

universal demand of work people in all vocations, and with fixed hours of labor will come the ability to plan for recreation and social enjoyment, satisfying the gregarious instinct, and, in effect, bringing the question almost to the point of solution.

That the young women in America who lack the education needed for professional and commercial life in the broad sense have for two generations been turning toward any vocation other than that of household service is a definite fact which must be taken into account. It is not the work itself which is distasteful—for hotels have no difficulty in maintaining corps of efficient servants who fare worse and are paid less than those in private families. The troubles come in the uncertainty regarding the hours of labor and the lack of compatible human companionship. These provided for the matter rights itself; but, left unheeded, strikes and their concomitant discomforts are inevitable.

#### ANOTHER PHASE OF SERVANTGIRLISM.

The question of domestic service is brought into prominence once more by a strike of the Servant Girls' Union of West Superior, Wis., by which many of the families of that city are left to depend upon their own efforts for order, cleanliness, and victuals in the household. The affair is complicated by threats to extend the revolt to the neighboring and more famous Town of Duluth, giving the affair an inter-State aspect.

But the question itself, which as a topic of conversation divides the time of all good housewives with the equally immanent matter of the weather, is not one that the written law is likely to reach. It is of all the sociological questions presented to us the one before which American precedents and traditions stand most nearly helpless. Indeed, it is not, upon ultimate analysis, an American question at all, since in our ideal democratic republic all stand equal before the law and social barriers and distinctions are officially lacking. Our ancestors satisfied themselves with negroes and the children of their social equals when menial work beyond the ability or desire of their own families had to be undertaken, and the inheritance we have received from them did not contemplate any of the emergencies which have now arisen.

The problem which has become a burning one in West Superior is none the less vital throughout the land. Existing circumstances demand reform. The reform is not to come from those employed in domestic service less than those employing. It must be remembered that servants have feelings and passions no less than their employers and that like all rational human beings they need and demand human society. Miss Jane Addams, who has given the subject her customary intelligent investigation, recommends above all things that all matters which may be better or more economically done outside the home be taken from among the servants' responsibilities. Among these she enumerates the laundry work and much of the baking. This is a step toward giving fixed hours of labor, in accordance with the