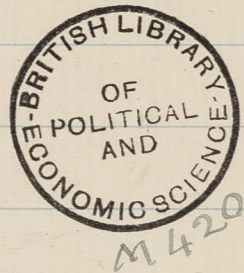


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Booth: Life and labour... 1902-3,
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Interviews

Chimney Sweeps and Hairdressers.

Cherry Sweep.

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 forbade 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 chimney 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 chimney 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 attention in the chimney before it could be used with advantage. An inquiry 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 rammer, was the means of great amelioration in the circumstances of the chimney sweepers 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

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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 sweep 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 wounds. There
and some straw was 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

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I could not see to read at all. Dozens die of Consumption: they get up about their work in all seasons and often at 2 and 3 a.m. They are filthy in their habits. Lads often wear one shirt night on 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 Salmon at this present moment who has never washed since he has been a sheep. Not only were these habits, known in the trade as "sheeping black", filthy in the extreme, but the continual presence of the soot next the skin often induced a fatal form of cancer. Now was this the only physical risk that the climbing boy ran, for it not infrequently happened that he stuck in some narrow bend of the chimney and was either smothered or ~~burnt~~ burnt".

Of the same subject see a very interesting article by Sydney Smith (works

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in three vols. Vol II]. This gives an
more exact account of the honors 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 Maki's Poem "The Little
Chimney Sweep".

Jan. 9th.

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Interview with Mr J. Kinghorn:-

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

Mr Kinghorn 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 cruel brutality: his father treated him no better than the other apprentices, in fact he used 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.

Days 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 older days the regular thing was 2/6 with board and lodging. The apprentices were supposed to get 1/6 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 older days apprenticeship was universal: now it is unknown: anyone can work the machine: the only thing is to look it one way so that it does not come in pieces.

Shops are not now allowed to take boys

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

The 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 himself 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 ever got
cancer who was careful not to scratch the
soot in, and who washed himself properly.
In the old chinking 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 ~~it~~ would probably be better without it but it is not nearly so wholesome 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 Mr. King's day's youth 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 had to be worth about 10/ of a sack as market; it is now valueless. (2). Carpet beating was cheap combined with sweeping; this has now gone entirely to large carpet beating firms. (3). Sweeping has been taken up by milners who take contracts for big institutions; also by large firms like Whiteley. (4). The real licensed sweep has much of his business taken from him by the itinerant sweep who goes round the streets shouting. These men after getting work by telling you lies; e.g. someone will give an order

to Mr King, but if he is a bit late owing
to a previous job, the other shouter will get in
by representing himself as Mr King'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 authorized snappers. It was the
intention of an act passed through the
instrumentality of Lord Shaftesbury to prevent
any man from acting as a snapper without
a license, but owing to the wording only
those who employ others have to pay for
a license, and the men who is his own
master goes free.

Jan. 12th.

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Interview with Mr. Geo. Stone.

Mr. Stone is President of the Master Chimney Sweeps' United Protection Society. Having never met a sweep in muffle I was surprised to find that Mr. Stone was a handsome, prosperous looking man rather handsomely dressed with a fur coat etc.

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. His statement is hardly borne out by our figures which give Employers 277, Employed 569, neither 656, and Not-States 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 20 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 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.

Sooty cancer though still not unknown is becoming very rare.

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

The great grievance of sweeps in the past has 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 Sweep's Registration Act of 1854, 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 first for the best 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 weakly 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 masters nearly 95 p.c. follow some other occupation as well, and in most cases their wife's work. The causes of the depression are (1). The allowance of doctory, refused to above: 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 not valuable to lend mechanics 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-bating.

The joiners some two years ago made an attempt to organize, 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:-

"whence 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 clearing of chimneys are liable, beyond any other employment whatsoever in which boys of tender age are engaged: and whereas the misery 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 using or exercising the trade business or mystery of a Chimney Sweep.

II. Chimney Sweep Act. 1824.

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 leather 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. Power 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, Son 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 hamlet, for
 employment in his or her trade as a
 "chimney sweep". Penalty not to exceed 40s.
 2. 2. 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 Sweep's 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 covering 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.

Tr. 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.

Tr. 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 authorizing the person therein named to carry on the business of a C. S. in the district.

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

Section 7. 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 chimney sweeping any other person as his paid assistant or apprentice.

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

Section 11. Certificate is force for one year only.

II. 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 any subsequent offence."

Jan. 19th.

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

Retreat from Arlidge's "Diseases of Occupation".

"Mining sweeps 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 sweeps 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 we 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 excessively 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 prevailing among coal-headers 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-headers, that is, as 2.06 to 1.3 per cent.

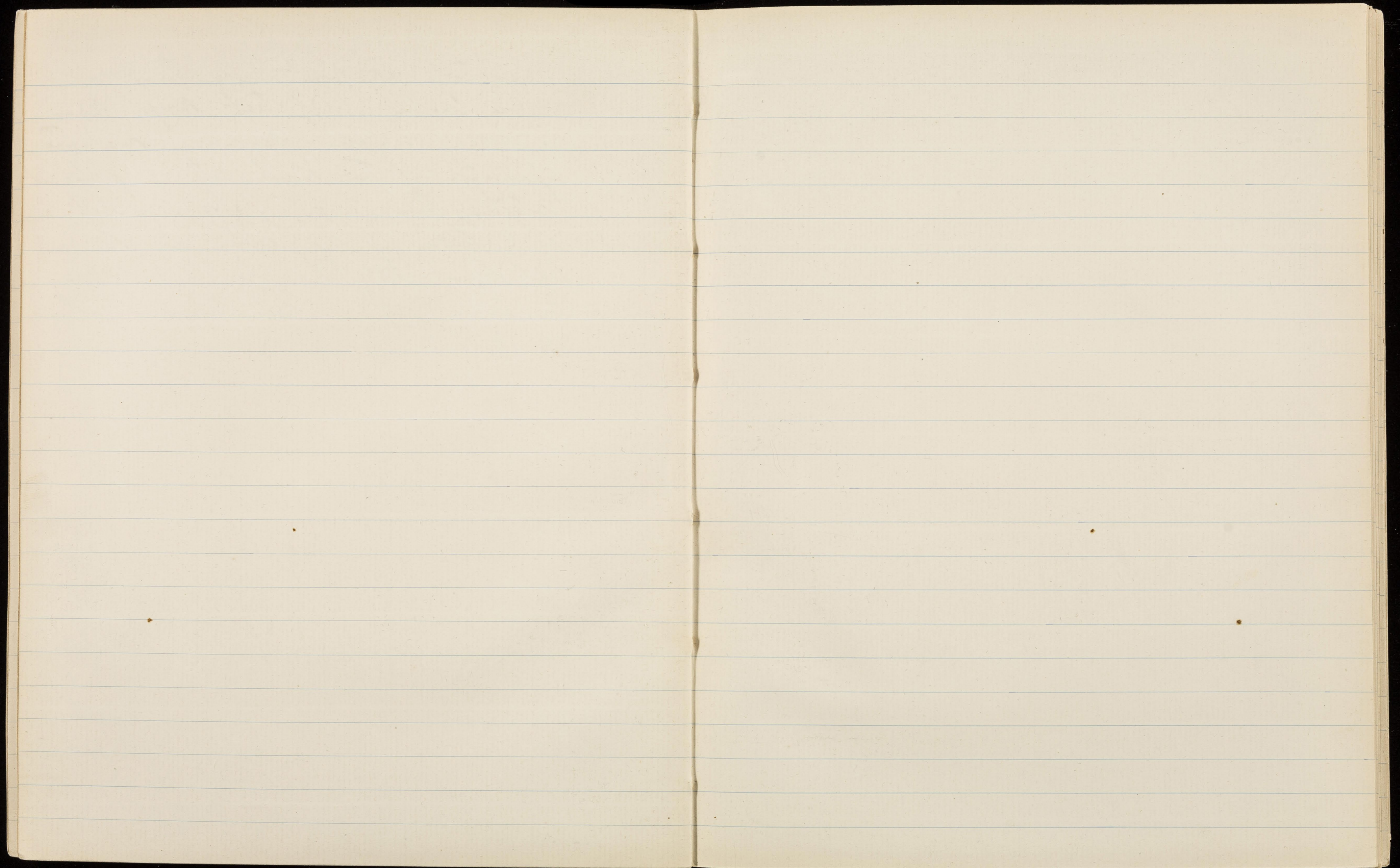
Iron-ore sweeps are often troubled with skin eruptions, and their eyes suffer with the acid soot, making them ~~the~~ blue-eyed. It seems demonstrable now that the soot finds its way into the subcutaneous tissue, where it produces small patches not removable by washing. From these the black patches can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

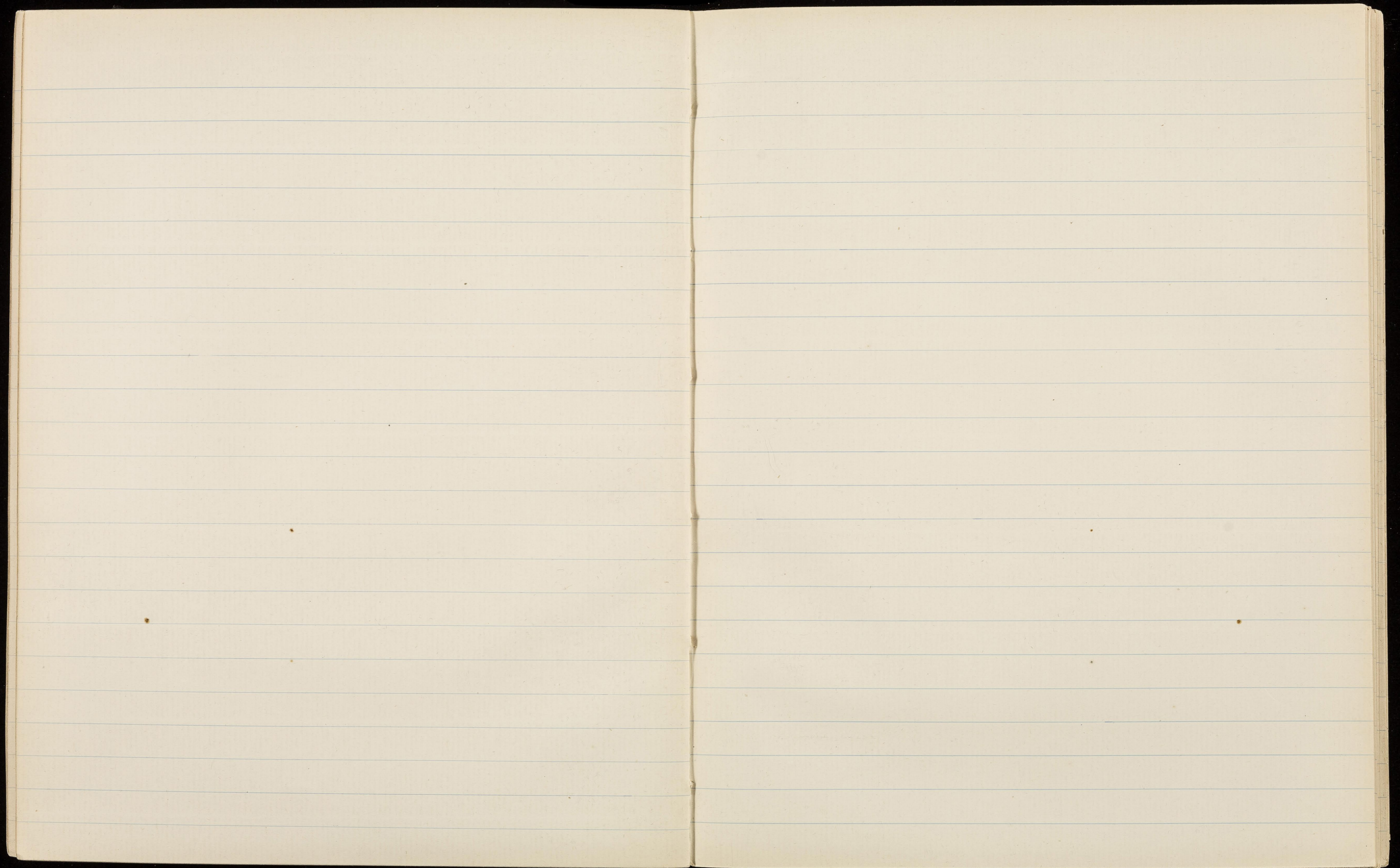
But the disease par excellence attaching to their calling is epithelial cancer.

Dr. Ogle disclaimed from his statistics that of 242 deaths of chimney sweeps no less than 49 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 severely support the Whig ~~opinion~~ expressed by some authorities that improvements in the art and habits of sweeps have caused this disease to be

Comparatively infrequent among them."

The Consulting Clinic that sweeps Cancer is becoming a scarce phenomenon, since the application of the Special acts of Parliament controlling their work, is also somewhat widely taken by Mr. Dublin of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, who in his work on Cancer, affirms that numerous instances are to be met with.





Handsewers and hignmakers.

Interview with Mr Hoop of Chandos St.
Charing Cross:-

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

Handsewers 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 9 to 8 or in some cases 9. Low class trade opens ^{rather} 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, especially, seem aspirin 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 Proprie 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 older 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 however often do "boardwork" i.e. the making of curls, wigs, and artificial hair.

Health. Mr. Hays does not think the trade is in any way unhealthy. Men however drink a good deal at nights, and as a class live rather loose lives. Mr. Hays 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 being French.

There is no Union among the men. The Masters have the Handicrafts 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 Handicraftsmen. 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 1/3^d 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 9 or 8. In some cases however the work is taken out.

Knitting is exceedingly trying to the eyes and is not unfrequently so that one it; it is only possible to do the work in a very strong light.

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

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

Hours are from about 9 to 9 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 before 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.

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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 Proprie 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 ~~not~~ 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
 look upon their hair: apparently no explanation
 was given of the process; the students simply
 stood round and watched the teacher at work.
 The students are divided into three or four
 classes according to the certificate 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 as 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 however 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 get 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 Court 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. However in many cases the master in such shops has no assistant. There has several times been an agitation

65
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
food trade have been apprenticed in the
country.

Under the three schools in London
there are now academies in several of the
large provincial towns.

Jan. 6th.

66

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 Fitzroy 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. Heidinger 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 Houndsditch; the manager and proprietor is Mr. Richter, and old German whom 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 handiwork 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 Hildesheim or Mr Richter was able to give me any valuable information as to wages.

Jan. 5th.

68

Interview with Mr J. T. Dusk of
221rompton Road:-

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

The Guild was founded in 1852
and was originally meant only to include
Masters, but it has now been extended
to Assistants: in London however 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. Mr Handloom
though not for verbal apprenticeship is
still almost universal, and no man can hope
to learn much in less than seven years

But the learning is never finished as the changes of fashion are so incessant. The Guild has started schools in several countries towns, but hitherto in London they have been content with the teaching supplied at the three great schools viz: The Societe de Peuple, The Academic 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 Dent, 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 hairdressing and barbers, except of the highest class, are always open longer, and of course the small barber is always open on Sunday morning. The Guild are strongly in favour of shorter hours and have had a regular campaign against Sunday

opening, seen outside London subsidiary
 Louche to prosecute. Sunday opening is
 necessitated entirely by the gross selfishness of
 the working classes: almost without exception
 the men who frequent the bar on Sunday
 get away from work by 2 on Saturday, and
 if they did not spend their time in
 boozing could get shawd before 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 naturally to their
 incomes.

Age limit. As in other trades customers
 will not put up with aged assistants. A
 very large number of the superannuated set
 up for themselves. To start in a small way
 only requires a few £ pounds of capital.
 Many unprosperous assistants however gradually
 sink down, and first-rate men are obliged

71
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 Dusk 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
prepar'd to accept very much lower wages.
Personally, Mr Dusk has now only English
assistants, whom he finds quite as good as
Frenchmen.

Wages. Mr Dusk was not prepar'd 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 imprudent and seldom save.

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

Jan. 5th.

73

As the King of the Mechanical his
making 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 pumping in and
out. The fact is I expect that it is a
business in which the difficulty is keeping within
the factory act ~~very~~ 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

74

After a delay of six weeks and several reminders Mr Gatty has 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 9 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 head dresses or more shall be executed on each school night by either Supt.

anglicé "rag" ?

Via. Capt^s 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 (2) another concerning his skill or headness he may be executing.

Rule 23: - The School shall consist of three classes, First, Second, and Third. All 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 drawings to be executed, one the drawings on fancy, and one from a model, to be executed by the Capt.

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

Objects of the Society :- That this Society disclaim all ideas of combination, or of attempting anything injurious to the interests of their employers ; but in unison with the laws of their country to use every laudable endeavor to assist their independence, and every 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, per week 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 £50 when the funds of the Society are £200 and upwards.

Rule 7: - If any member commences business for himself and proves successful he shall be entitled to the benefits of the Society, provided he was a member while a business.

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

Jan Feb. 1911.

Interview with Mr C. J. Cook:-

Mr Cook is a man of about 25 who has been in three places in London all of the small class, earning at 1/1 or 1/2.

Wages. In his first place Mr Cook had 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. These may run into 20/ a year.

Mr Cook knows nothing about higher class trade

Feb. 1st.

98

Interview with Mr C. J. Cook:-

Mr Cook is a man of about 25 who has been in three places in London all of the small class, earning at $\text{£}1^0$ or $\text{£}1^1/2$.

Wages. In his first place Mr Cook had $\text{£}9$ a week living in: in his other places he has had $\text{£}12$. 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 $\text{£}12$ until he is a good workman.

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Mr Cook knows nothing about higher class trade.

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 ~~Saturday~~ 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 there 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 however becoming very hard 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 Norwich, and paid a premium of £10. He has never known a member of the trade who was not apprenticed.

He thinks however 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 poking the chin of the workman, 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 trying, but apart from this there are no special trials to health in the business.

The limit is about 25: at that age a man will have great difficulty in getting a post place; with steady men masters are always afraid of drink and its accompaniment an unsteady hand. Mr Cook has no idea what becomes of aged hairdressers.

Mr Cook thinks that Germans can generally
command better ships than Englishmen, as
they usually 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 Allis's "Diseases of Occupation".

Handworkers and Wigmakers 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 1057.

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

characterized as a dusty one, and so much
like the antecedent operations performed by the
Lain merchants.

Dr Cholmeley noticed a peculiar
bronchial irritation attending the dust set
up by the apparatus for hair brushing by
machinery. . . . M. Jassicot, an old
French cutter, 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
~~over~~ overnight would disqualify them for
the operation frequently called for of
shaving their customers early the following
morning, and certainly led 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 paragon 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 sot, and so shorten his career.

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

Interview with Mr J. S. Davin:-

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

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

Mr Davin began by impressing upon me the great difference between the hairdresser and the barber: the barber ~~cuts~~ cuts and shaves only and the general head is very rare. Men seldom go from one line to the other, but stick to the line in which they have started. Mr Davin'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/ being in;
 14/ Mr Davis considers the proper wage.
 Living 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 of a 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 ~~big~~ 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 fact 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 busier in the summer than the winter. In the summer Mr Davis 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 handiwork Mr Davis is not such a competent authority, but he says they not infrequently amount to £3 a week. It is however necessary that the handiwork in a good business should be a man of good education and appearance.

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

In the matter of earnings the

Small Master Parker 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 Davis complains the terribly long hours actually on duty, which he says amount in many cases to not less than 90 a week. However a large part of the time is spent in idleness especially in the afternoon, during which the men are very 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.

Mr Davis's clients with very few exceptions are either men who are not good workmen or they drink. Often a man can shave well, but not have body.

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 Bami's clients have been to ~~see~~ see every man 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 repugnance 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 Bami 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 Bami 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 Davis 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 eager to get away that he had assumed that 9 o'clock meant 9 o'clock a.m.

Age limit. Mr Davis 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 Davis was a very expert shaver, but he is so no longer. Masters 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 Davis 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-smoker working man on Saturday afternoon says "Come along, boy, you won't hurt me: damn it all, you can take mine off".

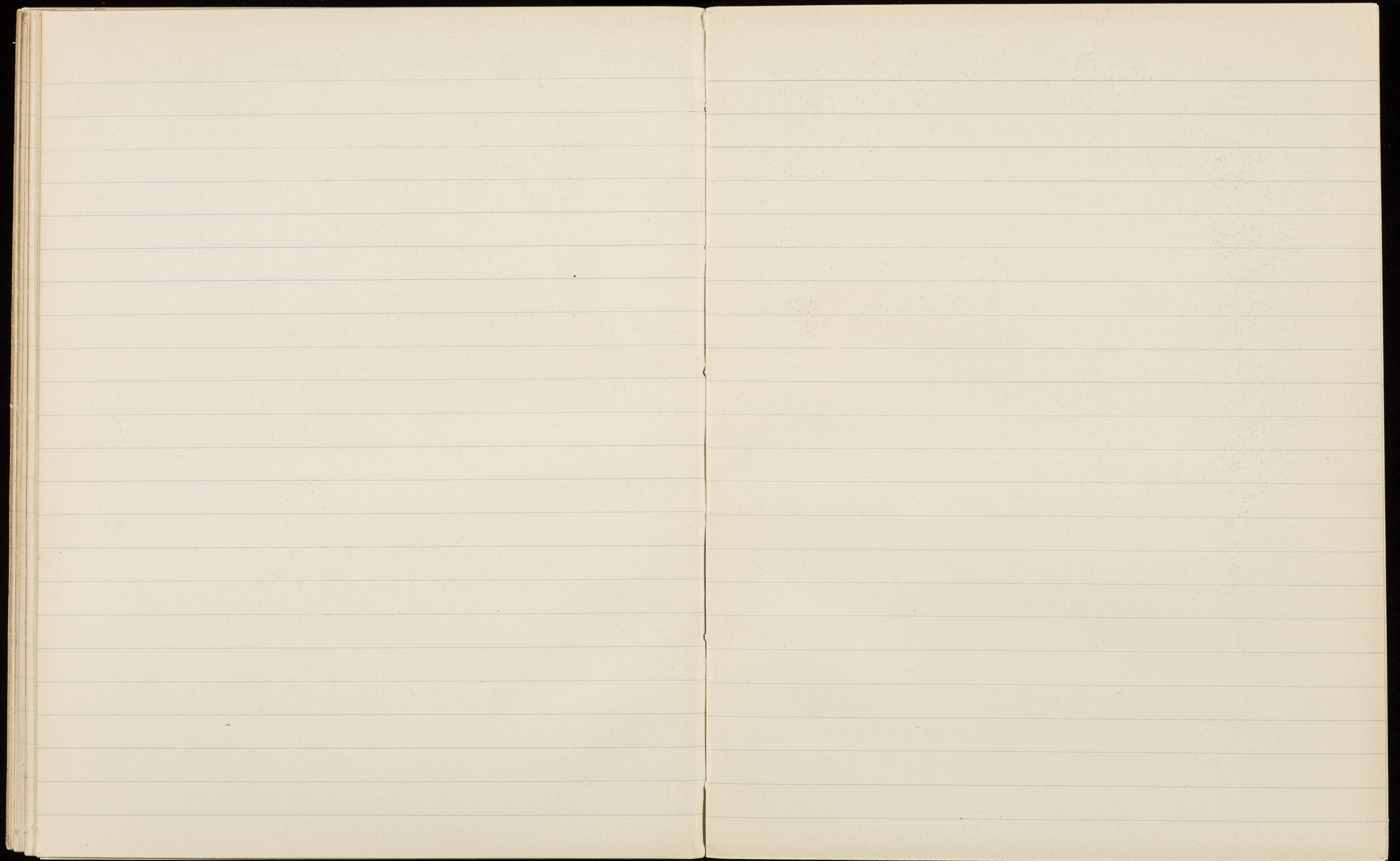
Sunday Opening. If there were no German butchers Mr Davis thinks that the Englishman could open among themselves to close on Sunday, but now if an Englishman were to close on Sunday it would only mean that a German would set up a shop close by and keep open.

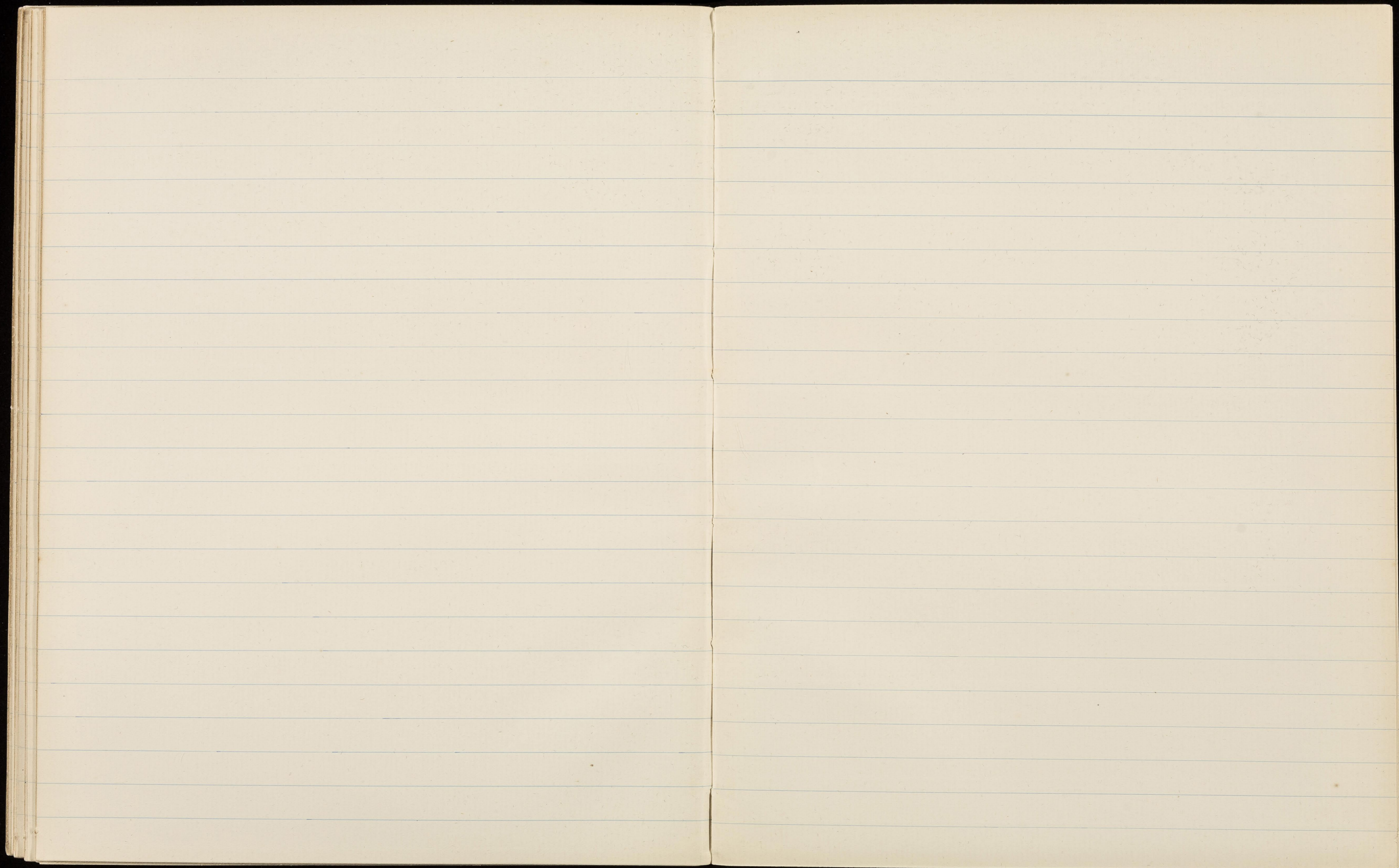
The Germans generally throughout the trade are in Mr Davis's opinion not such good workmen as the English, but they are much more industrious, sober, and clean, and for this reason many masters prefer them. The Englishman generally turns up at a temporary job "looking more like a

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 ~~the~~ 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 drunk 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 Barber 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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...within that "measurable" distance... a statesman was wont to quote... the question. How is this to be accomplished? ... 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 under a banner of the Guild, and a big assistants' union under the Journeymen's Society in London, the better it will be for the material interests of both employers and employed 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 logical, and face the facts.

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

and it possible for the Trade to coalesce? Aesop's "The Bundle of Sticks" proved the moral that "Strength" and the old saw that "Where there's a will, there's a way" is equally true. We do not pretend to propose a complete scheme of Trade amalgamation; but for the purpose of starting discussion venture to offer a few fundamental suggestions. If all the employers had agreed to accept or reject the employers' proposals. To accept such unions on either side would be easy if all the employers had agreed to accept or reject the employers' proposals. To accept such unions on either side would be easy if all the employers had agreed to accept or reject the employers' proposals. To accept such unions on either side would be easy if all the employers had agreed to accept or reject the employers' proposals.

and the mass of branches would expenses.

3. But apart from the scheme, why should not a start be at once made to combine in the matter of play, if not of words, why should there not be an annual ball of all Societies for the purpose of ball-entertainments? An annual ball of the Trade Press, it has to be noticed, attracts a greater or less coterie of parties, notice in the Trade Press, it has to be taken of ball-room, printing, stationery, postage, &c., and it passes out of the small profit; even if it escapes loss. But a united ball of the Trade would command attention in not alone the Trade organs, but in the mighty daily Press. A grand ball of the Amalgamated Hairdressers of the United Kingdom, 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 illustrated papers would depict it, the world of fashion would be compelled to give attention, the Hairdressing Trade would once assume a dignity and attain a status unknown, and in addition to unlimited profit might be expected. Did it ever occur to you that with more than half the community means hair-trimming, shaving, and shampooing, the exquisite art and aesthetic taste of the good ladies' hand is an unknown quantity. A Trade ball would put hairdressers on their proper level of artists in the manipulation of the human hair.

Here, then, at least is an opening for free, full and friendly fraternizing of the entire Trade, and such an amalgamated function may prove the stepping-stone to a broader and better amalgamation for purposes of 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 Continental Congeners." The writer is a gentleman of experience and trained observation, and the deduction draws should, we think, not only be of interest, but considerable value to our readers. While improved methods of transit are almost daily making the world smaller, the followers of every calling—more especially that which, like hairdressing, caters for the luxury of life, see that they keep abreast of the times. It is a direction that the value of such information as our contributor comes in.

In our Retrospect of 1894, in our last issue, a paragraph was inadvertently omitted.

Hairdressers' Early Closing Association of London.

THIS assistants' work during the year demonstrated being that, given the opportunity, the journeyman hairdresser is quite capable of holding his own in the company. During the year, two athletic meetings were 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 championship in walking and running, carrying with them valuable prizes open for competitions.