

Out there among the rolling hills of Loudoun County, Virginia in the midst of a fertile area where hogs, cattle, dairy cows, corn, wheat, grass, and poultry are abundant there nestles a little school house that we want to demoninate the locus or situs of our interest. It is a stone house just celebrating its sixtieth birthday - almost as old as Virginia's state-wide public school system and one of the oldest of all the school buildings in the county. In the midst of a consolidating era Silcott Springs school, its teacher Mrs. G. G. Mayse, and its 20 children still carry on at the old scene but not entirely in the old way.

The situation and experiences here almost take us back to the "Starving Time" at Jamestown and to that first dreadful winter at "Plymouth" for verily there is want among the children of this school. Twelve families w are represented - yet not a family own their own home.

The energetic teacher of the school is alove to the situation. She has a true conception of her job. She fears not the sharp criticism of those from our President down who would eliminate the "frills" from public schools and yet do not because they dare not name the frills. She knows that frills are merely the least useful activities of the school, those doing least to fill the wants of life needs of the children. She knowsm that these children and their parents need most to become self-supporting and to become able to fear no more the wolf of hunger and cold.

So in addition to training these 20 children, whose ages range from 5 to 13, and grades from 1 to 7, in the subjects required by statute, Mrs' Mayse has been ever alert to provide for their ~~haxily~~ bodily needs - food, clothing, and cleanliness, and consequently, health.

The writer visited the school a few days ago. Outside it appeared sturdy but cold and gray and bleak. Inside were cheer, and warmth and activity and enhanced by the subshine of human ~~xxxx~~ souls and the glow of human sympathy. The school, teacher and pupils were at work with their daily lessons. But there were visitors. Mothers were there, older sisters, too. Then from the neighboring town of Purcellville had come some women out of friendship for human kind. The welfare worker of the county, Mrs. Melvin, was present.

A pressure cooker sat on the stove effervescing the odor of satisfying soup. Two sewing machines were in evidence, a large table filled a space between the desks. The visitors were busily engaged, measuring, cutting and sewing garments for the children.

Already a store of provisions has been laid by for use at lunch time during the school year. The inventory shows 90 quarts of canned soup, 53 pints of grape butter, and 25 bushels of apples.

A casual visitor in their school may find some of the children in recitation and some studying. Others may be in the little front hallway washing or ironing the school clothes, others may be preparing the soup vegetables or opening cans of vegetables for the lunch hour soup. It may be dish washing time. Or a "big girl" may be sewing garments of Red Cross material or making over some second hand clothes to fit a child in the school.

Verily here is a school administering to the daily physical needs of children in such a manner that they are better fitted to carry on their activities that result in mental growth and development.