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EDITORIAL

THE COLLECTIVE DR. HOSEA HABAKKUKS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MACY & Co. are to have a summering place for their overworked girls.

Quite typical of the capitalist system is the Macy & Co. move.

The story bears repetition of the Yankee named Hosea Habakkuk who went West, set up his shingle in the village of his adoption as a physician, and was the same night waked up by violent raps at his door. The Dr. came to the door and inquired what was amiss. "Hurry up, Dr.," said the stranger; "my child is taken sick with the smallpox; come and cure it!" The learned Dr. fumbled in his pockets for paper and pencil, wrote out a prescription, and handed it to the anxious father with the words: "I know nothing about smallpox: give the little cuss this: it will throw him into fits: then call for me again: I have graduated on fits."

What is Macy & Co., with their summering place for their overworked girls, but an aggravated case of Dr. Hosea Habakkuk and his pills intended to throw little cusses into fits, that he will then cure them of, his specialty being fits?

Common sense would say, Why overwork the girls at all? Why pay them, on top of overwork, such niggardly wages that they need the charity of a charitable summering place to recuperate?

The answer is simple—The capitalist class is a collective Dr. Hosea Habakkuk. Its specialty is to throw the little cuss of society into fits. Occasionally, like the present fit which fit the little cuss has not yet recovered from, the fit convulses the little cuss half to death, and then Dr. Hosea Habakkuk, is fetched in and benevolently does the J.P. Morgan act, and "administers to the little cuss." Other times the Dr. is a manufacturer, who pills his hands for fits, and, when the fit is at its height, he comes in, and with true Captain of Industry sagacity assumes the cure. Other times it is a Macy & Co. that throws its woman employes into the fits of overwork, an accomplishment in which the firm is an expert, and then benevolently

assumes the function of cure. And so on.

It is a leading feature of capitalist society—whether in public or private function—to endeavor to cure society of the fits that itself throws society into.

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