

### THE TRAMP EVIL.

In view of the prospect that during the coming fall months the tramp evil will be greatly increased a paper on the subject in the *Forum* magazine for August is of special interest and it offers some valuable suggestions. Professor McCook, of Hartford, Conn., is the writer, and his conclusions are deduced from statistics gathered from the tramps themselves, carefully collated and classified. He finds that 57.4 per cent of the large number investigated have trades, employments and professions requiring skill. Sixteen only out of 1,349 had no regular calling. In physical condition 83.5 per cent were able bodied, and the great majority were between 20 and 40 years of age. He estimates that the tramp class in its normal condition numbers 45,845, or one fourth of 1 per cent of the male population, and that to sustain this indolent army costs \$9,000,000 a year, nearly all of which must be taken from the productive industries. That nearly all of these professional idlers are intemperate will surprise nobody—they admit it. In a word there is no excuse for the continued existence of the evil except by the toleration of society.

The remedy which is proposed is warranted by the demoralizing character of the evil, and could work no wrong to anybody, however worthy of charity, while it would offer a protection to the people which may at any time become of the highest necessity. He would have the lodging of tramps in station houses stopped, cleanliness insisted on, a system of registration such as is used in Germany established, proper places of detention provided, unity of action between different communities in dealing with vagrants, and above all a stop put to indiscriminate charity. Public opinion should readily indorse all of these suggestions, and at least the German system put in operation at the earliest moment.