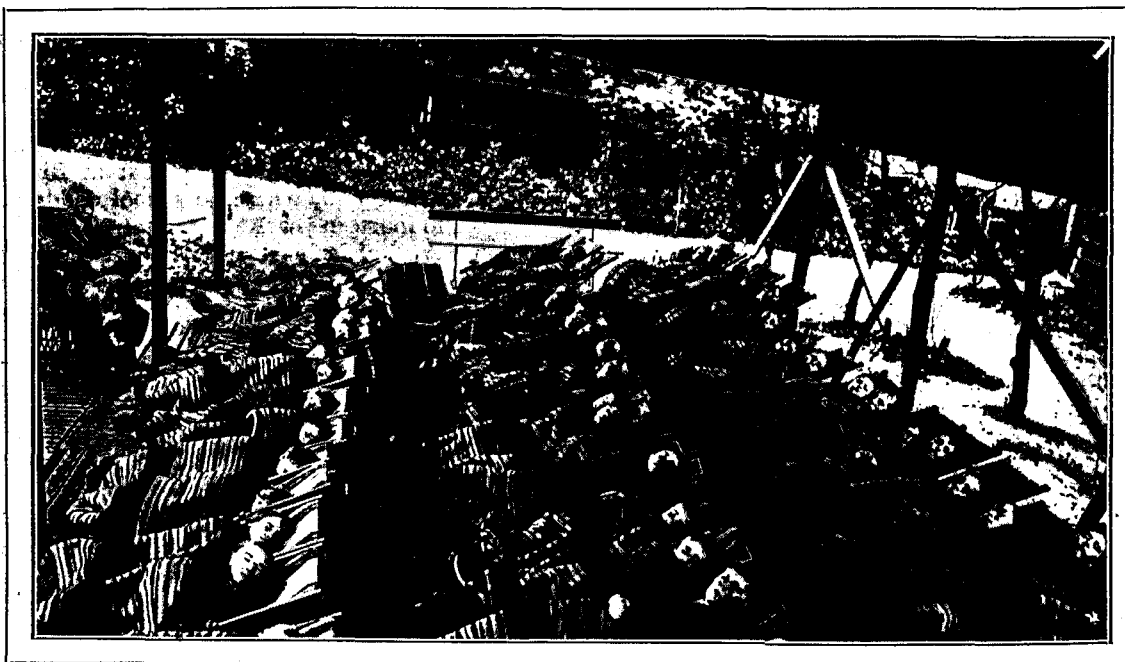


with every latest appliance will suppose on his return to the ordinary tenement that a bath is unattainable, whereas an ordinary zinc or other tub is easily obtainable.

On arrival the children have their first meal. Let no one think that this provision of meals is merely to relieve parents of their rightful responsibility. In the first place, those parents who are able are expected to contribute towards the cost; and, secondly, the question is often not so much one of providing sufficient and wholesome meals, as of dieting a child whose digestion is out of order, and therefore really comes under the heading of medical treatment.

difficulty is experienced in inducing them to do so, but eventually it is overcome, to the great benefit of the child, as reference to the weight record on the carefully kept charts in reference to each child, showing height, weight, and hæmoglobin, will show.

Lunch is served at 11—bread and butter or dripping in the summer, and hot soup in the winter. Dinner at one o'clock consists of joints, fish, meat puddings, two vegetables, puddings (jam, fruit, or milk), or stewed fruit. Tea at five includes milk, bread-and-butter (brown, white, currant), jam, cake, or fruit once a week. All this at a cost of 2s. 6d.



BIRLEY HOUSE SCHOOL, FOREST HILL, TWO HOURS' NAP EVERY AFTERNOON.

It is in such cases that the supervision of a trained nurse is invaluable.

The ordinary meals are served in a "feeding shed," which is really a shelter roofed over and open on all four sides. Ten children sit at each table, with a "father" and "mother," *i.e.*, monitors chosen by the children themselves presiding at each table. The master, Mr. A. J. Green, and the staff have their meals at a separate table in the same place, and by this means, largely through control exercised by the children themselves, table manners are instilled, and little supervision on the part of the teachers is necessary.

Breakfast, served at 9 o'clock, consists of porridge, milk, or bread and milk. At first new children are averse to taking the milk, and

per week per child. Although the meals have been served in the open air all the year round, for the last two years, and the house is never used for lessons, no child has ever complained of the cold. On cold days they are clad in blanket coats, and mackintoshes and clogs are provided in wet weather and for garden work. These coats, warm and cosy, made of half blankets, are to be seen hanging in rows on a stand provided for the purpose, and on the reverse side the mackintoshes, which, if need be, cover the children right up, and the weather must be bad indeed which penetrates through the thickness of the clogs.

One very important point is insisted on with these children, who come from crowded homes

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)