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28 % of the actual staff. Statistics of course, are rather like the bikini - they reveal what is interesting but conceal what is vital ! What then is the real scene at present in Ireland? As you will see on your visits, the Residential Homes all have kitchens, bathrooms, bedrooms and so on. What I am particularly interested in, is the human personal dimensions. A house no matter how soundly built and excellently furnished, is not necessarily a home. As I shall indicate, increasingly the children needing help will have come from excellent houses.

With the joining of the European Economic Community, Ireland has leapt forward into the surge of affluence, greed, industrialisation and 'jobs at any cost'. Certainly there have been good gains. Everywhere in Ireland now, you will see new houses built or being built. You will see land being cleared and drained, far more cars than five years ago, and salaries that my father would have found unbelievable. But these benefits do not get to the poor, the weak, so we still have the incorrigible and the destitute with us! their failure marked up now by the apparent success of others.

We have also a new and growing demand on the services of Child Care and that is to cope with the emotionally deprived. In fact, in Ireland Child Care has at last arrived, as the problem children are and will increasingly be found in the families of the affluent and the middle class.

There is no greater poverty than that of the emotionally deprived. Instead of honesty, openness, affection and warmth, they are given bags of crisps, more television, larger sums of pocket money, expensive presents and trips abroad for their holidays.

I am painting a lurid picture, but the spin off of Ireland's lurch into acquisitiveness has found it wanting in the emotional maturity to cope with new challenges, and the moral stamina to make decisions in a changed social order. To feed, clothe and house or poor child is far easier than to enable a child or