

Textile Factories

Underneath the huge spinning mules small, young children (ages 5-8) worked from 6 am to 8:30 pm crawling under the machines picking up the cotton. The air in the factory was filled with fibrous dust which produced many new fatal lung and chest diseases. They were given a half an hour for lunch.

Handwritten signature or name



Young girls stood
over machines in
the same position
from 6 am to 7 pm making
linen. Standing with their
left shoulder up, head
down and right knee bent
for twelve hours a day led
to severe bone deformity at
an early age.

Making Linen

Death Certificate of Sarah Bentley

HANDOUT 2j

AGE:

12

BORN:

May 14, 1820

DEATH:

June 20, 1832

PLACE:

City of Leeds, Great Britain

OCCUPATION:

Linen Maker

SYMPTOMS:

Blood spitting

Heavy coughing

Hard, noisy breathing

Pains in the chest

CAUSE OF DEATH: Dust accumulation throughout
lungs led to TB or Pneumonia

DOCTOR JEREMY BRISTOL, M.D.

Dr. Jeremy Bristol, M.D.
Signature

PLACE: City of Leeds

DATE: June 22, 1832

Doctor John Black M.D.
Mr. John Black
Signature

On Tuesday September 1, 1812, I examined Elizabeth Shaw. The patient walks lamely or awkwardly with a raised chest and a curved neck. She complains of constant neck pain which I will attempt to alleviate with medication.

DIAGNOSIS: Upper Neck Bone Deformity

DATE: September 1, 1812

PLACE: Birmingham

AGE: 10

OCCUPATION: Linen Machine Operator

NAME: Elizabeth Shaw

September 1, 1812

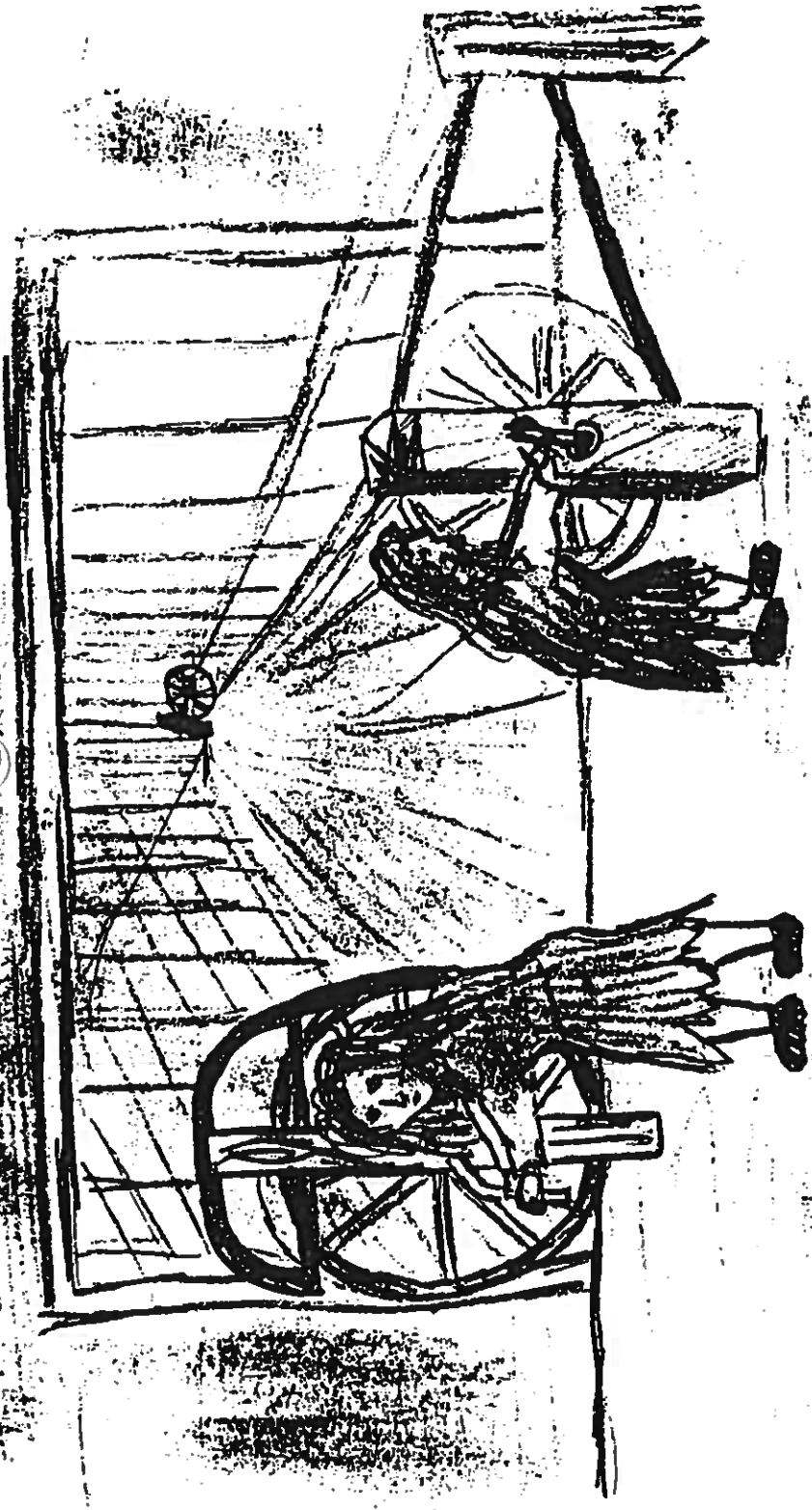
Dr. John Black, M.D.

A. Briggs
1818

*“Locked up in factories eight stories high,
he has no relaxation till the ponderous engine
stops; and then he goes home to get refreshed
for the next day; no time for sweet association
with his family; they are all alike fatigued
and exhausted.”*

*Description of the day in the life
of a child working
in a factory in Leeds*

HANDOUT 2M



Wm. L. G. G.

I think it had been clearly proved that children have been worked a most unreasonable and cruel length of time daily. Work in the factories could be as long as fourteen hours a day, starting at six in the morning for six days a week. Factories, especially the cotton mills, were often damp with poor ventilation. Sanitation usually consisted of no more than a bucket in a corner. The consequence is that many have died prematurely, and others are afflicted for life with defective constitutions.

Friedrich Engels. The Conditions of the Working Class in England; London: George Allen and Irwin, 1892.

**Work Schedule for Drury Cotton Mill,
Manchester, 1823**

Name	Start	Break	Finish
Bill (Age 10)	5 am	2-2:30 pm	7 pm
Tom (Age 7)	5 am	2-2:30 pm	7 pm
Lizzy (Age 7)	5 am	2-2:30 pm	7 pm
Marion (Age 8)	7 pm	2-2:30 am	7 am
Harry (Age 9)	7 pm	2-2:30 am	7 am

Martha Coleridge
Age 10

Many times when I came to work the hands of the clock were set forward by 20 minutes resulting in a fine to many of the children. When the children complained, the overseers beat and whipped the children so severely that they fell to the floor in the course of the beating crying for mercy.

November 22, 1830

Testimony of Martha Coleridge to The Sadler Commission

The Factory Act of 1833

Be it enacted that no person under eighteen years of age shall be allowed to work in the night in or about any cotton, woollen, linen, or silk mill or factory, where steam, water, or any other mechanical power is used to work the machinery. Night hours are between half past eight o'clock in the evening and half past five in the morning.

And be it further enacted that no person under the age of eighteen years shall be employed in any such mill or factory more than twelve in one day, nor more than sixty-nine hours in any one week.

And be it further enacted that there shall be allowed every day not less than one and one-half hours for meals to every such person.

And it shall not be lawful for any person whatsoever to employ in any factory or mill any child under nine years old.

And be it further enacted that no child between the age of nine and thirteen years shall be employed in any mill or factory more than nine hours in one day, nor more than forty-eight hours in any one week.

And it shall be lawful for his majesty (the king of England) to appoint four persons to be inspectors of factories and places where the labour of children and young persons under eighteen years of age is employed.

FINES FOR COTTON WORKERS

Fine

Any spinner found letting go of the spindle

2 s

Any spinner found being 5 minutes late

1 s

Any spinner found talking

1 s

Any spinner found opening a window

1 s

Any spinner found being sick who cannot find another spinner to take his place must pay for steam per day

6 s

Any spinner found with dirty hands and clothes at work

2 s

Any spinner found washing himself

1 s

Any spinner found leaving his oil can out of his place

2 s

Any spinner found putting his gashlight on too long in the morning or too soon at night

1 s