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Miss Hurley
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The American Relief Administration European Children's Fund is now feeding 218,000 children in Austria and hopes to be able to raise this number during the winter months to 225,000 a day. The meal given the child consists of one "Kilonem", or approximately 660 calories. A different meal, composed of staple commodities such as flour, rice, peas, beans, sugar, cocoa, pork, lard and condensed milk, is given each day of the week so that the children receive a variety as well as a substantial meal.

The Kilonem System.

The system of nutrition used is known as the Perquet, or Kilonem System. Dr. von Pirquet has taken as a unit the nutritive value of one litre of average milk and gives to each commodity a value in terms of milk. For example, - one kilogram of sugar equals six kilonem.; 1 kilogram of average wheat flour equals 5 kilonem.; of lard 13.3 kilonem.; of potatoes 1.25, etc. In this way Dr. von Pirquet has reduced the calculation of nutrition to a metric system, 1 nem being equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ of a calory. This makes the calculation of meals very simple and Dr. von Pirquet has established a school where young women are trained in scientific cooking. When graduated they are sent out to take charge of the large central kitchens throughout Austria. Some of these kitchens have a capacity of cooking for as many as 10,000. The Zita Kuche in Vienna is the largest, and a good example of how cooking may be done in bulk.

General Conditions

When the American Relief Administration first commenced feeding in Austria the meal was intended to be a supplementary one - that is, the children were expected to get the required amount of food for their daily needs at home, and this supplementary ration was to be given to build up systems which had been run down due to malnutrition during the war.

Shipping

When operations were commenced in Austria food purchased from Army stocks in France and in America was shipped to Trieste. These food-stuffs were delivered free to Austria at the port, and the Austrian Government agreed to make sufficient appropriations to pay transportation from the port to Austria and distribution throughout the provinces. The Austrian Government also agreed to handle all overhead expenses. In spite of the detailed task of bringing in food by thousands of tons and distributing it over a whole country in the form of cooked meals, the overhead expenses have amounted to approximately $2\frac{1}{2}\%$. This percentage includes transportation, freight charges, salaries for Austrians, cooking utensils, etc.

Due to the disorganized condition of the countries of South-eastern Europe it became necessary for the A.R.A. Child Welfare Mission to negotiate through its missions in other countries, and sometimes even directly with the governments of neighboring countries, in order to obtain coal for the kitchens and gasoline for the motor lorries which are used to distribute the food from the central warehouse in Vienna to the kitchens.

Plan of Distribution

A careful inspection was made of the conditions in every section of the country and it was decided to distribute the supplies received upon a percentage basis. Conditions being worse in Vienna, the city was given 50 per cent., and the situation in the manufacturing towns in Lower Austria being very similar, 15% was set aside for this province. Other provinces received their proportions based upon their special needs and their populations.

Investigations have been made in the various kitchens in Vienna, and out of examination of approximately 500 children each in two of the poorest districts, it was discovered that a large percentage of children received very little beside the meal supplied by the European Children's Fund. In most cases it was the most substantial item in the child's daily diet, and between 6 and 7 per cent of the children in the poorest district received no other meal during the day. This meal supplied by the E.C.F. is only about 1/3 of what a growing child should receive each day.

The American Relief Administration European Children's Fund, of which Mr. Hoover is the Director, is not a Governmental organization, but a charitable fund one, and needs all the funds it can possibly collect to carry on the work of feeding the under-nourished children throughout Europe. The A.R.A. European Children's Fund is located at 115 Broadway, New York.