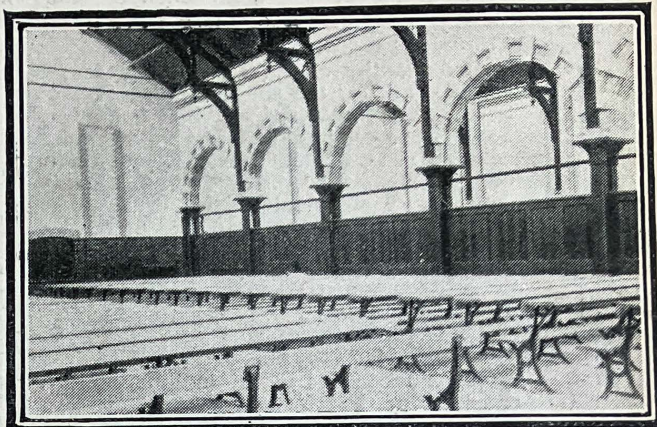


A PAUPER'S PALACE WITHOUT A PAUPER



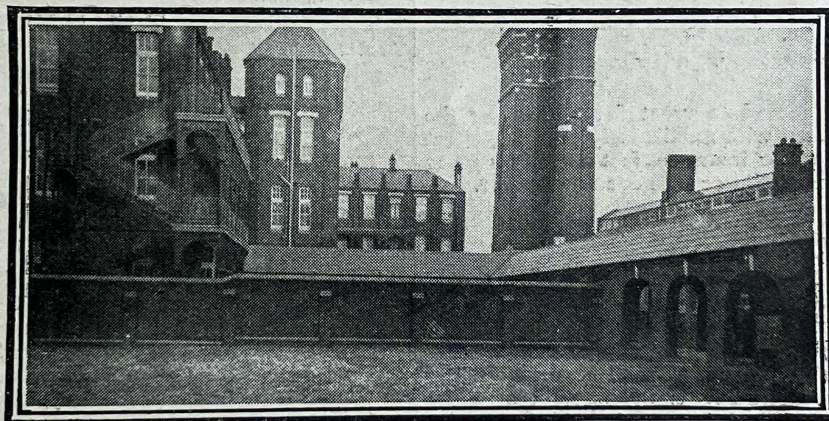
The imposing entrance



One of the magnificent dining-halls

A QUARTER of a million is a large sum to spend on a workhouse, but when it turns out that there is not a pauper to fill any of the palatial rooms, the ratepayers have good reason to pull out their pocket-handkerchiefs and tear their hair.

This monument to the folly of the Local Government Board is situated at Lee, on the left-hand side of a prettily wooded road leading to Grove Park from under the railway. The awe-inspiring entrance is worthy of Kensington Palace, with a chaste colour scheme of red and white brick-work, which certainly does infinite credit to the architect. Covering at least five acres of ground, the buildings are



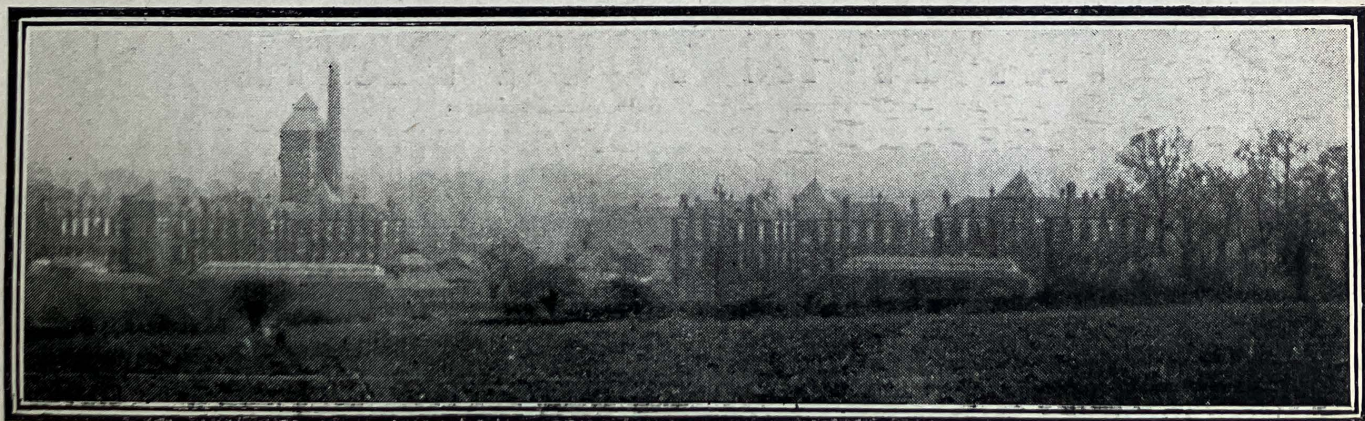
One of the spacious courtyards in the Pauper's Palace

fitted up with the utmost luxury. As one walks along the corridors one sees neat little lavatories, presumably with hot and cold water, which any undergraduate at Oxford would be only too glad to have on his College staircase. Two magnificent dining-halls with a private chapel are also attached for the convenience of the inmates, while the spacious courtyards are worthy of a mediæval monastery.

The present Greenwich Board of Guardians are so furious with the Local Government Board for forcing their predecessors to build this white elephant, that on November 25th they passed a resolution to the effect that the workhouse

should be sold. I happened to be passing the building the other day, and, as no one prevented me, looked around. It seemed to me admirably suited for the English home of an American millionaire. Surely some one will step in and relieve the poor Greenwich ratepayers from this ridiculous burden. Or why not use it as a hotel in Coronation time? Three guineas a week would be quite a small sum to

charge for accommodation in such luxurious quarters. My readers may think that this description is exaggerated, but if so they can go and look for themselves. "Dagonet," in the *Referee*, once described the magnificence of the Marylebone Union with righteous indignation. I wonder what he would say if he paid a visit to this new Pauper's Palace at Lee!



Cost a quarter of a million—covers five acres—to let