

the ambulance to the homes of the most helpless of the children, and in the afternoon she sees these same children safely home again.

During the forenoon those who have sores are dressed by the nurse in the school surgery. These comprise tubercular hips, knees, and other joints.

Massage is given at the school to a few cases of infantile paralysis, but there is not much time for this.

Instead of the children going home to dinner at mid-day, a substantial meal is provided in the school building.

It is painful to watch the little twisted bodies as they hobble off, many of them on crutches to their dinner. A few are too ill even to hobble, and these lie in special carriages out in the garden, most of them doing some work with their fingers.

In the dining-room are long tables, covered with white cloths and bright cutlery. All looks attractive, and most of the children's faces brighten when once they are seated in their places. After grace has been said, they are allowed to talk to one another. At one time silence was compulsory, but the nurse now in charge believes in letting the children have as much liberty as possible. It may be a little noisy for the workers (although too much noise is checked), but it certainly brightens the hour for the little ones.

Girls are served first, and all must use their knife and fork properly. These meals are a means of education to the children for very few of them come to school with good table manners. The dinners provided are always nourishing and plentiful, and the children are taught to eat everything set before them.

On one day of the week there is a roast joint with potatoes, followed by a milk pudding and stewed fruit. On another day the fare is meat stew and a suet pudding.

The children's parents are supposed to pay 2d. for each dinner. No child, however, is denied a dinner because he fails to produce the 2d.

The school hours are the same as for the infant department of the Council schools. The children are taught to make kindergarten toys, etc., and to become skilful with their fingers. Reading, writing, and arithmetic may not enter so much into their days as into that of healthy children, but to learn to occupy their time and make most of their handicapped lives is no small thing.

From an outsider's point of view it seemed a pity that children with open tuberculous wounds should occupy the same class-room as dwarfed children, or those crippled from rickets, but otherwise free from disease.

However, all the rooms were well ventilated, and the teachers took a very practical and affectionate interest in each of their little invalid scholars. There are Council schools for the education of the deaf and the blind. In the former lip language is taught. Children from outside Leeds are received as boarders.

On the morning that I visited this school, the scholars present numbered 138. There seems to be no special theory with regard to deafness except that it is sometimes hereditary, and that the children of parents who are nearly related are more likely to be deaf than others. A few cases can be traced to abscesses or to injuries received during infancy.

The Blind School has accommodation for between 80 and 90 pupils. These children board at the school. They are taught to read Braille type, and to write.

Some of the older ones learn type-writing. And the little ones are taught to make baskets and toys, while those with an ear for music have lessons on the piano. About 90 per cent. of the cases of blindness are due to ophthalmia neonatorum. It would make this article too long to describe in detail the work of the Deaf and Blind Schools.

The Invalid Children's Aid Society have workrooms in Leeds, and it is the aim of this Society to pass the crippled children on from the schools into the workrooms. The boys learn to mend shoes and in some cases to make them. They are also taught to repair kettles and pots, and to do all kinds of soldering work. For their first three months in the I.C.A.S. work-rooms they receive no pay, but at the end of that time they earn a small wage.

Most of them get very good situations as cobblers, and, as their teacher said, earn as much money "as straight lads." This branch of the work is self-supporting.

The girls are taught plain sewing and simple dress-making. I saw about twenty of them at work one morning, many of them very deformed, and some unable to move without crutches. They turn out very dainty and useful articles, but unfortunately the girls' work-room does not nearly pay its way.

Besides the institutions mentioned in this paper, there are others for alleviating the lot of delicate children. It is still easier in the West Riding of Yorkshire to get assistance for invalids rather than for those who will in course of time become invalids if they are not helped. But a better day, we hope, is dawning, when something practical will be done to stop the manufacture of invalids and cripples.

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