

the cricket field in the summer time, the football field in the winter. They are sorry to have to miss an hour of social intercourse when they are required to be at evening classes or the Literary Society. In all these directions do the tastes of a mentally and physically healthy youth lead him; but with things as they are he dare not hope to do even moderate justice to them. And are there not many fathers who want to be able to spend more time at their own fireside without neglecting their social duties at the Oddfellows' Lodge, the political meeting, the church or the School Board, in the Trades Union, and where not? They would like to be able to take "the bairns" to the seaside oftener on Saturday afternoons; but they are always so tired by the end of the week! And it would be so fine to wheel baby out into the country in the perambulator, and see the older ones scamper along the breezy highway, up on the green banks by the wayside, or in and out among the trees in some wood or belting where they are not menaced by the notice—"Trespassers will be prosecuted!" Such a father remembers an occasional holiday when he was able to take his entire household for an outing, and with what appetites they all came back to tea; and as he looks up from his writing or reading into the wan, patient face of the overworked house-mother, and recalls how the colour mounted in her cheeks that day, he sighs—"Oh, I wish I had more time!" I know of few complaints more commonly uttered than this cry of want of time; and, although it may now and again be the mere subterfuge of a lazy person, there is a very real reason for it as a rule.

The toilers have a right to enjoy all these social pleasures and opportunities. And considerations of health require that the working day should be shortened. Medical men tell us (as has been pointed out before now) that eight hours' work take as much out of a man's system as he can return to it by eight hours' sleep and eight hours' recreation. If this be true—and there is no good reason to doubt it—then it follows that those who are compelled to work nine, ten, and twelve hours a-day must be wearing themselves out at a rapid rate. That such a devitalising process is going is made evident by the results of medical investigation as embodied in statistics. If we consult such a life-table as most actuaries keep on their book-shelves we shall find the average duration of life of the workers to be only 29 years, whilst that of the leisured classes reaches 56 years. This simply means that the worker is killed out 27 years before his time. The degenerative effects of our industrial system are rendered manifest by a comparison between the physique of the factory-worker and that of the field-worker;