

attention to furnishing towels for the workers is due largely to thoughtlessness. In one modern factory which manufactured paper products the girls used the paper scraps for drying their hands, but since the paper was of the nonabsorbent variety this method was not particularly successful. When the agent, at the request of the manager, was enumerating some of the things about the plant which seemed unsatisfactory to her, she mentioned the lack of towels and expressed surprise at this oversight in a plant which had given more than average attention to the comfort of its workers. The manager had not thought it especially important, although in the past paper towels had been provided. According to his statement, these were often thrown down the toilets, and on one occasion the pipes had become clogged, causing a considerable loss in paper stock stored on the floor below. As the simplest remedy the paper towels had been removed without any further experimentation. In spite of this neglect the manager showed considerable curiosity as to what other firms were doing and what system might be adopted which would not involve too great expense.

No attempt has been made to summarize information as to the adequacy of washing facilities, but an example of extreme inadequacy was found in a factory engaged in the preparation of food. There was one enameled basin of ordinary household size for the use of 99 women, and one common towel daily was supplied for this same group of women. In another food-manufacturing plant there was neither hot water, soap, nor towels. In one establishment located in one of the smaller cities, no washing facilities whatsoever were provided, so that the workers could not wash before eating lunch nor before going home.

In laundries workers were often expected to use the net bags in which laundry was placed and in other instances they were free to take towels sent in to be laundered, which were then washed again. Definite provision for towels was seldom made. One laundry visited, however, was equipped with the "pull-over" type of individual towel. Towel service would seem to be less of a burden in laundries than elsewhere, and yet it was seldom found in these establishments.

Reports on towel equipment were obtained for 18 restaurants in Chicago and for 19 in other places. In 4 restaurants in Chicago a common towel was supplied for some of or all the workers, and in 9 restaurants located elsewhere in the State that condition obtained. In Chicago there were 3 restaurants and in the other places 2 in which no towels were furnished.

Toilet equipment.

Certain standards for toilet facilities in factories, stores, laundries, and other places of work have been laid down by the laws of the State of Illinois. Separate toilet rooms must be provided for men and women, and such rooms must be plainly designated. One toilet seat must be provided for every 25 women, the rooms must be properly inclosed, and there must be separate ventilation for each room when direct outside ventilation is impractical. Artificial light is to be provided wherever the natural light is not adequate.¹

¹ Revised statutes of Illinois, 1917, ch. 48, sec. 108.

