

THE ARMY'S HOMES FOR WAYWARD GIRLS

WELL-NIGH INCREDIBLE STORIES OF CHILD-LIFE.

In Australasia the Army Has Established Fifteen Homes for Children, Eight Being for Girls.



THE SUNSHINE OF HOME LIFE.



The dormitories, lavatories and baths are most attractive, up-to-date appliances, adapted to all needs in that direction. The Officers sleep in each dormitory, thus exercising that moral influence which is all that is needed in almost all instances in these Homes. The rules are rarely infringed, and even then it is in some unimportant detail oftener than otherwise.

THE SCEPTRE OF INFLUENCE.

A real home love seems to be the sceptre of influence and government, and

for such means of serving Him and saving mankind.

They are gathered from all sorts and conditions—some sent by the State, whose wards they have become; others by the courts, whose victims they would otherwise have been; still others by parents, who have failed to control them. Yet this company has girl thieves, and girl forgers, whose age forbids their having had any moral conception of such crimes, and whose conduct while isolated here, proves that their offences were attributable more to the influences around them than to inherent desire to do evil.

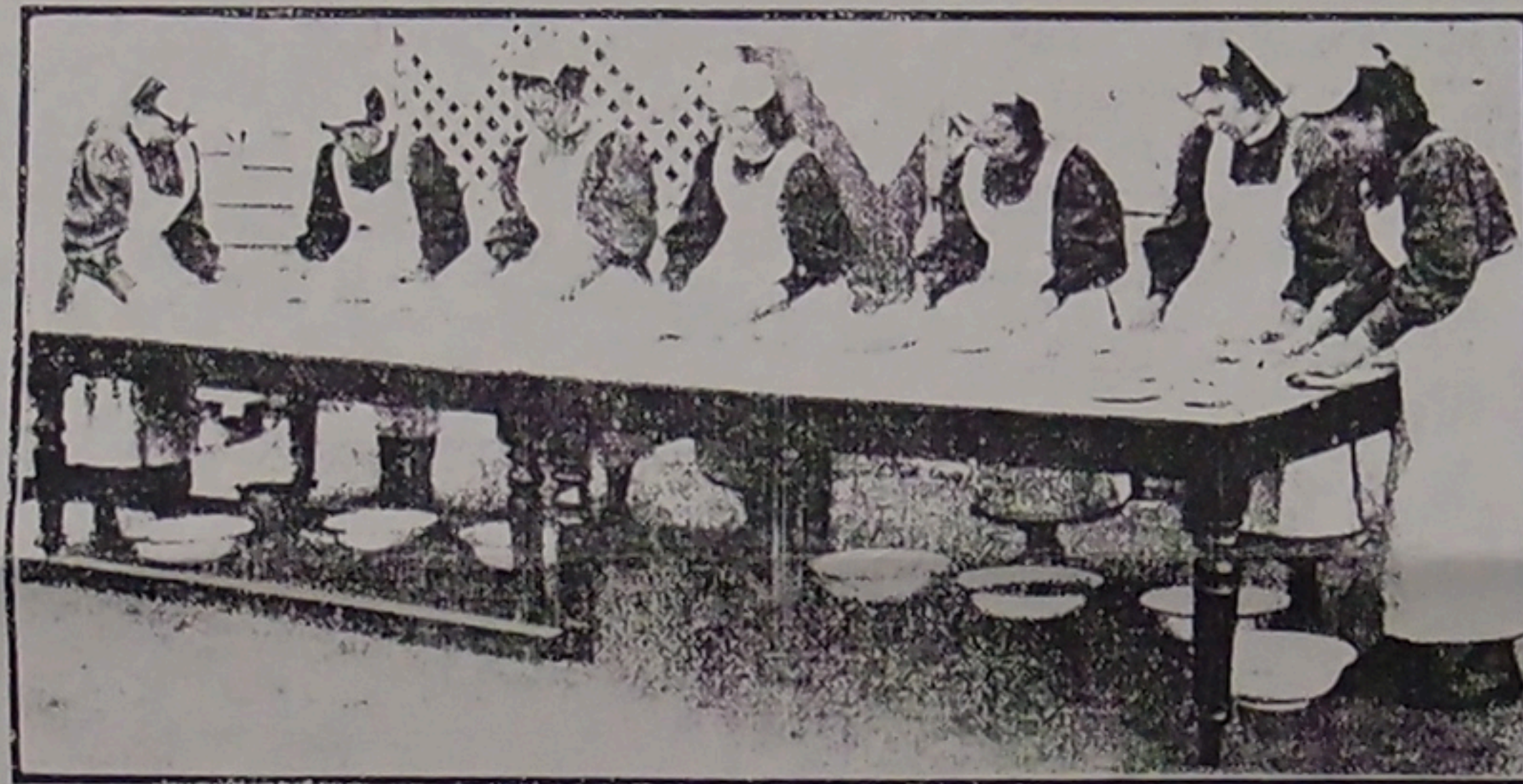
One can hardly believe that the little



by her in juvenile dissipation.

But when I tell you that in both instances of the thief and the forger the grace of Jesus Christ, the love and patience of the Home Officers, and the healing influence of moral conditions, in time have wrought thorough reform, soul conversion and new conditions of taste, inclination, habit and life, the reader will appreciate the value of the work being done here in these Homes—a work for God, for mankind, for Christ, for society, the home and the Commonwealth.

At the proper age, and after the discipline has had its effect, the girls are placed in situations where they are able to use what has been taught them, as well as learn habits of self-dependence and thrift. They are always looked after, and the Officer is assured they are kindly treated, and kept under the proper moral influences. From time to time they visit the Home, and whenever out of employment, seek its shelter and comfort until another place is found for them.



OUR GIRLS ARE INSTRUCTED IN COOKING AND GENERAL DOMESTIC WORK.

it is shown in the attitude of children and Officers alike. There are milch cows, horses, cats, fowls, fruit trees, vegetable and flower gardens, pretty lawns, and shady nooks and corners, a tennis court—each and all suggesting the home idea.

When one looks at these trusting, loving faces, and reflects that but for these Army Homes most of them would be swept into the pitiless whirl of the poverty, vice and crime of our cities, and finally into the vortex of eternity—unsaved, uncared for, undone in life—the heart goes out in gratitude to God

child pointed out to us was an accomplished thief, and made so by her own grandmother, who taught her to steal, as other children are taught to read and write. Yet such is the fact; and the character and quality of stolen property found by the police at her home with the old grandma would have furnished an "old curiosity shop" complete. This in 1908 in Victoria.

Equally incredible seems the story of the fifteen-year-old girl forger; but the facts are there—a series of forgeries extending over three months, done by this child; the proceeds collected and spent

POINTS!

Habits soon become necessities. Nothing can cover want of truth. Character is moulded by ambition. Life is meant for labour, not pleasure. He that does not think cannot be wise. Goodness thinks no ill where no ill seems. To learn to obey is the first art of government. The highest victory is victory over ourselves. Death is but a moment, yet eternity is its successor.

To be proud of learning is the greatest ignorance.

To be vain of one's rank is to declare oneself beneath it.

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

He that waits to do a great deal at once will never do any.

All the charms of Nature are but hints of God's heaven.

Duties are the education for eternity, which is endless duty.

There is no truer friend than a good book. Read the Bible!

Wisdom is oftentimes nearer when we stoop than when we soar.

Labour rids us of three great evils: poverty, vice and dullness.

There is always room in the world for a good man, and he makes room for many.

He who fears God has nothing to fear; he who does not fear Him must fear everything.



THE BONNY FAMILY AT OUR COLLIE (W.A.) GIRLS' HOME.

The Girls are Typical of the Hundreds who were Cared for, Schooled and Trained in our Homes During the Year.

workers, to the accompaniment of innocent laughter rippling over, and bubbling out of children's hearts.

Here you see no "poorhouse uniform," no badge of philanthropy's lien upon poverty's gratitude, but, on the contrary, the neat, well-fitting, well-made garments of real home-life, from stockings and boots to the immaculate white pinafore—everything is the badge of well-cared-for childhood. While the faces and eyes reflect not only all of this, but also a consciousness of being loved, which is childhood's first necessity to happiness.

SYSTEMATIC SCHOOLING.

The buildings, the furniture, the Officers, the routine duties, the life of systematic usefulness and purpose, all foster this spirit of contented heart-ease, which one sees in these faces.

All of the forenoon is spent in school, where the work is of the character followed in our best State schools, and is shown by the exercise books, in composition, map-drawing, arithmetic, etc., to be well up to corresponding standards in the public schools, where the ages, like these, range from three years up to sixteen. Some of the work shown evinces a good deal of originality, and some capacity above the average. In addition, the girls are taught all-round domestic duties, including cooking, plain and fancy sewing, etc., elementary plain gardening in the useful vegetable and the ornamental flower line. They are encouraged in reading, and very willingly accept the necessary discipline of a proper moral training. The stockings they knit are truly beautiful, and most excellent in quality. They exhibit with pride their Mountmellick and drawn-thread work.

Their singing and action drill, which