite to all the inmates, addressing many by name, raising his hat (even to a blind patient) and giving a kind word to all. One old bed-ridden lady was ninety-eight years of age and had seen Napoleon the First.

The inmates in some wards seemed really hale and hearty and at the time of our visit to be having a good time. The evening meal was being served at their little tables, and each with a bottle of lager beer with the meal seemed cheerful. They were mostly in wards with about six in a ward. In the wards where the bed-ridden people were was always located a patient who could get about and who helped the others. One patient was blind, deaf and dumb, but he was able to get about and help himself, and was very busy. There were separate little rooms each for an aged married couple, and it was indeed a beautiful sight to see these old people passing the evening of their lives amid such comfortable surroundings. All appeared to be contented. There were incurable consumptives and cancerous cases in separate blocks, and they were kept until death relieved their sufferings. The deaths average 560 per annum. Most of the patients in these blocks die within the first four years, but some have been known to survive for thirty years.

The authorities at this place receive about £4,000 per annum from the Insurance Societies, where some of the patients had provided for sick allowance and old age. This sum reduces the cost per head per day by one penny. They also receive £325 per annum for food scraps, &c.

In the evening we paid a visit to the

MUNICIPAL REFUGE FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

(Städtisches Obdach, Fröbel Strasse).

This institution is divided into two distinct sections, one for families and the other for single persons. They are entitled to admittance for five days in three months, but this rule is not enforced on them when they use reasonable exertion to obtain employment and when the place is not too full, nor is it rigidly enforced on persons over sixty years of age. In the case of families they are also more lenient in enforcing the rule than in the case of single persons. The men may go out during the day to look for

employment, leaving their families in the institution. A good school is provided for the children, so that their education is not neglected. This, along with cleanliness and order, seems to permeate everything, and to educate and train the children seems to be the fundamental point in all cases.

Persons over 60 years of age who abuse this institution are in future to be offered shelter at a hospice, and in case of their not accepting this are to be handed over to the police.

Upon entering the institution the homeless persons sign a form to the effect that if they return oftener than five times in three months they are willing to be handed over to the House of Correction at Rummelsberg, where work is enforced. This is done to enable the loafers to be controlled. The males and females have separate sleeping quarters, and there are "common rooms," where smoking is allowed; games, such as cards, chess and music, and a harmonium being provided.

The place was beautifully clean and orderly; the kitchen and utensils particularly so; cooking very good, and a variety of good wholesome food provided. It is the object of the Guardians, by means of out-door relief, to prevent poor people becoming homeless. If a family can produce a contract to the effect that they have taken a house, even if they cannot enter it for six weeks, they are exempt from expulsion, and on leaving are given one month's rent in order that they may have a good start.

In 1900 there was such a shortage of houses that 1,500 people (families) had to be sheltered in this place. Many could pay rent, but were not able to get houses.

At five o'clock in the evening the sleeping apartments are opened, and, if any inmate chooses, he or she may retire to bed. All must get up at five o'clock in the morning, whatever time they retire. Baths are provided for the inmates, and if any vermin is found, the clothing is at once disinfected, and if anything unclean is found it has to be at once reported to the Superintendent, cleanliness being taught during the sojourn in this institution.

CASUAL WARD.

The casual ward is quite separate from the homeless family section. In the casual men's department we saw sixty men stripped and just having a shower bath altogether, while their clothes were being disinfected. The place is open from four o'clock p.m. till eleven at night. All the officers treated the inmates in a kind, courteous, and civil manner, and their kindness was greatly appreciated.

"MÄNNER-ASYL DES ASYL-VEREINS FÜR OBDACHLOSE."—VISIT TO THE SHELTER FOR HOMELESS MEN, MONDAY, APRIL 24TH.

"No Names Asked."

This is a charitable institution supported by voluntary subscriptions. It is for the reception of homeless men, this being the only qualification necessary to gain admittance. No questions as to name or nationality are asked. If a man is homeless and friendless and applies for shelter he is admitted. The only questions asked are his age, and how many times during the previous months he has been there before. The age is asked for statistical purposes, and the other question because of the rule of the institution, which only per-

mits a man to spend four nights per month there. If the place is not full, and he is a well-behaved man, the Director does not carry out the rule to the letter; he uses discretion. The building has accommodation for 700 men, with a branch for 200 women, and will eventually be enlarged to accommodate 1,350. There is a small room with two beds provided for men seeking admission and found to be ill, who, when examined by the Doctor, are sent to the Moabit Hospital.

The time for admission is five o'clock p.m. in summer and three o'clock p.m. in winter, and the time for leaving is six o'clock a.m. winter and summer. Each man on being admitted is passed in by the Inspector and compelled to wash his hands and face. Water, soap, and a separate clean towel, are provided for each man. The washing appointments, where sixty men at a time can wash, are fit for any person, however well-to-do. If he prefers he can have a bath, where splendid facilities are afforded for this purpose. Shower baths are also arranged, where fifty-six men can have one at the same time, separate stalls being provided. The water is heated automatically to 95° Fahr., and soft soap is used in each stall, so that each man can have a thorough cleansing. The arrangement of these shower baths converts the standing place into foot-baths. The men are not compelled to have a shower bath, but as a matter of fact 50 per cent. gladly avail themselves of the opportunity. In cases where it is found necessary to disinfect the clothes this is done. While waiting for their clothes from the disinfecting chamber the men are provided with special clean warmed bath wraps made of bath towelling. Each sleeping compartment contains fifty beds (on the wire mattress principle), and two covers are provided.

As the beds are worn out or require replacing the authorities procure the most up-to-date and comfortable beds on approved lines. The sleeping apartments give twenty-five cubic metres (900 cubic feet) of air 66° Fahr. for each man, and this quantity of air is changed every hour. The w.c.'s, the general sanitary arrangements, and the cleanliness are as near perfection as can be. Not the least smell of any kind could be detected throughout the institution. The w.c.'s are supplied with proper paper. Those we saw were surplus tradesmen's handbills, bought cheap.

The men are provided with an evening meal, consisting of 1½ pints of soup, with butter, peas, rice or potatoes or porridge, and 7 ozs. of black bread; for breakfast, ¾ pint of coffee and milk, and a large piece of white bread.

If on entering the institution any of the men are suffering from small ailments, such as small wounds, coughs, rheumatics or internal pains, a large cupboard stands at the reception office containing household remedies for immediate use. A library is provided, and also illustrated papers. No books are allowed, however, which have a political or sectarian leaning. Card playing, smoking and alcohol are forbidden. The men are assisted to obtain work, notices of vacant situations being displayed.

The idea of this charitable institution is to assist men temporarily destitute to obtain a night's shelter, and, if possible, employment, instead of allowing them to be tempted to commit some crime. The cost per night is 4½d., which includes sinking fund. The institution is maintained by private subscriptions and donations.

There are 5,000 subscribers, and this institution earned the gold medal prize at the International Exhibition of Hygiene at Paris in 1900; also at Brussels.

The Director was kind and courteous, and gave us all information we required, and made our visit as interesting as he possibly could. In the visitors' book we were interested to note the number of Japanese visitors who had inspected the institution.

BERLINER ARBEITER KOLONIE, REINIKER DORFER
STRASSE, 36A.

Labour Colony.—Although this colony is a charitable institution, it is in no way instituted for the purpose of finding employment for respectable "out-of-work" men, but for men who usually have lost their situations through drink and who come here voluntarily and as a last resource. The man who has been in this institution usually conceals the fact when seeking employment elsewhere.

It is for homeless men, who are healthy and capable of work. Many more apply in winter than in summer. They are mostly heavy drinkers. They are only admitted so long as they have not misbehaved either at this or at a similar labour establishment.

Each Director of a labour colony is supplied with a list of inmates who are vetoed, and these names appear on an indexed list in his possession. They may be re-admitted if discharged for misbehaviour after an interval of five years.

If they are not willing to work they are at once ejected. They may stay for twelve months, and they must engage for a minimum of three months. On applying for second or subsequent admissions one month is added to the time of the last period of admission.

The work is piece work, and at the end of their term they are paid in a lump sum. Some earn weekly 5s., 8s., and very exceptionally some earn 13s. They may send part of their money to their families, but this is sent direct by the superintendent. In case of misbehaviour their earnings may be stopped, but this is rarely done. No alcohol is given, and they are compulsory teetotallers. During the time of their stay they must contribute to the Old Age and Infirmary Society, and also to the Sick Insurance Society. They take a bath every week in summer and every fourteen days in winter. A total of 250 men are employed by this branch. The hours are from seven a.m. to seven at night, with one and a half hours for meals. They work hard, and look very clean and healthy. We visited the dining room, chapel, library, baths, and the bootmaker and tailor of the institution.

We saw them making furniture and brushes, sawing and chopping fire-wood, and plating straw for bottle packing. There was no motor power used; the method of manipulation was old-fashioned and of the most primitive character. The labour colony is now about self-supporting. The cost of maintenance is 5s. 3d. per head per week, including establishment charges, 10s. 6d. per week.

Some manufacturers complain of the subsidised competition, but from the crude way the articles were made there did not seem much to fear from such competition.

On the afternoon of April 22nd, 1905, we visited the

MUNICIPAL HOUSE OF CORRECTION IN RUMMELSBURG.

"ARBEITSHAUS IN RUMMELSBURG."

In this place the inmates are compelled to work. We should describe it as a benevolent house of correction. The inmates are a class of men and women which every town has to deal with one way or another. In some towns they lounge about the street corners and live on the community; they are parasites which most authorities find it difficult to deal with—impostors, workshy persons, beggars, loungers, vagrants, pimps and disorderly persons, are classed together. The Berlin authorities, however, manage these people very effectively. In their city, go where you will, you cannot

find a lounge. Able-bodied men are not allowed to sing hymns and beg in the streets. They are treated with great firmness. As soon as a man ceases to work or becomes idle and begins to hang about the streets and beg, the police have an eye on him and he is asked what he is doing. If he can give a satisfactory account of himself he is taken charge of by the Poor Law Guardians and assisted, but if he cannot he is sent to the lock-up and given a day in prison. If he appears again he is given three days, if a third time five days, and so on for two weeks, three weeks, and one month. If he does not alter, then (having been given every possible chance to reform) he is sent to this house for a minimum term of six months or a maximum term of two years and compelled to work; it may be in the fields, or carpentering or shoemaking, wood-chopping, or anything else he may be adapted for, but work he must. This does not punish the deserving poor by compelling them to associate with the disreputables. The respectable poor are provided for by the town in other institutions, of which particulars have been given. At the time of our visit there were 1,800 male inmates and 140 females (these persons include old, infirm, sick, and invalid people of this now working class). They are allowed from 1½d. per day wages. The food is very plain; no butter is given, but they can buy a better food with part of their earnings. The balance is given to them on their discharge (sometimes, but not often, it amounts to 16s. or 18s. in six months), and they are provided with a good suit of clothes, appropriate to the season of the year, when they leave. They are looked after on their discharge by a society which takes an interest in discharged prisoners.

The cost of maintenance of any prisoner is—for able-bodied persons (healthy) 9d. per day; for infirm (healthy) 1s. 1d.; for the sick hospital patients, 1s. 6d. This includes interest and general charges after deducting the profit made by sale of work, amounting to 2d. The cost is charged to the town or district of their birth, or where they have resided for two years. Some of these prisoners are employed in the meadows and sewage farms belonging to the municipality of Berlin, and at a branch establishment in the neighbourhood of Berlin there are about 800 more of the same class living in detached pavilions situated in the respective meadows. They are also taken out in gangs in the district to do labouring or other work for which they are suitable. They appeared to be kindly treated by the officers. They are sometimes very difficult to deal with, and are often found back again shortly after their discharge—sometimes the same evening. The Director informed us that his greatest personal influence over them was by strict courtesy, and when meeting them he always raised his hat. He considered it gave them self-respect by causing them to feel that there was at least someone in the world (and he the Director) who was courteous to them. It caused them to exercise self-restraint, and he found that great courtesy on his part to be the most effective way of influencing them. They were allowed to be discharged before the expiration of their sentences if work could be found for them by some employer of good standing. Discipline could be strictly enforced when necessary by solitary confinement. We saw a youth under "benevolent" solitary confinement to keep him away from the other confirmed offenders. His friends were awaited, and it was still hoped that he might be taken care of by them. In all cases the inmates stood at "attention" on our entering their quarters until told to sit down by the officer.

VISIT TO BRANCH HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND HOSPICE RUNIKENDORF,
TUESDAY, APRIL 25TH, 1905.

At this institution some of the better behaved and elderly inmates from the house of correction in Rummelsberg are treated. (See p. 51.) There

are 200 of them—old and infirm men, all able to get about; none of them are bedridden.

There are fourteen others who are treated as prisoners. The prisoners, in conjunction with two officers and one female cook, do the whole of the housework. It is a remarkable fact that these two officers, with the superintendent, maintain discipline in the place, as among the inmates are some very bad characters, one of whom was a convict for forty-six years. These three officers may carry swords and revolvers, but find it unnecessary to do so, and smile at the idea. The 200 so-called "invalids" are at liberty to leave the institution whenever they desire, and most of them go away in the morning and return in the evening. These "invalids" have in former years served their time for various offences, and been confirmed beggars, workshy men, vagabonds, or men who lived on prostitutes' earnings, etc., but on reaching old age (sixty years), or when they are unfit to work, they are removed from the working part of the parent house of correction to this hospice to end their days. They are extremely well treated. They have a large room in which they can sit all day if they choose. All kinds of games are provided for them, including draughts, dominoes, cards, &c.; illustrated papers are also provided. Some occupy their time in making small toys, &c., which they sell outside the institution during the day, and usually spend this money in drink. We purchased a trifle from them, much to their delight. They are mostly heavy drinkers, but the money they obtain is not generally sufficient to enable them to indulge to excess. There is a small room for non-smokers, which is also used for religious services, a small pulpit being provided. The well-known text, "Come unto Me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest," was over the pulpit.

The bedrooms are scrupulously sweet and clean, every arrangement being provided for cleanliness and tidiness. The apartments for the prisoners who are detained are equally well appointed. One of the prisoners acts as secretary to the superintendent. The kitchen department was extremely well appointed; we tasted the bread soup which was being prepared by one of the prisoners, and found it very fair; it was made with bread, butter, carraway seeds, water, &c. Each man was given one half litre (just under a pint=0.87 pint) of light beer twice a day. Meat is given four times per week; on other days bacon is provided, and the diet is varied with pea soup, lentil soup, porridge, &c.

The men are all provided with separate lockers, of which they have the key. The bathing arrangements are very good, full-size baths being provided with hot and cold water; foot and shower baths are also provided. A bath is compulsory every ten days for invalids, and every fourteen days for the prisoners; foot baths may be had as often as they choose. All the rooms are warmed with radiators, and are well ventilated. Among the inmates were men of all grades, including physicians, officers, and men who had moved in good society. The reason for their downfall was drink, and it was a rare experience for one to reform in spite of the various agencies which endeavour to help this class of men. There was a large field for use in fine weather, and a large shed for bad weather. The men appeared to be contented and satisfied with their surroundings.

The Director was a very cheery, kind-hearted man, although a disciplinarian.

As a specimen of the up-to-date appointments of the baths, we may mention the divisional partitions between the douche baths which were made of thick, unbreakable opaque plate-glass, with fine wire-netting melted inside it, and the very clever adjustable bath-valves for permanently regulating to a nicety the temperature of the water.

The cost per patient per day is about 9d., including all expenses except rent.

The visit was most interesting. The Director was kind and courteous to us. He gave us all information in such a manner that we thoroughly enjoyed our visit.

BIRMINGHAM WORKHOUSE AND INFIRMARY.

We visited the Birmingham Workhouse and Infirmary, which contained the following inmates :—

Tramp ward	..	..	..	100
Workhouse	..	..	..	1560 (full up).
„	boarding out	..	..	90
Infirmary	..	..	..	950 (accommodation for 1,300).
Cottage Homes	..	..	..	397
				<u>3097</u>

The cost per head (including interest) for the week was :—

Infirmary	..	..	..	14s. 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.
Workhouse	..	..	..	7s. 7 $\frac{1}{4}$ d.

In the department for aged people was a spick and span cleanliness which we had not seen surpassed in Berlin. Needy persons of good reputation were “receiving the assistance to which they were justly entitled” in the company of vagrants, idlers, drunkards, beggars, and other disreputable persons—in this respect unlike Berlin, where these disreputable persons are provided for as a separate class.

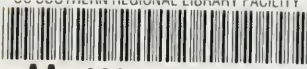
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