



INMATES' DINING ROOM.



THE PLAYGROUND.



Photos by Waverley.

SWIMMING BATHS, BURNHAM SCHOOL.

the more regular work would be better for them than the uneven discipline of some young and perhaps inexperienced housewife.

The dormitories are roomy, bright places, well ventilated, and better fitted up than those of many boarding schools. The girls' dormitory, is especially nice with its gay coverlets and its flowers. There were evidences of refinement and artistic taste shown in a simple manner all through the girls quarters, and these evidences are only part of the influence Mrs Palethorpe, the matron, is exerting among the girls. Mrs Palethorpe has the sensible and broad-minded idea that such girls as come to Burnham will develop a spirit of self-respect more quickly under neat and comfortable surroundings than under the iron system of some institutions. She encourages the spirit of self-respect by giving the girls a pride in themselves and their belongings, by giving them neat and suitable dresses and attractive rooms, and by developing their individuality, thus helping to build up that subtle feminine dignity which we know as womanly refinement.

I am sure there are few girls among the poorer classes who have such pleasant quarters and such advantages of training as the Burnham girls, and if it were not for the foolish fear of antecedents, girls might be as proud of saying they were trained at Burnham as at some College.

If Mrs Palethorpe is doing good work in her departments Mr Palethorpe is doing good work in his. He brings a clear business mind to bear on the innumerable details of school management, and he aims at making the boys practical and self-reliant.

This sketch of mine gives an outline of the industrial school system. It is undoubtedly more liberal and advanced than that adopted by any older country; but whether it is the best we can devise for New Zealand is a question not easily settled. Mr W. P. Reeves, as Minister of Education, took great interest in Burnham. As a man of advanced socialistic ideas who has fought strongly for the advancement of the poorer classes, it was only natural that he should see that even the children of criminals should have the right to food, clothing, and education; but from what I can learn both he and Mr W. J. Habens, the Secretary of Education, who has an intimate knowledge of the working of our Industrial Schools, believe that there is a big error made in mixing children criminally inclined with others whose only crime is poverty, and the latest idea is to place as many children as possible either with foster parents or in service. This seems to me too much like a reversion to the workhouse system which Dickens painted in 'Oliver Twist,' and may be open to many abuses in spite of district visitors and monthly report. The Industrial School is a long way ahead of the boarding-out method, for in the school the children can be properly educated, and trained, whilst the influence of foster parents is often bad, and their rule sometimes cruel. To me it seems that if the children were taught to look upon the school as it really is instead of as an awful reformatory, and if some method could be devised for drafting off the worst characters, such places as Burnham would be among the most useful of our educational establishments.

BALLADE OF BUSINESS LETTERS.

DEAR Sir (or Sirs):—they re-started so—
Your valued favour of—(the date)—
Has come to hand. We give below
Our prices, and beg leave to state.
Upon the terms you indicate
Your order will (no if's or and's!)
Receive attention adequate.
Awaiting your esteemed commands.—

Dear sir:—(or Sirs, if there's a Co.)
To-day we're very pleased to slate
Your kind permission. Goods will go
A month hence by the fastest freight.
We trust you will not hesitate
To order in our other brands—
Each one is better than its mate!
Awaiting your esteemed commands.—

Dear Sir: (or Sirs): Please let us know
How long we must anticipate
The payment of account you owe
Now long past due. While we should hate
(Collection to accelerate)
The matter in our lawyer's hands
To place—we can no longer wait!
Awaiting your esteemed commands.—

Prince, ballads' burdens celebrate
Themes unless as the Ocean's sands:
Trade, one refrain sings early, late—
Awaiting your esteemed commands!

EDWARD W. BARNARD.