

CHAPTER VIII

STANDARDS OF LIVING

ON the palatial steamers that nightly ply the Hudson River are powerful searchlights, the concentration of whose rays along the shore brings out in bold relief amid the surrounding darkness particular objects as they are passed by. Here it is a lighthouse, there a group of buildings; again some other object, as a landing or a section of the giant Palisades.

In like manner, figuratively, let us concentrate our mind's searchlight upon some of the more important industrial effects as the newer immigration stream has cut its channel among the population of the anthracite region of Pennsylvania. We shall necessarily have to pass over many important influences; in fact, we will have to centre attention almost wholly upon some phases of that industrial competition which this immigration has brought into play among the mine workers.*

The production of anthracite in the United States is confined within an area in northeastern Pennsylvania of seventeen hundred square miles having an actual coal area of only 485

* The material in this chapter, now revised and brought down to date, was originally presented in "The Slav Invasion and the Mine Workers," which book is out of print.