

by Mr. Robert Hunter, that in New York City alone from 60,000 to 70,000 school children were suffering from underfeeding, thousands being sent to school without any breakfast. As a consequence of this revelation, Mr. John Spargo made a very careful investigation by visiting the schools, and interviewing the teachers, had the homes visited by trained investigators, also obtained the testimony of physicians of large experience among the poor, also the heads of large hospitals, dispensaries and those engaged in mission work, all of whom, from their experience and personal observations, were of the opinion that Mr. Hunter had, if anything, underrated the extent of the evil. Mr. Spargo's investigations revealed the fact that there are in the United States nearly 3,000,000 children underfed, and therefore under-developed, mentally and physically. A very large per cent. of those admitted into the hospitals and seen at the dispensary were there as the result of either from underfeeding or improper feeding.

In a recent letter in the *B. M. J.*, from Leeds, where the matter of underfed children has been investigated by the Educational Committee, they discovered that almost 7,000 underfed children were in attendance at the elementary schools. Dr. Wm. Hall, a retired physician, made some careful experiments with these children by procuring for each child one good adequate meal a day. In two weeks' time some of the half-starved little mites of seven and eight years of age gained in weight at a rate that would have averaged nearly thirty pounds a year for each.

That this condition exists to a greater or less degree in our own cities is a lamentable fact. I have learned from those engaged in mission work in the poorer parts of Toronto that hundreds of children go to school with nothing but a piece of bread and jam or bread and butter, and there are numbers of homes in which no table is set from morning till night, the little tots simply go to the cupboard and get what they can. What has been found in many places is: new bread, butter, and an open can of salmon, or lobsters, or jam, and in many cases bread alone; and in many others the children are sent with baskets to the hotels for the scraps, and these scraps constitute their *menu* for the day. So that it is evident that our children are suffering more from improper feeding than insufficient. We are practically in our infancy yet, but we must profit by the experience of older nations and prepare to avert the disaster.

I regret that time will not permit of my making but a brief