

WANT IS THE REAL SEDUCER OF OUR GIRLS, SAYS JANE ADDAMS OF HULL HOUSE

Having read the testimony of Julius Rosenwald and department stores, in which they take the position that low wages have no relation to white slavery, The Day Book here presents the testimony of Jane Addams, of Hull House, who needs no introduction to our readers:

By Jane Addams.

"Is it because our modern industrialism is so new that we have been slow to connect it with the poverty and vice all about us?"

The aphorism that "morals fluctuate with trade" was long considered cynical, but it has been demonstrated in Berlin, in London, in Japan, as well as in several American cities that there is a distinct increase in the number of registered prostitutes during periods of financial depression and even during the dull season of leading local industries."

"Out of work, hadn't been able to save," "Could not make enough money to live on," "I got sick and ran behind," are the explanations given by rescued girls at Hull House.

One girl said that she had first yielded to temptation when she had become utterly discouraged because she had tried in vain for seven months to save enough money for a pair of shoes. She habitually spent two dollars a week for her room, three dollars for her board, and sixty cents a week for carfare, and she found the forty cents remaining from her weekly wage of six dollars inadequate to do more than re-sole her old shoes twice.

When the shoes became too worn to endure a third soling and she possessed but ninety cents toward a new pair, she gave up her struggle; to use her own con-

temptuous phrase, she "sold out for a pair of shoes!"

Of course a girl in such a strait does not go out deliberately to find illicit methods of earning money—she simply yields in a moment of utter weariness and discouragement to the temptations she has been able to withstand up to that moment.

The long hours, the lack of comforts, the low pay, the absence of recreation, the sense of "good times" all about her which she cannot share, the conviction that she is rapidly losing health and charm, rouse the molten forces within her. A swelling tide of self-pity suddenly storms the banks which have hitherto held her and finally overcomes her instincts of decency and righteousness, as well as the habit of clean-living, established by generations of her forebears."

It is perhaps in the department store more than anywhere else