

successfully combatted and vanquished. The question of equality is again raised. They say, "you Socialists want all men to be equal, and you know, such a thing is against nature." Now, we fully recognise that inequality among men will always exist, and we have no idea of levelling down. We merely say that mankind is so far equal that everyone has a right to live, and to live by work. He would be a bold man who would publicly deny the right of existence to any section of the community. Though their conduct through life may be one long deliberate attempt to drive them out of it (unconscious, not premeditated). We also deny that the possession of either lands, money or economic power of any sort is an assurance of superiority of any kind. If the wealthy or the comfortable middle classes are better informed, more gentle or polite, cleaner in their habits and generally more cultured and sociable than the workers, they have to thank their good opportunities. Man is the creature of circumstance. The boy born of wealthy parents, educated at public school and college, and polished with good associations and surroundings, will generally turn out a decent young fellow. Quite natural you say. So it is quite natural that the child dragged up in a slum midst poverty, filth, obscenity and drunkenness, should be a blackguard and a rogue. The sort of equality we wish to establish is equality of opportunity. Hear John Ruskin, writing before we had advanced in Socialism so far as to recognise the instruction of the young as a necessary province of State activity:

"First, that there should be training schools for youth established at Government expense, and under Government discipline, over the whole country. That every child born in the country should, at the parents wish, be permitted (and in certain cases be under penalty required) to pass through them, and that in these schools the child should with other minor pieces of knowledge hereafter to be considered, imperatively be taught with the best skill of teaching the country could produce the following three lines:—(a) The laws of health and the exercises enjoyed by them. (b) Habits of gentleness and justice. (c) The calling by which he is to live. Secondly, that in connection with these training schools, there should be established, also under Government regulation, manufactories and workshops for the production and sale of every necessary of life, and for the exercise of every useful art. And that, interfering no whit with private enterprise, nor setting any restraints on private trade, but leaving both to do their best and beat the Government if they could, there should at these Government manufactories and shops, be authoritatively good and exemplary work done, and pure and true substance sold, so that a man could be sure, if he chose to pay the Government price, that he got for his money bread that was bread, ale that was ale, and work that was work. Thirdly, that any man or woman, or boy or girl, out of employment, should be at once received at the nearest Government school, and set to such work as it appeared, on trial, they were fit for, at a fixed rate of wages determinable every year. That being found incapable of work through ignorance, they should be taught, or being found incapable of work through sickness, should be tended; but that being found objecting to work, they should be sent under compulsion of the strictest nature to the more painful and degrading forms of necessary toil, especially that in mines, and other places of danger (such danger being, however, diminished to the utmost by careful regulation and discipline), and the due wages of such work be retained—cost of compulsion first abstracted—to be at the workman's command, so soon as he has come to sounder mind respecting the laws of employment. Lastly, that for the old and destitute comfort and home should be provided; which provision, when misfortune had been by the working of such a system sifted from guilt, would be honourable instead of disgraceful to the receiver. For a labourer serves his country with a

spade, just as a man in the middle ranks serves it with his sword, pen or lancet. If the service be less and therefore, the wages during health less; then the reward when health is broken may be less, but not less honourable, and it ought to be quite as natural and straightforward a matter for a labourer to take his pension from his parish because he has deserved well of his parish, as for a man in higher rank to take his pension from his country because he has deserved well of his country."

This is what our objectors would call Utopian. They would ask who is to pay for this? In reply, I ask, who pays for every thing now? The people who labour by brain and hand. The ratepayer, the merchant prince or the city land-owner may pay direct to the government a land or income tax, but their revenues are derived from a tribute drawn from the workers, who really have to bear the burden. Society would effect a great economy by adopting a process which prevented the growth of larrikins and criminals. It is almost impossible to calculate the cost of crime, but there is no doubt the expense in prison, reformatories, and the other necessary means to suppress and punish it are far in excess of what it would cost to prevent a great part of it by training the rising generation and giving them healthy occupation and surroundings.

(To be continued.)

**OCCIDENTAL FAMILY HOTEL,
LATIMER SQUARE, CHRISTCHURCH.**

C. BURTON PROPRIETOR.

THE house has been entirely renovated, and every accommodation provided for Families and Visitors, who will find that the OCCIDENTAL HOTEL is made a pleasant and comfortable home for those patronising it.

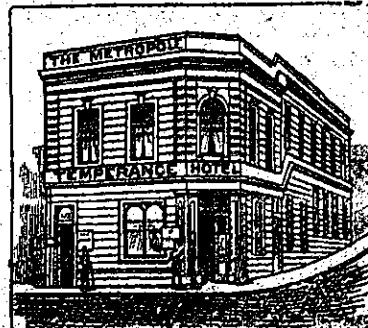
Apartments *en suite* can be engaged by letter or telegram.
TELEPHONE 844.

CHARGES MODERATE.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

THE METROPOLE

TEMPREANCE HOTEL AND CAFE



The above premises have been thoroughly renovated and are now open with every necessary convenience for a **FIRST-CLASS RESTAURANT.** The Proprietress being efficient and long-experienced trusts to be favoured with a share of public patronage. Dining-room accommodation for 100 patrons. Good Beds and Suites of Apartments.

126, LAMBTON QUAY.

Mrs. F. THOMAS - - - - Proprietress.

Coupon entitling you to any meal. Six for FIVE SHILLINGS.