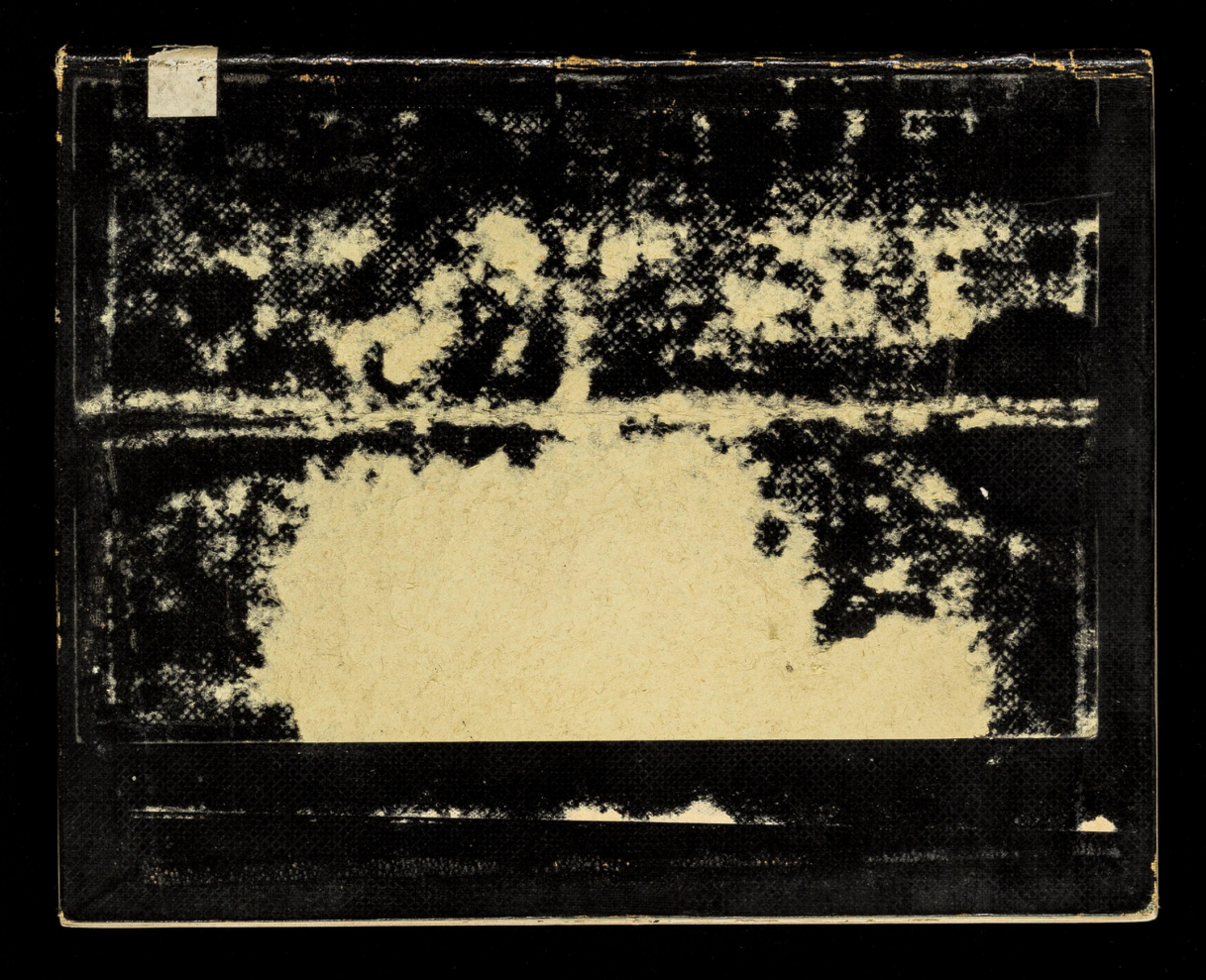

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Interviews

Chimney Sweeps and Hairdressers.

1

Chimney Sweeps.

No. 15.

Extract from "Industrial Classes" by S. P. Rowan, published in 1877:-

"The miserable condition of Chimney Sweepers climbing boys, to whom indeed the masters seemed to have always had a prescriptive right, long attracted the attention of Parliament: and an act was passed in 1788 for the better regulation of Chimney Sweepers. This was succeeded by another in 1834 which forbad any child under ten to be apprenticed: also the letting out of boys for hire (as was then the custom) or the sending them up any flue. It was ordered also that no unwilling boys should be bound to the trade. In 1840 another act was passed, limiting the age of apprenticeship to 16, and forbidding anyone under 21 to ascend a chimney. Attention was also directed to the faulty construction of chimneys, a clause providing that no chimneys should be built except of a certain size and angle. But with all this, either the laws were inoperative or they were not universally enforced,

and the condition of the climbing boys was in many towns as shocking as ever. In some localities, such as Birmingham, associations were set on foot to prevent the employment of them in this way, by prosecuting their masters and obtaining convictions against them. But even where such associations existed, great difficulties were constantly met with owing to the apathy of the public, and the unaccountable dislike of magistrates to convict the offender: the fact being that people in general were wedded to the old order of things, and that the introduction of the sweeping machine frequently entailed some trifling alteration in the chimney before it could be used with advantage. An Enquiry was ordered into the subject in 1862, and carried out by the Children's Employment Commission, when a terrible state of things was revealed, and this led to the passing of the Chimney Sweepers' Regulation Act of 1864, which provided that no child of under 10 years of age was to be employed in the trade

under any circumstances, nor could a master sweep bring with him any person under the age of 16 to the house, where the chimney was being swept. A considerable improvement then took place in public opinion, and this together with the gradual increase in the use of the rammers, was the means of great amelioration in the circumstances of the chimney sweeper boys. In 1875 still more stringent regulations were laid down in the Chimney Sweepers Amendment Act which required every sweep to be registered and obtain a certificate, before he could follow his trade.

The accounts given of the treatment of the poor lads during their training or indeed during their whole subsequent life until they themselves became master sweeps, were almost incredible. The following is an extract of the evidence of a master sweep at Nottingham: "No one knows the cruelty which a boy has to undergo in learning. The flesh must be hardened, and this is done by rubbing it, chiefly on the

elbows and knees, with the strongest brine close by a hot fire. You must stand over them with a cane, or coax them by the promise of a halfpenny if they will stand a few more rubs. At first they will come back from their work with their arms and knees streaming with blood and the knees looking as if the caps had been pulled off. Then they must be rubbed with brine again and perhaps go off to another chimney. In some boys the flesh does not harden for years."
Another boy at Manchester who had gone through all this testified as to their habits:-
"We slept four or six boys together in a sort of cellar, with the soot bags over us, sometimes sticking in the hounds: that and some straw were all our bed and bed-clothes: they were the same bags that we used in the day wet or dry. I could read and we sometimes used to subscribe for a candle to read by, when we were in bed. I have seen the steam from our bodies so thick as to obscure the light, so that

I could not see to read at all. Dogs die of consumption: they get up about their work in all weathers and often at 2 and 3 a.m. They are filthy in their habits: lads often wear one shirt night and till it is done with. I have been for 15 months without being washed except by the rain. I know a man's son in Salford at this present moment who has been washed since he was born a sheep." Not only were these habits, known in the trade as "sleeping black", filthy in the extreme but the continual presence of the soot next the skin often induced a fatal form of cancer. Nor was this the only physical risk that the climbing boy ran, for it not unfrequently happened that he stuck in some narrow bend of the chimney and was either smothered or ~~the~~ burnt".

On the same subject see a very interesting article by Sydney Smith (Works

in three vols. Vol I). This gives an much more ghastly account of the horrors of the trade at the beginning of the century, when a Committee of the House of Lords sat on the question.

See also Elia's Essay on Chimney Sweeps, and Blake's Poem "The Little Chimney Sweep".

Jan. 5th.

Interview with Mr J. Kingsbury :-

It has been very difficult to get hold of a sweep, but to-day I succeeded in interviewing Mr Kingsbury, who is an old Martin sweep of 74, who still works at the business, assisted by his two sons.

Mr Kingsbury was apprenticed to his father in the year 1830 at the age of 8; he showed me the old apprenticeship badge which he used to wear on his cap. From what he told me the horror of the life is in no way exaggerated in the previous extract. Boys often began work at five years old, and were treated with the most callous brutality: his father treated him no better than the other apprentices, in fact he tried to "pay" (i.e. beat) him rather more than the others. In those days too the work was never ended: it might begin at 2 or 3 in the morning, and continue off and on till 12 at night. Mr K. says that he is one of the few left who has climbed a chimney.

Wages vary from 21/ to 27/ a week for men who live out: but many live with the master and get from 5/ to 10/ a week. In olden days the regular thing was 2/6 with board and lodging. The apprentices were supposed to get 5/6 a week but as often as not got a cuff on the head instead.

Hours are so various that it is impossible to compute them: often a man has no work after breakfast and afternoon work is very rare; for about four months during the summer very likely there is not more than one job a week.

The busy times are in the spring during the spring cleaning, and at Christmas

Learning. In the olden days apprenticeship was universal; now it is unknown: anyone can work the machine: the only thing is to work it one way so that it does not come in pieces.

Shops are not now allowed to take boys

under 16; most of those who join the trade do so from later; as a rule they have been costers previously.

Age limit and Health. There is no reason why men should not work to any age, but most fall out early or die young worn out with drink. They have so much time on their hands that the temptation to drink is great. Before Mr Kingsbury was converted he used to get drunk daily.

Mr K. denies that the trade as carried on now is necessarily unhealthy, but a man must keep keenly clean and take medicine occasionally to clear out the soot which he swallows. Cancer comes entirely from men scratching themselves and allowing the soot to get under the skin. No man can get cancer who has careful not to scratch the soot in, and who washed keenly properly. In the old chimney days the body used to get black as well as the face and hands, but now the body can be kept perfectly clean.

As to swallowing soot, one would probably be better without it, but it is not nearly so unwholesome as flour or many sorts of dust. Soot is a greasy substance and does not clog the breathing apparatus.

Mr. K. certainly seems a hale and hearty old gentleman with plenty of life still in him.

In our neighbourhood a sweep's business was a pretty good thing, but no trade probably has come down more in the world. For this there are many reasons:- (1). Soot used to be worth about 10/ a sack as manure; it is now valueless (2). Carpet beating was always combined with sweeping: this has now gone entirely to large carpet beating firms (3). Sweeping has been taken up by children who take contracts for big institutions: also by large firms like Whitley. (4). The real licensed sweep has much of his business taken from him by the itinerant sweeps who goes round the streets shouting. These men often get work by telling gross lies; e.g. someone will give an order

to his knighting, but if he is a bit late owing to a previous job, the other shooter will get in by representing himself as the knighting's man. These men too are as often as not in league with burglars, and Mr K. thinks that half the burglaries in London are due to information given by the unlicensed sweeps. It was the intention of an act passed through the instrumentality of Lord Shaftesbury to prevent any man from acting as a sweep without a license, but owing to the wording only those who employ others have to pay for a license, and the man who is his own master goes free.

Jan. 12th.

Interview with Mr. Geo. Stone.

Mr. Stone is President of the Marylebone Chimney Sweeps' United Protection Society. Having been met a sweep in muffle I was surprised to find that Mr Stone was a handsome, prosperous looking man rather fashionably dressed with a fur coat-tie.

Wages. Mr Stone says that not more than 10 p.c. of the trade are 'employed' and those only in the City and West End. Nearly all sweeps are small masters who employ no one. This statement is hardly borne out by our figures which give Employers 277, Employed 565, Neither 656, and Not stated 116.

The wages of a journeyman sweep in the City and West End range from 24/ to 35/ a week.

It is quite impossible to estimate the earnings of the small master, but on the average throughout the year it certainly does

not exceed 15/ or 16/ a week.

Hours vary from none to 14 a day

Apprenticeship is still common in the north of England, but unknown in London. Those who come into the trade so young as 16 are usually the sons of sweeps. There is something to ~~learn~~ learn in the handling of brushes in queerly shaped chimneys, and it takes about two years to learn the business thoroughly.

Health Mr Stone thinks the trade exceedingly healthy. He himself looks the picture of health, and his father who began as a climbing boy is still working at 70.

Soot cancer though still not unknown is becoming very rare.

Mr Stone entirely denies that sweeps as a class are habitually drunken: he even affirms that about 90 p.c. of them are teetotallers

The great grievance of sweeps in the past have been the practice of shouting in the street and calling from door to door to ask for work. The latter has now been stopped by the Chimney Sweeps' Registration Act of 1874, but the former is still allowed, and it is hoped that an amending act will soon be passed to forbid it. This shouting by unlicensed and unregistered sweeps is detrimental to the trade in many ways: it enables outsiders who really cannot do the work to come in just for the busy seasons, thus depriving the genuine sweeps of half their rightful work; it prevents a man from getting a little business together: but for the shouting people would have to send for the sweep, and a man would have some chance of forming a connection: in order to do any trade every man is now obliged to shout: this is very hard on the old men, who are nearly incapacitated by bronchial diseases: this, much more than any physical incapacity for the work, drives old men out of the trade, and

causes the death of about 70 p.c. of the trade in the workhouse.

The trade generally is in a very bad way; indeed of machine keeps 95 p.c. follow some other occupation as well, and in most cases their wives work. The causes of the depression are (1). The allowance of shortings, returned to store; in addition to those who come in of their own accord it is a frequent custom for soot merchants in the spring when soot is most valuable to lend machines to men and send them all over London, the men making what they can and giving the soot to the merchant. (2). The fall in the value of soot (3). The great increase in the use of gas and oil stoves (4). The loss of carpet beating.

The journeymen some two years ago made an attempt to organise, but it does not appear to have been successful.

The Masters' Society contains about 300 members in London.

Extracts from Acts re Chimney Sweeps:-

I. Chimney Sweeps' Act. 1788:-

"Whereas the laws now in being respecting masters and apprentices do not provide sufficient regulations so as to prevent various complicated miseries to which boys employed in climbing and cleaning of chimneys are liable, beyond any other employment whatsoever in which boys of tender age are engaged: and whereas the miseries of the said boys might be much alleviated, if some legal power and authorities were given for the regulation of Chimney Sweeps and their apprentices"

Section 1. Churchwardens and overseers of the poor with the consent of two justices may bind boys over 8 years of age and chargeable to the parish as apprentices till 16 to any person being or exercising the trade business or mystery of a Chimney Sweep.

II. Chimney Sweeps' Act. 1834.

Section 2. No child who shall not have attained the age of 10 years shall be bound or put apprentice to any sweep.

Section 6. Apprentices under 14 to be so designated by a Brass plate on a leathern cap.

Section 8. Requiring any person to ascend a flue to extinguish a fire is a misdemeanour.

Section 12. Boys to have a trial of the business before being apprenticed.

Section 13. Justices to examine boys who have been upon trial before binding them and if boys are unwilling to refuse their sanction.

Section 15. "It shall not be lawful for any Master or Mistress Chimney Sweep or for any Journeyman, Servant or Apprentice of any Chimney Sweep or for any person whomsoever acting as a Chimney

Sweep to call or hawk the streets in any city, town or village or elsewhere, for employment in his or her trade as a Chimney Sweep". Penalty not to exceed 40/-.

N.B. I cannot find anywhere that this section has been repealed, but from the evidence above the practice still seems to be allowed, and I understood from Mr Stone that in the bill of 1894 the Lords struck out a clause intended to prevent this by "calling in the streets.

III. Chimney Sweeps Act. 1840.

Section 2. Any person who shall compel or knowingly allow any child or young person under the age of 21 years to ascend or descend a chimney or enter a flue for the purpose of sweeping, cleaning, or coving the same or for extinguishing fire therein shall be liable to a penalty.

Section 3. It shall not be lawful to apprentice any child under the age of 16 years.

IV. Chimney Sweeps' Act. 1864.

Section 6. It shall not be lawful for a Chimney Sweep to employ a child under the age of 10 years to do or assist in doing any work or thing in or about the trade of such Chimney Sweep elsewhere than within the house or place of business of such C.S. or the yard or buildings (if any) connected therewith.

Section 7. It shall not be lawful for a C.S. on any occasion of his entering a house or building for the purpose of sweeping etc. to cause or knowingly allow a person under the age of 16 years in his employment or under his control to enter before him or after him into any part of such house or building or be therein for any part of the time during which such C.S. himself continues therein for any such purpose aforesaid.

V. Chimney Sweeps Act 1875:-

Section 5. The chief officer of

police in each police district may, subject to the provisions of this act, issue a certificate authorising the person therein named to carry on the business of a C.S. in the district.

Section 6. Any person who carries on the business of a C.S. and who employs any journeyman, assistant, or apprentice shall take out a certificate

Section 9. Notwithstanding anything in this Act it shall not be necessary for a person who carries on the business of a C.S. in the capacity only of a journeyman or of assistant to a master C.S. to have a certificate; provided that such journeyman or assistant does not employ in chemistry or any other person as his paid assistant or apprentice.

Section 10. Fee of 2/6 for the certificate.

Section 11. Certificate in force for one year only.

VI. Chimney Sweeps' Act. 1834:-

Section 1. "Any person who shall for the purpose of soliciting employment as a C.S. knock at the houses from door to door, or ring a bell or use any noisy instrument, or to the annoyance of any inhabitant thereof ring the door bell of any house, or cause anyone to do any of the acts aforesaid shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding 10/ for the first offence and 20/ for every subsequent offence."

Jan. 15th.

Mr Stone writes me that the act of 1834 was repealed by the act of 1840.

Extract from Arlidge's "Diseases of Occupation".

"Shearing sheeps are a class by themselves so far as concerns the active cause of disease existing among them. In the chapter on the conditions of labour we have cited sheeps as a class of labourers who suffer physically and morally by the social position allotted them. They are to a certain degree Helots of society, placed under circumstances inimical to their social well-being and health, and from this cause, apart from the peculiar incidents of their occupation, we might expect them to occupy an unfavourable position in tables of comparative mortality and such he find to be the case. Thus Dr Ogle says that their death rates between the ages of 25 and 45 and also between 45 and 65 are exceedingly high, and their total mortality, as shown by their comparative mortality figure is 50 p.c. higher than the average.

As to causes of death the Table indicates no marked difference between those pursuing among coal-heavers and sweeps. Those of the circulatory system are somewhat rare, and those of the digestive organs decidedly so. Phthisis and respiratory maladies stand much on a par in the two trades; the latter in a slightly lower ratio. But in the matter of alcoholism sweeps show a greatly higher percentage than coal-heavers, that is, as 2.06 to 1.3 per cent.

Moreover sweeps are often troubled with skin eruptions, and their eyes suffer with the acrid soot, making them bleary-eyed. It seems demonstrable moreover that the soot finds its way into the subcutaneous tissue, where it produces small patches not removable by washing. From these the black particles can it seems make their way along the lymphatic spaces to more distant localities.

But the disease par eminence attaching to their calling is epithelial cancer.

Dr Ogle discovered from his statistics "that of 242 deaths of chimney sweeps no less than 45 were due to some or other form of malignant disease. This gives 202 deaths from this cause to 1000 deaths from all causes: whereas the proportion of deaths from malignant disease to deaths from all causes among all males from 25 to 65 years of age in England and Wales is only 36 in 1000: so that even if the total mortality of sweeps were simply equal to that of all males their mortality from malignant disease would be more than five times as much as the average. But the mortality of ~~the~~ chimney sweeps is 50 per cent higher than the average, so that the liability of sweeps to malignant disease is about eight times as great as the average liability for all males. These figures scarcely support the belief ~~expressed~~ expressed by some authorities that improvements in the art and habits of sweeps have caused this disease to be

comparatively infrequent among them."

The consoling belief that "crops" cancer is becoming a scarce phenomenon since the application of the special acts of parliament controlling their work, is also somewhat rudely shaken by Mr Dobbin of St Bartholomew's Hospital, who in his work on Cancer, affirms that "numerous instances are to be met with."

Hairdressers and Wigmakers.

Interview with Mr Hugo of Chandos St, Charing Cross :-

Mr Hugo is both Barber, Hairdresser, and both private and theatrical wigmaker, a very rare combination. Some shops are Barbers only, i.e. confine themselves to men; Barber and Hairdresser is a common combination, but few of the latter actually make wigs; while theatrical wig making is nearly always an entirely separate branch.

Hairdressers and Barbers.

Wages, vary greatly throughout the trade. A gentleman's hand ~~will get from~~ in a high class shop will get from 21/ to 30/ a week, but they make a large amount in tips probably from 10/ to 18/ a week. A lady's hand gets higher wages from 30/ to 40/ but gets no tips, though he is paid a commission on

orders for hair and other goods. Wages are lower in the city than in any other part of London as the work there is constant and the tips reach a larger amount. Tips have certainly tended to reduce wages to some extent, but men on the whole make a larger income than in the pre-tipping days.

In low class trade the assistants usually live in and get about from 10/ to 15/ a week with board.

Men have to buy their own aprons; but where ~~Hours are in good trade~~ a jacket is worn it is provided by the firm; but men have to pay for the washing.

Hours are in high class trade usually from 8½ to 8 or in some cases 7. Low class trade opens earlier and closes later. Men as a rule have tea and dinner on the premises and are always liable to be called up to attend a customer.

Method of learning. Apprenticing is still the rule: many of the boys come from the workhouse with a bonus of £5 or £10. Their indentures are usually for three years: after that they go into a second class business for two or three years as an improver at small wages. A very large number, Englishmen especially, never aspire to be anything higher than barbers. To learn the higher branches of the trade it is almost necessary to attend the classes of one of the two teaching societies. Until recently the only society was the "Club de la Société du Progrès de la Coiffure" which as its name indicates was entirely dominated by Frenchmen; all the business is transacted in French and few if any Englishmen attended the classes. Within the last few years however an English society has been started, the International Hairdressers' Society. Both societies have frequent competitions in hairdressing. To become an accomplished hairdresser a man requires an artistic eye and hand, and years

of Experience.

Age limit. After 45 a man has great difficulty in getting fresh work, though he would not probably be dismissed so young on account of age. As a man gets elderly his hand is usually less steady for shaving and cutting, and he is less able to put up with the long hours of standing. Elderly men known often do "boardwork" i.e. the making of curls, wiglets, and artificial hair

Health. Mr Hyp does not think the trade is in any way unhealthy. Men known drink a good deal at nights, and as a class live rather loose lives. Mr Hyp attributes this to the fact that they mix so much with persons of a higher social class than themselves, and try to ape their ways.

The number of foreigners in the London trade is very large, & the majority probably know French

There is no Union among the men. The Masters have the Hairdressers Guild.

Wig Makers. Private wig making or "Street work" as it is called is a special branch of the trade only carried on by a few hairdressers. The 'mounting' i.e. the making of the basis on which the hair is fixed is always done by a man; the 'knotting' or fixing of the hair is nearly always women's work.

Wages. A mounter will probably be paid about 40/ a week: some mounters however are not attached to one shop but go from shop to shop, earning in some cases as much as £5 a week.

Knotters are always paid by the piece, usually at the rate of 5d the square inch. They earn from 14/ to 24/ a week and even & more

Hours. When work is done on the

premises, as it usually is, the hours are from 9 to 7 or 8. In some cases known the work is taken out.

Knotting is exceedingly trying to the eyes and girls not unfrequently go blind over it; it is only possible to do the work in a very strong light.

Practical lace making is almost entirely the work of women except the very best lace. In the lowest class of lace the hair is woven on to a length of cotton and then ~~sewn~~ sewn on to net. Better class lace are made by the knotting process, but the ~~ne~~ work does not require the same amount of skill and care as 'street work'. The dressing of lace is done by men.

Wages. Knotters and weavers work by the piece and earn from 7/ to 14/ a week.

Hours are from about 9 to 7 except in

the big seasons, when they are often much longer

Regularity. The two big times are June and July preparing for touring companies, and the two months upon Christmas, when the press of work is tremendous. At both these times extra hands are required. Many of the girls in slack times officiate as dressers in the theatres

Dec. 16th.

Interview with F. J. Crotty :-

Mr. Crotty is Secretary of the Journeymen's Hairdressers Society. He invited me to visit with him last night the Academie Internationale de Coiffure. In spite of its name this is an entirely English institution. It was founded in 1884 more or less in opposition to the Societe du Progrès de la Coiffure which is an old established school of hairdressing supported chiefly by Frenchmen. Until the foundation of the Academie Internationale there was no English school in London.

Last night's meeting was the usual weekly class night. By 9.30 the opening hour there were quite 50 students present, but Mr Crotty told me that the attendance was small. The students were for the most part young fellows of from 16 to 25. I was ~~so~~ surprised at their exceedingly respectable appearance; all were well dressed, and many of the older ones came in top hats. Those too who spoke in my hearing had a far more cultured accent than I expected. Mr Crotty told me that they nearly all came

from high class shops in the suburbs.
At about 9.45 the work of teaching began: four young ladies seated themselves in front of large glasses, and the professors set to work upon their hair: apparently no explanation was given of the process; the students merely stood round and watched the teacher at work. The students are divided into three or four classes according to the certificates they have gained. The young men last night were dressing hair with a view to passing into a higher class than that they now occupy. From time to time public competitions are held, when money prizes and medals are offered.

Mr Crotty has promised to send me the Rules of the Academic and also of the Youngmen's Society.

On matters apart from the Society I had some conversation with Mr Crotty, but of rather a desultory character.

As to Wages ~~or to the class of the trade~~

they vary so enormously with the class of the trade and the skill of each man that it is very difficult to estimate them. They may honestly vary from 20/ to £6 a week. A man usually gets pretty much what he is worth, and a really high class dresser can command a high sum, and can afford to snap his fingers at masters, as he nearly always has sufficient customers to set up for himself if he wishes to. The best customers of the hair dresser are ladies of easy virtue, who spend enormous sums on their hair, and before balls at Covent Garden and similar occasions men reap a fine harvest.

Hours are certainly long throughout the trade, and in the lower class shops terribly so; often from 8 to 10 on the first five days, from 8 to 12 on Saturday, and from 9 to 3 on Sunday. Women in many cases the master in such shops has no assistant. There has several times been an agitation

for closing in the West End and City at 5 on Saturday; but it has always broken down owing to the opposition of Mr Shipwright who pleads that his shareholders will not consent.

Apprentices are not employed in high class shops; but most of the men in good trade have been apprenticed in the country.

Besides the three schools in London there are now academies in some of the large provincial towns.

Jan. 6th.

I have during the last week visited the two Hairdressers Clubs of London and had some talk with the secretaries. The largest and most important is the Harmony Club in Sidney Sq. This is under German management, and frequented chiefly by German barbers and hairdressers, though men of other trades and nations are admitted. Originally it was confined exclusively to hairdressers, but Mr Hiddigen the secretary tells me that of 800 members not more than 400 now belong to the trade. Some of the members live on the premises. At this club are held the meetings and classes of the International Hair Dressers' Society. The entrance fee to the club is 2/6 and subscription 2/6.

The second club, the Concordia, is in Moorgate; the manager and proprietor is Mr Richter, and old German whose English is sadly to seek, and who is also very deaf, which makes an interview with him exceedingly difficult. This club is of a

much lower character, and is frequented by the German and Polish Jew handicrafts of the East End. Mr Richter tells me that classes are held here too. It is also used as a residence, especially by men who are out of work, whom Mr Richter often has to tide over their bad time.

Both clubs are used by masters and men as agencies: masters send to them both for permanent men and especially for temporary men for Saturday and Sunday, when the demand for additional help is very great.

Neither Mr Hildrijn or Mr Richter was able to give me any valuable information as to wages.

Jan. 5th.

Interview with Mr J. T. Dunk of 221 Brompton Road:-

Mr Dunk is Master this year of the Hairdressers Guild, of which he gave me the Rules and the last annual Report.

The Guild was founded in 1882 and was originally meant only to include Masters, but it has now been extended to Assistants: in London known few or none have joined, and there is undoubtedly a feeling on the part of many members of the Court that it is not expedient that they should. In the country the social division between Masters and men is less strict, and some country assistants have joined the Guild.

Method of learning. The hairdressers though not for bodies apprenticeship is still almost universal, and no man can hope to learn much in less than four years

But the learning is never finished as the changes of fashion are so incessant. The Guild has started schools in several country towns, but hitherto in London they have been content with the teaching supplied at the three great schools, viz:- The Société du Progrès, The Academie Internationale, and The International Society. There is however a suggestion now before the Guild that it should start a school or if possible secure an amalgamation of the existing schools.

Hours have certainly been shortened throughout the hairdressing business of late years. Mr Brant, whose business is chiefly a high-class ladies', is open from 9 to 6 on first five days, closing at 5 on Saturday. But Gentlemen's hairdressers and barbers, except of the highest class, are always open longer, and of course the small barber is always open on Sunday mornings. The Guild are strongly in favour of shorter hours and have had a regular campaign against Sunday

opening, even outside London subsidising societies to prosecute. Sunday opening is necessitated entirely by the gross selfishness of the working classes: almost without exception the men who frequent the barber on Sunday get away from work by 2 on Saturday, and if they did not spend their time in lounging could get shaved upon 12 on Saturday night.

In the high class trade masters always refuse to send men out to do Sunday work. But do not raise any objection to customers making a private arrangement with men who in this way add materially to their incomes.

<u>Age limit.</u> As in other trades customers will not put up with aged assistants. A very large number of the supernumerary set up for themselves. To start in a small way only requires a few ~~x~~ pounds of capital. Many improvident assistants honour gradually sink down, and first rate men are obliged

to accept quite humble positions in the country when their day is over.

Foreigners in the trade are certainly very numerous both among masters and men. I suggested to Mr Shunk that this was due to the fact that at one time, if not now, they were better taught than Englishmen. He demurs to this explanation but cannot offer any other, except that foreigners are prepared to accept very much lower wages. Personally Mr Shunk has now only English assistants, whom he finds quite as good as Frenchmen.

Wages. Mr Shunk was not prepared to give me information as to wages throughout the trade. He told me that he paid his own men very high wages but it was necessary that they should be men of decent education and good presence which they were bound to dress like gentlemen. For the most part however he thinks that if they

are improvident and seldom save.

In spite of apprenticeship and the facilities for learning it is always very difficult to get a first class hairdresser.

Jan. 5th.

As the King of the Practical hosiery trade I was naturally anxious to interview Mr Clarkson. I saw him some days since and took him a volume of the book to show him the nature of the information required. He now writes:-

"You very kindly said that you would not be offended if I returned the book to you. I have looked through it, and I really do not think it would be at all advantageous to me. I should therefore be very much obliged if you would not go to any further trouble."

In the very slight conversation I had with him he told me that "the factory man" was always jumping in and out. The fact is I expect that it is a business in which the difficulty in keeping with the factory act ~~regs~~ regulations as to hours are very great.

He told me further that he keeps all hands on throughout the year and makes for stock during the slack seasons.

Jan. 22nd.

After a delay of six weeks and several reminders Mr Crosby Lee at last sent me on loan copies of the rules of his two societies

Academie Internationale de Coiffure:-
Founded, Feb. 4th. 1884.

Rule 3:- Hon. Member 10/6 per year; Active Member 5/ per year

Rule 10:- The meetings shall be divided into School and General meetings. The School shall be held every Monday in the month between the hours of 8 and 11 p.m. Except the first Monday, which shall be devoted to general meetings.

Rule 14:- The Professors and First-Class Members, who must be taken in rotation shall instruct the students, under the direction of the Superintendent or Vice-Supt.

Rule 20:- Three models or more to be provided for working the School. Each model shall be paid £1.1 for each quarter's attendance

Rule 21:- Two headdresses or more shall be executed on each school night by either Supt.

anglicé "rag" ?

Vice-Supt. or Professors who will be taken in rotation. The lessons shall commence at 9.10 sharp, each student to be allowed ten minutes: at 10.15 p.m. the Professors etc. to dress. No member shall be allowed to intrigue (?) another concerning his skill or headdress he may be executing.

Rule 23:- The School shall consist of three classes, First, Second, and Third. The active members when joining shall be termed third-class members. No member shall be allowed to take lessons in any other class than that to which he belongs.

Rule 24:- A classification of First-Class members wishing to pass the rank of Professor will take place once every three months, the last school night of each quarter. Two dressing to be executed, one the dressers own fancy, and one from a model, to be executed by the Supt.

Rule 25:- Second Class members wishing to pass into the First Class to give a fortnight's notice to the Secretary, which will take place after the classes.

Rule 32:- Competitions shall be arranged by the Committee for First Class from time to time; but one grand competition will be held once a year for Second and Third Class members.

The Journeymen Hairdressers' Trade Society:-
Founded, 1839. Enrolled, 1844.

Objects of the Society:- That this Society disclaims all idea of combination, or of attempting anything injurious to the interest of their Employers; but in union with the laws of their country to use every laudable endeavour to assist their independence, and any possible exertion, agreeable to the laws subscribed to by the Members of the Society, for the mutual assistance and support of each other when out of employ, or in distress.

Rule 3:- Entrance Fee:- from 20 to 25 years, 2/6; from 25 to 30, 7/6; and from 30 to 35, 15/-: A contribution of 1/6 a month for 12 months will constitute him

a free member.

Rule 4:- A free member if unemployed shall be allowed 10/ a week if a member for 12 months; 12/6 a week if a member for two years; and 15/ if a member for three years, for work for eight weeks. But the Society does not undertake to provide for its members for more than eight weeks during the year.

Rule 5:- On the death of a member of 5 years standing the Society will allow to his widow or next of kin the sum of £5 when the funds of the Society are £200 and upwards.

Rule 9:- If any member contracts business for himself and proves unsuccessful he shall be entitled to the benefits of the Society, provided he was a member while a business.

Rule 19:- That members of this Society shall consist of Journeymen Hairdressers not less than 20 years or over 35

Jan. Feb. 1st.

Interview with Mr C. J. Cook :-

Mr Cook is a ~~a~~ man of about 25 who has been in three places in London all of the small class, earning at 5d or 5½d.

Wages. In his first place Mr Cook had ~~5s~~ 9/ a week living in ; in his other places he has had 12/. The minimum for a man living in is about 6/, for a man living out about 21/ ; the respective maxima are about 14/ and 28/. These prices of course are for small class business. No man will get as much as 12/ until he is a good workman.

A man has to buy his own tools, razor, scissors and combs, except in a very low class shop. He also has to buy aprons, and in some cases pay for their washing. ~~Aprons~~ These may run into 20/ a year.

Mr Cook knows nothing about higher class trade

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Hours. From Mr Cook's account his hours have been terribly long, he thinks exceptionally so. In one place he worked from 8 to 9.30 on the first five days, till 11.30 on Saturday, and from 8 to 1 on ~~Sat~~ Sunday. In his last place he worked from 8 to 10.30 on the first five days, till 12 on Saturday, and from 8 to 2 on Sunday. In neither case was he allowed any proper interval for meals, and he declares that his actual working hours came out at about 85 and 92

Holidays. These have been none; he has usually had to work on Bank Holidays as on Sundays; but ~~one~~ once a fortnight he has usually had an evening off. It is known becoming very usual throughout the trade to give men at least a few days' holiday in the year.

Method of learning. Mr Cook was apprenticed for two years in Norwood, and paid a premium of £10. He has seen known a member of the trade who was not apprenticed

the trade known that masters as a rule do not trouble about teaching their apprentices, but leave them to pick up the work as they can. Haircutting they learn by practising on children, shaving by jobbing the chin of the workingman who does not much mind what you do to him as long as you bring it off. The chief requisite for learning shaving quickly is confidence.

Health. The constant confinement is very tying, but apart from this there are no special tricks to health in the business.

Age limit is about 35: at that age a man will have great difficulty in getting a first place; with elderly men masters are always afraid of drink and its accompaniment an unsteady hand. The trade has no idea what becomes of aged hairdressers.

Mr Cook thinks that Germans can generally command better wages than Englishmen as they actually are better tradesmen: he attributes this to the fact that they are not allowed to leave the army until they are masters of a trade

Extract from Allbutt's "Diseases of Occupation".

Handlasters and Wiremakers stand apart as a special group of tradesmen. Their occupation is unique in kind, but it has the prevailing character of being sedentary.

For some reason not at first obvious they present a very ~~&~~ high mortality at all ages between 25 and 65, and a comparative mortality figure of 105%.

The occupation is unfavorable to vigorous development and muscular activity, while it rather favours effeminacy. Mostly in country ~~towns~~ towns handlasting and wiremaking are pursued by the same people: but the two branches differ in this respect, that the former requires standing, whilst the latter is for the most part carried on in a sitting position. The handlasting branch really presents no unfavorable feature except it be wearisome standing. But the wiremaking department must be

characterised as a dusty one, and so must be the antecedent operations performed by the hair merchants.

Dr Cholmeley noticed a peculiar bronchial irritation attending the dust set up by the apparatus for hair washing by machinery. .... M. Fassicourt, an old French author, found another interpretation of their high mortality in their loose habits of life, and in the predisposition to disease of debility consequent on the effeminate nature of their employment. How far the statement of the French writer applies justly to English barbers we cannot judge: but this seems clear enough that alcoholic excess and dissipation ~~then~~ overnight would disqualify them for the operation frequently called for of shaving their customers early the following morning, and certainly lead to their dismissal from the large shops in London and the great provincial towns. In country hamlets however things are different.

The village barber is the depository of news; the parlour of the inn his evening rendezvous, and his company much sought after: in other words he is greatly exposed to temptation to indulge in strong drinks, to become a dot-and so shorten his career.

Moreover the character of the occupation recommends it for adoption by the better members of society: while at the same time it is one of small gain especially to shopmen, and therefore unfavourable to domestic married life. They are too poor to marry: and from frequent changes in their places of employment are exposed to great wretchedness when a situation is not soon obtainable.

Pt. 2nd.

Interview with Mr J. S. Daveri:-

Mr Daveri is the proprietor of the "Barbers' Exchange" referred to in the article from Cassell's Saturday Journal. He calls his shop "The Home of Cake for Barbers".

Mr Daveri is a talkative little man of about 50 to 55, and has combined agency with his other business for our 20 years. Under these circumstances he says, probably with truth, that he knows as much about barbers as any man in London.

Mr Daveri began by impressing upon me the great difference between the hairdresser and the barber: the barber cuts and shaves only and the general hand is very rare. Men seldom go from one line to the other, but stick to the line in which they have started. Mr Daveri's business is that of a barber, and his agency is confined entirely to barbers of the lower class.

Wages. The wages of a barber who knows his work are from 12/ to 14/ living in; 14/ Mr Davis considers the proper wage. Leaving out the wages range from 26/ to 30/. 28/ is a fair wage. In poor class shops men do not pick up much from tips, but perhaps 1/ or 1/6 on Saturday and Sunday. Mr Davis sends out many men to permanent places but the vast majority of his clients he can only place in temporary jobs, as a rule for Saturday and Sunday. Every Friday he sends out some 70 or 80 men for the week end. These men are paid as a rule 8/ and their food. In the winter there are few odd jobs except at the week end, and it is a ~~my~~ mystery what these men do for the rest of the week: some of them live in common lodging houses and manage to scrape on on their 8/: others do a bit of dealing: others have wives who go out to work. ~~In~~ But in any case they suffer a good deal, as in the winter the supply of odd men is larger than

the demand, the barber's trade being always much better in the summer than the winter. In the summer Mr Dann often has a dozen places which he is unable to fill on Saturday morning, and even in the week many odd men are wanted owing to the propensity of masters to take holidays principally at race meetings, for racing is a passion with barbers, owing partly to the incessant talk of it in the shop, and partly to the many hours of idleness during which they may read the sporting papers.

On the wages of hairdressers Mr Dann is not such a competent authority, but he says they not unfrequently amount to £3 a week. It is known necessary that the hairdresser in a good business should be a man of good education and appearance.

In spite of the superior position of the Hairdresser Mr Dann thinks that the barber's is the pleasanter trade of the two.

In the matter of earnings the

small master Barber is not much better off than his assistant: it is a good business which takes £5 a week where the charge for shaving is not more than a penny, and after expenses are paid the master has little more than a journeyman's wage.

Hours. Mr Dawson confirms the terribly long hours actually on duty, which he says amount in many cases to not less than 90 a week. Moreover a large part of the time is spent in idleness especially in the afternoon, during which the men are very ~~apt~~ apt to be led into gambling or drinking. In many shops the master will not let the men go out to drink, but many small masters will take a man out to drink with them.

~~A~~ Mr Dawson's clients with very few exceptions are either men who are not good workmen or they drink. Often a man can shave well, but cut hair badly,

or via versa, and this keeps him from getting a permanent place; but much more often the odd men ~~are~~ are first-class men who drink, and their conduct at the places they are sent to often leads to a row: some of Mr Barr's clients have been to ~~the~~ every master whose name is on his books, and he can do nothing for them till he gets a new place to give them another chance, though as a rule it is hopeless; many of them make frantic efforts to keep from drink but without avail. As an instance of the sagacious of a man of this class to get away from his evil associations he told me a story of one who had lost all chance of work in London through drink: Mr Barr had an application for a man at Nottingham and offered to send him there. The man at once jumped at the chance of getting away from his old pals, and Mr Barr told him to call at 3 o'clock on Sunday when he would take him up to St Pancras and see him off. In the middle of

the Saturday night Mr Dann was wakened by a loud knocking: he put his head out of the window and found his friend there with a package under his arm ready to start for St Pancras: he was so happy to get away that he had assumed that 9 o'clock meant 9 o'clock a.m.

Age limit. Mr Dann has known men take on to 60 or even longer, but this is very rare: there is no doubt that for shaving, especially a man loses much of his skill after middle life. Mr Dann was a very expert shaver, but he is so no longer. Barbers for the most part will not take on an old man.

Method of learning. In hairdressing apprenticeship is still almost universal, but among barbers it is less universal than it was, and Mr Dann doubts if more than half the barbers in London have been apprentices. The best way for a boy to learn is certainly

to be apprenticed in a low class business: if he is put in a good business he will not get enough practice, as the customers will not put up with his services, but the half drunken looking man on Saturday afternoon says "Come along, lad, you don't hurt me: damn it all, you can take mine off".

Sunday Opening. If there were no German barbers Mr Davis thinks that the Englishman could open among themselves to close on Sunday, but now if an Englishman have to close on Sunday it would only mean that a German would set up a shop close by and keep open.

The Germans generally throughout the trade are in Mr Davis's opinion not such good workmen as the English, but they are much more industrious, sober, and clean, and for this reason many masters prefer them. The Englishman generally turns up at a temporary job "looking more like a

scavenger than a barber". He has no apron and no tools, which he has to borrow from his master. The German comes clean, has a nice white apron, and his tools all ready in a small black bag. He does not drink, and does not have to pawn his tools directly he gets out of his work. The Englishman may get a few ~~old~~ tools together in the summer, but in the winter they are sure to go to the pawnshop.

In this trade it is almost safe to say that all who fail to get on are either drunken or incapable, as it requires scarcely any capital to start for oneself, and every good workman who is sober is certain to do so sooner or later.

For historical matter re Barbers and Barber-Surgeons see Young's "Annals of the Barber-Surgeons' Company" which may be found in the Library at the Reform Club.

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its accomplishme

within that "measurable o ome
it statesman was wont to quote. nich a
w? will
e question. How is this to be accomplished?
rt to our words of last week :—

"We fear that although the Hairdressing Trade can boast of its fifty societies, yet nothing great or lasting will ever be accomplished until all the masters' societies are welded into one, and all those of the assistants likewise . The sooner we see a big masters' union sailing banner of the Guild, and a big assistants' union o the Journeymen's Society in London, the better be for the material interests of both employers and loyed in the Hairdressing Trade."

are those sentiments to be put into the concrete of *fait accompli*, or are our utterances to go only to the ocean of void and unenacted words? Let us be tical, and face the facts.

What is true? Are our Editorial premises correct as ted above? Would "a big masters' union, sailing under banner of the Guild," on the one side, *vis à vis* with "a istants' union affiliated to the Journeymen's Society don" be a good or a bad feature? In the shipping the Shipping Federation represents the bulk of ship- while the Sailors and Firemen's Amalgamated Union p of the coalescent bodies of able seamen, stokers, cooks, &c.; cabowners have their Trade Union, rivers theirs, so that Mr. Asquith, and other me- a recent strike, could go instanter and speak to all owners as a body, and communicate the result to vers as a body. So with the dockers, the bakers and dreds of other Trade Union bodies. And history ved that, in the main, coalescent representative are best for all purposes in the interdependence of nd labour, and the almost inevitable conflict of those portant factors. By parity of reasoning we, therefore, at our editorial *dictum*, quoted at the outset, is sound

it possible for the Trade to coalesce? Æsop's "The Bundle of Sticks" proved the moral that strength," and the old saw that "Where there's a a way" is equally true. We do not pretend to g a complete scheme of Trade amalgamation; for the purpose of starting discussion venture to ndamental suggestions. If all the employers had on, both employers and employed would very soon w a groundwork for united Trade action; and if tants were amalgamated they could, with a solid accept or reject the employers' proposals. To e such unions on either side would be easy if all it. A representative and elected council would ad- e, and each town would have its branch committee. the teaching societies: What good reason against ation exists? A code of broad and general rules sily be framed for universal application as is done, e High Court of Foresters; in London, certain ould have a branch school, and, in the provinces, ; each branch could legislate for itself in local hile its elected delegate to the general council the branch a voice in general legislation and ion; for local purposes, each branch would stand

and the mass of branches would
expenses.

3. But apart from the schem
why should not a start be at once
to combine in the matter of play, if
words, why should there not be a
of all Societies for the purpose of ba
entertainments? An annual ball of
attracts a greater or less coterie of parti
notice in the Trade Press, it has to b
of ball-room, printing, stationery, pos
penses, &c., and it passes out of
small profit, even if it escapes loss. But a unit
ball of the Trade would command attention in not alone
Trade organs, but in the mighty daily Press. A gran
the Amalgamated Hairdressers of the United K
fill the largest hall London possesses, would be worthy of the
attention of London's daily papers, and through them would
find a reading audience all over the world. The illustrate
papers would depict it, the world of fashion would
pelled to give attention, the Hairdressing
once assume a dignity and attain a
unknown, and in addition to unlimited
profit might be expected. Did it ever occ
that with more than half the community
means hair-trimming, shaving, and sh
the exquisite art and æsthetic taste a
good ladies' hand is an unknown c
man in the street; but occasions like the grand
Trade ball would put hairdressers on their prope
of artists in the manipulation of the human hair.

Here, then, at least is an opening for free, full a
friendly fraternizing of the entire Trade, and such an amal-
gamated function may prove the stepping-stone to
broader and better amalgamation for purpose
Last query—"Is this to be in 1895?"

* * *

On another page will be found an article
for this Journal, entitled, "An English Joe and his
tinental Congeners." The writer is a gentleman of
experience and trained observation, and the deduction
draws should, we think, not only be of interest,
siderable value to our readers. While improved meth
transit are almost daily making the world smaller
the followers of every calling—more especially
which, like hairdressing, caters for the luxury
see that they keep abreast of the times.
direction that the value of such information a
our contributor comes in.

* * *

In our Retrospect of 1894, in our last iss
paragraph was inadvertently omitt

Hairdressers' Early Closing Association of London.

This assistants'
its work during the ye
demonstrated being that, gi
tunity, the journeyman hairdresse
into an athlete able to hold his own in th
of the company. During the year, two athletic meetings
most successfully organized and carried out, and should do
much to popularize the association and further its objects.
Thanks to the early closers, there are now a Trade cham
ship in walking and running, carrying with them valuable p
open for competitions.