

PORTLAND, OREGON, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1912

A NATION POISONED by the ILLS of POVERTY



A School Class in Nursing.

Because an Army of School Children Is Being Allowed to Starve by Inches, the Whole Community Is Being Infected

TEN per cent of the children in the city schools of the United States are underfed.

Twenty-three per cent of the children of working men in the great cities of the United States do not get enough to eat.

Sixty per cent of the backward and mentally defective children found in the schools are marked examples of malnutrition.

The children of one typical American working man's family in every eleven families whose yearly income is \$1000, do not get enough to eat.

The children in three out of four typical working men's families whose income is less than \$600 a year do not get enough to eat.

The percentage of underfed children in the schools is lower than the percentage of those who do not get enough to eat among the mass of the people largely because so many die before they are old enough to reach school and be counted.

Loathsome, deforming, fatal and contagious diseases are among the accompaniments of the poor American child's malnutrition. The children of the prosperous and the well-fed are exposed to the infections.

Conditions in the United States are similar to those found all over Europe.

There is no radical cure, except the abolition of poverty.

Here, in statements as bare and precise as the English language affords for the facts as they appear on expert, scientific investigation, is the appalling summary of conditions as they exist in the United States at this hour.

THE facts do not become apparent from the investigations of one authority alone. The more salient among them are garnered from a careful study of the investigations and observations made by all the leading observers here and abroad. Sidelights, illuminating and equally appalling, are flung upon the hideous truths by educators of international fame.

Great Britain has just discovered that the terrible consequences of the various forms of starvation among school children, grouped under the one word "malnutrition," are not confined to the first victims alone. Directly and indirectly all such starvations contribute to the sum total of diseases which are transmissible to children who do not get enough to eat. The evil, therefore, reveals itself in a new and more terrible light. Society, by reason of the hunger it tolerates, is

not killing, stunting, deforming and crushing intellectually the starved children alone. It is maintaining thousands of sources of infection, ranging from repulsive skin disease to deadly tuberculosis, which taint the whole body of the nation.

The evil, presenting the same consequences in the United States, becomes hydra-headed, involved and infinitely complicated. All its many phases are included in the general term "malnutrition."

The psychological clinic of the University of Pennsylvania, under the direction of Prof. Lightner Witmer, long had occasion to investigate the problem of malnutrition due to insufficient feeding. Many children brought to the psychological clinic are backward in mental development and show physical defects of which the primary cause is insufficient nutrition and unhygienic home conditions. Doctor Witmer has also served on a committee of the Home and School League which, for the last two years, has had in hand an important experiment in school feeding.

The work of this committee demonstrates the co-operation of philanthropy, science and education in investigating the facts of underfeeding and in experimenting with methods of alleviating the unfortunate situation of so many hundreds of children in various cities. H. C. Bonnell, as chairman of the committee of the Home and School League, has been the active agent in promoting a piece of work which is attracting the attention of all parts of the country. It is the first important effort made to feed school children and at the same time to



Household Tasks Now Taught at Many Schools.

These pictures illustrate work that is being done in many schools of the country, as leading educators believe that a knowledge of housekeeping and sanitation will aid the poorer classes in remedying many of the ills here described.

study conditions and results. The results have been assembled from all sources that could contribute facts of value—from the observations of Otto T. Mallery, president of the Education Association, equally active in playgrounds and school feeding; Miss Alice C. Boughton, who has provided luncheons for school children, and Miss Mary L. Leeds, whose very important work has been the study of home conditions. The state of affairs in all the large cities of the United States has been subjected to comprehensive study and thorough analysis, such as probably no other expert, or group of experts, could bring to bear. The figures palpitate with the life of the myriads who supply them.

The psychological clinic has for some years found it necessary to provide board and lodging, as well as training, for some of the children under its care. Last summer a definite experiment was made of providing noonday meals in connection with a class of backward children. This experiment was under the direction of Mrs. Louise S. Bryant, who is in charge of the social service department of the psychological clinic.

It is from the intimate knowledge of the facts in his own possession and that of his assistants that Doctor Witmer makes the impressive review of existing conditions which follows:

"Technically, malnutrition is the condition arising when, for any reason, the body's tissues are not receiving enough nourishment, first, to supply the energy needed, and, second, to supply the materials of which the tissues are built.

"Two forms of malnutrition are generally found. One is where the child is strong enough, so far as the normal amount of tissue goes, but

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First Aid to the Injured.