

# INDUSTRIAL LUNCH ROOMS

## I

### INTRODUCTION

**T**HE introduction into industrial establishments of facilities for serving food to employees has been dictated by a variety of considerations. In some cases the distance of the plant from any commercial restaurant or lunch room has made such a step essential. Again, the character of the plant processes may be such that absence of employees from the plant during the lunch period may be undesirable, or the high absence rate following days when employees have gone out to lunch in inclement weather may cause concern. These and other equally unavoidable circumstances may leave the management no choice but to make some provision within the plant for serving food to employees.

Nevertheless in many companies the need for the introduction of such a service is not so urgent. It may appear to some as a highly desirable policy which will pay dividends in efficient work and general contentment even though it may involve a financial loss. Others may consider it questionable policy to tie up a not inconsiderable investment in so uncertain a venture when it is not absolutely necessary. In some plants the advantages to be derived from, and drawbacks to, such a plan may balance each other evenly and in such cases the management should study the situation with great care before deciding for or against the introduction of a plant lunch room. The decision to install a lunch room may carry with it an expenditure running into thousands of dollars and, as in any business decision, attempt must be made to foresee and prevent every avoidable mistake.

Food-serving facilities for employees may take any one or more of a number of forms. For convenience, the term "lunch room," as used throughout this report, covers all