

girls are shown how a banana crate can be converted into an excellent baby's cot.

Although it is usually found necessary to make use of a doll for demonstrations, it has been found possible in a fair number of cases to arrange for the children to see, even if they cannot actually participate, in the washing, dressing and feeding of a real baby. At Bradford there are evening classes for mothers with their babies, conducted by trained nurses.

Boys who turn up at Wolverhampton schools with dirty faces and hands are sent to the lavatory to wash. The teachers call attention to torn clothing, missing buttons and unclean boots. In one school, as the result of the cleansing reform the number of scholars wearing collars, originally only 5 per cent., was increased to 80 per cent., and this without compulsion.

"Many of the teachers are enthusiasts, and the amount they do for the children is astonishing. These are a combination of health visitors, school-nurse, and boot club."—From report of School Medical Officer of West Riding.

Shower baths for elementary schools have recently been sanctioned in nine cases. The bath is usually available for all children and avowedly forms part of the training of the child, and is supervised by the teaching staff. As a rule, the children are bathed once a week.

Dr. Hawkes examined 1,581 children attending three schools of the poorer classes for "flat-foot." He found 65.4 of the boys, and 64. of the girls were affected to a greater or less degree. In 28.8 per cent. of the boys and 31.7 per cent. of the girls the second stage of true flat-foot had been reached. The defect, it was discovered, becomes more marked during periods of sudden increase in stature or height.

Excluding London, the number of meals provided for necessitous children has fallen from 8,766,635 to 7,734,242. In London the total number of meals increased from 7,300,000 to 1,100,000.

Committee for Aiding the Blind in France.

At the suggestion of the *Committee for Aiding the Blind in France*, there has just been established in that country a commission of specialists who are to study the relations of illumination to health. Half

a dozen lines of research have already been outlined by the commission, among which may be noted the investigation of ocular hygiene with relation to general health, taking into consideration the various means of lighting in actual use. The hygienic qualities of different illuminants will be investigated and determined, including such items as eye-strain, noxious gases and development of heat. The work will be continued towards the determination of the minimum quantity of light compatible with the normal functioning of the eye, incidental to which will be the establishment of rational standards of luminosity and practical ways of measuring them. Some attention will be paid to the matter of special kinds of illumination suitable for different lines of work, and, in conclusion, the commission will seek what light it can get on the causes of myoma and discuss possible means of prevention.

Austrian Prophylactic Society.

A society for the prevention of diseases and epidemics (*Gesellschaft zur Bekämpfung von Volksseuchen*) has been founded in Austria which will act in concert with the Public Board of Health and the Sanitary Department of the Ministry of the Interior. Its aims are to supplement the endeavors of the public authorities in combating diseases, to improve the general circumstances of patients and their families belonging to the poorer classes, to provide adequately trained attendants for the care and nursing of patients during epidemics, and to organize medical help and hospital accommodation in non-epidemic times. The society will also encourage investigation relative to the spread of diseases, as well as their prophylaxis and treatment, and will, so far as possible, make the general public acquainted with the results of these scientific researches. The society will endeavor to improve the knowledge, not only of the so-called epidemics, but also of all diseases which prevail extensively. The present intention is that the scientific part of the work shall be divided amongst all practitioners in the country through the instrumentality of the local medical unions and councils. It is thought possible that an international society for the study of epidemic diseases may in the course of time be called into existence.