

WHITE SLAVERY IN EUROPE.

A BOOK is about to be issued by the State Department at Washington, (says the *Monitor*), and the following is an extract from it. This book was compiled from reports furnished by the American consuls at the different European centres of population.

"The low wages received by the mechanic or other workmen in England or Germany will buy as many of the comforts and necessities of life there as the mechanic or other workmen in the United States can procure with the so-called high wages he receives," is a common assertion of American free traders, or revenue reformers." A few examples gleaned from the recent reports of American consuls, and embodied in the forthcoming volume to be issued by the State Department, will enable workmen in San Francisco, Portland, and other American cities to test the truth of this by comparing their own manner of living with that which foreign workmen are compelled to adopt. It should be remembered that the statements given are by the workmen themselves.

An engineer in electric works in London, England, with a wife and three children, earns 9dols. 72c. per week of 70½ hours. His eldest son earns 2dols. 44c. per week. A steady and sober man can save nothing, and could not live were it not for the earnings of his son. He pays 106dols. per year for rent, 280dols. per annum for food, and can save nothing. A carpenter in Sheffield, England, whose family consists of himself, wife and three children, and whose weekly wages amount to 6dols. 70c. gave the following as his weekly expenses: Rent, 97c.; fuel and light, 36 cents; meat, 97 cents; clothing, 85 cents; potatoes and vegetables, 36 cents; bread, 97 cents; beer, 36 cents; tobacco, 12 cents; school pence, 12 cents; trade societies, 24 cents; friendly society, 12 cents. The meat is consumed by the heads of the family; the children live on bread and molasses or dripping.

The weekly expenses of a carpenter in Tunstall, England, who earns 6 dols. per week, when working full time, and whose family consists of himself, a wife and three children are itemized as follows: Rent, 72 cents; club, 16 cents; taxes, 9 cents; coal, 48 cents; bread, 1 dol; bacon, two pounds, 32 cents; cheese, two pounds, 32 cents; potatoes, ½ peck, 16 cents; fresh meat, 4½ pounds, 71 cents; tea, ½ pound, 36 cents; sugar, 4 pounds, 28 cents; flour, 3 pounds, 12 cents; soap, 2 pounds, 12 cents; milk, 1 quart, 6 cents; candles, ½ pound, 6 cents; tobacco, two ounces, 12 cents; beer, 12 cents; clothing, 48 cents; total, 6 dols.

A woman making sacks at Quintain said: "I get paid by the thousand; the card price is 47 cents per thousand, but I am glad to take the work at 14½ cents per thousand, it is so hard to get. I work four days per week and make 1dol. 16c. My husband is a gardener at the college hard by and earns 17 shillings per week, but works very long hours. Our total income is 275dols. 89c. per annum. Mostly all the forges in Quintain are closed, and women nail-makers go to Birmingham to do scrubbing or other work. I have a brother a nail-maker. He and his wife both work at the trade and earn about 172 dols. per annum. After paying rent and fuel for the forge they have 2dols. 43c. per week for food and fuel. Their food consists of what they call bread and butter, but I call it bread and scraps, with a bit of bacon at times. They hardly ever see fresh meat. I do not think the children get enough to eat."

While the Lord Mayor of London receives a salary of £1,000 a year and while all other municipal officers in London receive large compensation, the average wages of the workmen and labourers employed by the municipal authorities of the same city amount to the munificent sum of 5dols. 48c. per week.

The reports of the American consular officers in Germany on the condition of the artisans and working people generally in different parts of the empire completely refute the assertion of American free traders that the higher wages paid in the United States are counterbalanced by the higher cost of living. Here is the daily history of a Strasburg plasterer with a wife and five children. He works eleven hours, and earns 83 cents per day, his wife as a laundress, assisted by the eldest daughter, earns 25 cents per day. He can save nothing whatever, and has for breakfast rolls and coffee; for dinner, soup, vegetables and potatoes, and has meat three times per week. The consul reports that the manner in which this Strasburg plasterer lives applies equally well to masons, stonecutters, bricklayers, carpenters and other general trades in Alsace.

The consul at Bremen reports: "The working classes in this district subsist on a comparatively meagre and scant diet, live in small and badly ventilated tenement-houses, and their clothing is coarse and of an inferior quality. Breakfast: very poor coffee, potatoes and black bread: dinner: beans or peas cooked in fat, or potatoes and flour cakes, or potatoes and fat, and onion sauce, sometimes of barley soup and fish, or common sausages; supper: coffee and bread and butter, or goose fat. On Sunday the bill of fare is usually better than on week days."

In Bavaria the great quantity of beer consumed by the labouring classes obviates the necessity of eating as much meat as in districts where less beer is drunk. The high price of meat, therefore, is counterbalanced by the cheapness of beer.

Here are two examples showing the wages received by two skilled artisans in Berlin, and the manner in which they contrive to exist. First, a person, wife and three children, work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., with intermission for meals. They work about eight months in the year, and earn 5 dols. 70 cents per week. The man cannot support his family the year round on his wages. He supplements his wages by working a piece of land outside the city, where he keeps a goat and raises vegetables. His own yearly earnings average 238 dols. His expenses in Berlin, where he works, and at his cottage home outside the city, where his family live, amount to 301dols., or 63dols. more than his yearly earnings, which must be made up by his family. They have a little meat three times a week, but live principally on potatoes grown by the family, coffee and rye bread.

The second example is a bookbinder. He has a wife and three children, and earns eighty-nine cents per day, not enough to support his family. His yearly expenses are 370dols. He rents out a room, etc., to make up the deficiency.

The following is reported from Bremen: A foreman cooper, his wife and two children, with steady work earn 6dols. 41c. per week. The average wages of a journeyman cooper are eighty-three cents per day. He works from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the summer, with intermissions for meals, and earns 312dols. 49c. per annum, out of which he lives and saves 21dols. 66c. per year. For breakfast he has rye and white bread, butter and coffee; for dinner, meats, vegetable and potatoes; for supper, bread, butter, tea and cheese.

A workingman's family of four or five persons, according to official estimates, live on the following amount of provisions for a month in Silesia: Rye flour, 78 pounds; wheat flour, 52 pounds; beef 2½ pounds; pork, 2½ pounds; bacon, 7½ pounds; butter, 3 pounds; potatoes, 3½ bushels; milk, 10 quarts. Total value of monthly consumption of food, 8dols. 29c.

A weaver in Crefeld has a wife and three children; works one loom and his wife works another. Their united earnings are 226dols. 81c. per year. They work all the time, but can save nothing. In summer they work from 4 o'clock in the morning to 9 at night, and have worked in this manner for twenty-four years. They do not stop to think of old age—few weavers ever arrive at old age. Their breakfast consists of coffee and bread, sometimes butter; at 10 a.m., coffee or beer, and bread; at noon, soup, vegetables, and sometimes bacon; at 4 o'clock coffee and bread; at 8 o'clock, supper, potatoes only.

A tanner in Leipsic is better off than the majority of his fellow-workmen. He has only a wife to support and she earns something with her needle, but his fellow-workmen, with young children and perhaps invalid wives, cannot make ends meet on Saturday night, and they grow sullen and desperate. The workman earns 4dols. 4c. per week, and his wife also earns something. He computes his weekly living expenses as follows: House rent, 88 cents; clothing, 70 cents; coffee, 15 cents; potatoes, 46 cents; cheese, 15 cents; butter and fat, 60 cents; beer, 35 cents; black bread, 34 cents; meat, 30 cents; fuel, 24 cents; light, 8 cents; local taxes, 8 cents. Total weekly expenses, 4 dols., 33 or 29 cents more than his earnings amount to. When his wife cannot make up the deficiency they drop the meat, butter and cheese.

A consul in one of the leading cities in Germany reports: "A shoemaker and three journeymen were found at work in one corner of the kitchen, the wife doing the washing in another, while the daughter was cooking the dinner of sausage and potatoes at the stove. A carpenter had his workbench in the family living room, the wife was filing a saw at the same bench while her husband was planing, and in the afternoon the consul saw her sawing wood in the dooryard. These cases represent the average home, life and manners of the working people."

CHRISTIAN TEACHERS.

FROM the "Official Report of Awards" at the Health Exhibition, we find that the Schools of the Christian Brothers have received the following:

A Diploma or Honor (the highest award given) to the Society of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, for the excellence of its exhibit in general, and for the perfection of the details furnished by their schools in the United States, Canada and France. In addition to this four diplomas of honor were awarded to the Brothers' Educational Institutions respectively of United States, Canada, France and Belgium.

A Diploma of Honor for Industrial work, in which the chief exhibitors were the New York Catholic Protectors the Silk School of Lyons, and the Trades' School of St. Nicholas, Paris.

A Diploma of Honor for Excellence of School Work and its application to Ordinary use in commercial courses. This diploma specially mentioned the Brothers' Institution in America for their short-hand reports, telegraphic course, and kindred subjects of study.

All work presented at the Exhibition from their schools of France, Canada and the United States was exhibited in the name of the Society, and hence individual members and institutions of the Society were precluded from special awards, a circumstance which, considering the excellence of the work, the judges themselves regretted. Among the Institutions of the States presenting excellent work were Manhattan College, New York; Rock Hill College, Maryland; Brothers' College, Missouri; St. Mary's College, California; St. Joseph's, Buffalo; La Salle Academy, Rhode Island; De La Salle Institute, New York; La Salle College, Pennsylvania, and the Commercial Academies of Albany, Brooklyn and Troy.

Owing to the peculiar character of the Belgian laws, the Brothers, in several cases, had to exhibit as individuals. The following, among a large number, may be named:

A Gold Medal to Brother Alexis (Marcus Gochet) for excellence of maps—his being the first of their kind introduced into school illustration. In his address before the Geographical Society of England he clearly showed their superior merits;

A Gold Medal to Brother Mares (Charles de Pan) for excellence of work in the Ecclesiastical Art School of Ghent;

A Silver Medal to Brother Marianus (Van den Broeck) for an arithmometer by which the principles of the metric system, fractions, etc., are fully and lucidly explained;

A Silver Medal to Brother Memoire, Director of the Normal School of Malorme, for a system of illustrations simplifying the study of geometrical projections;

A Silver Medal to Brother Marcy for designs to facilitate the study of complicated figures in the higher grades of perspective and ornamental work;

A Bronze Medal to Brother Achille for his work on methodology. This work is translated by Brother Noah, Professor of Method in the Brothers Normal School at Croton Lake, N.Y.