

GREATER NEEDS THAN FIRE DRILLS.**Miss Florence Kelley Points Out Defects in Factories and Sweat Shops.**

Miss Florence Kelley, State Factory Inspector, seemed to think yesterday there are other things more needed than a life-saving drill in the factories and sweat-shops.

"The subject of a drill," she said, "is one I have not given sufficient thought to be able to express an opinion. Before we are ready for that we need to put up fire-escapes to all these buildings and make accessible those already in place. I am willing to go on record as saying the State of Illinois, which practically means Chicago, has the poorest fire-escape system of any manufacturing State in the Union. It is the only State in which the State Factory Inspectors have no authority. They have no power, either in respect to fire-escapes or in any other provision for saving life and limb.

"A bill was introduced in the last Legislature drafted for the purpose of giving the Illinois Factory Inspectors the same powers and duties in regard to fire-escapes, elevator guards, hoist-ways, shafting and belting, and the guarding of dangerous machinery that factory inspectors have had many years in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Missouri. But the bill was killed by the Senators and Representatives from Chicago.

"In going about in Chicago we find many factories that have no fire escapes at all. We make a row about it often, although it is supposed to be none of our business. The escapes that are up are often inaccessible. The windows leading to them we find nailed down for fear of burglars. In many places the windows are barricaded by packing boxes and piles of material used in manufacture, so as to be entirely useless in case of sudden need."

Miss Kelley referred to a four-story building, No. 82 Wilson street, as one of the buildings which had, until recently, had no fire escape. She was not inclined to talk of the drill among employes until better facilities for their escape were provided. The only thing she would say was she thought many of those who did piece work would not be willing to take the time from their work.

Mrs. Clara Doolittle, who has been employed in the Sanitary Department of the city looking through factories and sweat-shops, thought the idea of a life-saving drill a good one.

"I believe," she said, "any set of men and women, when their attention is called to it, would be willing to take a short time twice a week to go through a drill. In many cases the drill could be gone through on Saturday afternoon, when the factories close early."

Andrew Young of the Health Department said: "I believe the drill would be a great thing and I don't see how any factory owner could have the moral courage to object to it. I am an army man myself and I realize the force of discipline wherever the lives of a large number of people are concerned."