

and mean houses are necessary as dwellings for the working classes. Such a defence of the system here condemned is inadmissible in presence of the examples of Glasgow and Edinburgh. By the employment of the system of flats—where each family has its own door in a building common to several—houses of lofty and substantial proportion may be rendered available for persons and families receiving weekly wages. In this way the fine public buildings which are to be found amongst all our large towns would not necessarily present such a frightful contrast to the meaner architecture of the streets; but a fitting harmony of effect would pervade the whole of the buildings, both public and private, of cities and towns. The metropolis of the British Empire itself is a conspicuous example of a city in which structures of the grandest proportions, and of elaborate workmanship, stand in striking contrast to streets of houses without architectural beauty.

It is with those materials which nature has so lavishly supplied that we have here to do; and in the following pages the attempt has been made to deal with them in a manner which, while in accordance with our scientific knowledge, does not overlook their practical application; the illustrations of the application of most of these materials to sculpture and architecture may, it is hoped, in-