

the bluest of blue eyes, to whom the institution owes its being, kindly agreed to take us round.

We visited the school first, a fine airy building with spacious classrooms, white painted walls, and polished floors. In each room devoted to academic study was a little table of specimens of the pupils' work. We learned both from these and Dr Davis's explanations, that as far as possible – for these students are not children and their interest must be caught and held – all lessons are made to have a direct application to the affairs of daily life. Therefore, arithmetical calculations frequently deal with such problems as the number of potatoes or onions used in preparing a dinner for the whole Institution, for each home and for every inmate; or with the amount of meat, or butter, used to keep the inmates for a year, or a term of years. Stout paper quart and pint measures, neatly cut and sewn, with ruled divisions for smaller quantities, are made here for actual use in the cookery classes and provide not merely a simple lesson in fractions but an exercise also in manual dexterity.

In the written exercises there was a wide field of difference and one saw, step by step, the remarkably speedy progress, ranging from the first big uncertain roundhand of the illiterate to regular, well-formed characters, that might well arouse many of us to envy. The compositions that were shown to us dealt with innumerable subjects – a lecture given by some visitor to the Institution, a Christmas Entertainment, some historical episode, a walk through the fields. There were botany exercises, and drawings of flowers, simply executed in coloured chalks, and Christmas greeting cards designed by the pupils.

In one of the rooms was a loom, on which the women weave the rugs which one [*sic*] we saw lying about the Institution and here we learned the secret of the wonderfully polished floors. For the last half hour on Saturday morning some of the inmates, with rags wound round their feet and with a sliding gait, walk in a row, to and fro across the floors. Here we were also shown specimens of the first three months' sewing course, including wonderfully fine hemming, backstitching, herring-boning, buttonholing, darning, and patching in which the pattern was perfectly matched and one would hardly see the join. The preliminary sewing course completed, the women pass on to take part in the making of all the garments and household linen used in the Reformatory. One marvelled, in seeing these things, how quickly people learn in prison.

A large room, with cupboards lining the walls and a long table in the centre, is devoted to cookery classes, and adjoining this is the room

where model meals are served. Just then a table was set for lunch, its polished top left bare, with a dainty mat for each plate, as well as for the central vase of flowers. The side board cupboards are kept well furnished with finger bowls, cocktail glasses, and all that the up-to-date American housewife needs. Classes are held in this department for the teachers, as well as for the pupils, in order that a uniform system of domestic economy may be adhered to. Dr Davis has little trouble, in spite of past records, in finding situations for the cooks and waitresses she has trained.

From the school we made our way to the steam laundry, and treading by terraced concrete paths and steps, we regarded with amazement their regular, eminently professional aspect, as Dr Davis told us that her women made them. Our admiration grew when she casually explained that she herself 'just went to watch some men doing it', and then came back and showed her pupils how. Under her guidance, the women of the Reformatory also built a concrete pig pen and the day it was finished, Miss Davis carried thither her best china and gave them all afternoon tea there, before the pigs came in.

Physical training plays an important part in the life of the Institution. There is a fine gymnasium, where every inmate receives an hour's instruction every day. A visiting teacher holds dancing classes twice a week and everyone must take a walk in the open air each day. Each summer the inmates give an entertainment in the grounds, to which visitors are invited. On one occasion they acted *As You Like It* and on another Ibsen's *Pillars of Society*.

Only one of the houses in which the women live contains anything approaching ordinary prison cells and this house was the one building erected before Dr Davis came. She told us that she would not use it at all, if she had room to abandon it, and that at present it was reserved for those who were serving the first three months of their sentence. The cells were of course only tenanted at night time and there was a large room in this house for work and recreation.

The other houses vary, some having one, others two stories. Their rooms have fresh white walls, painted by the women, and wide airy windows, protected on the outside by a thin and scarcely seen, but strong, iron wire lattice, which is securely locked at night. Each house has its own kitchen and laundry, in order that simple domestic cooking and washing may be learnt, and every inmate works directly under the house cook for a time. Each of the homes has a large day room where the inmates may sit together after the day's work is done. The white cloth had