

THE HON. W. F. ROBERTS ON MEDICAL INSPECTION

(Continued from page 3.)

tive measures adopted may even savor of extravagance. But the crisis weathered, our enthusiasm soon begins to wane and eventually is at a standstill until some further dread malady is on its way or springs up in our midst.

Public opinion must first be impressed by solid argument based on substantial facts and common sense, then progress is ours. Here consequently is found one reason why public opinion and even in some instances, the medical profession heretofore has withheld judgment upon the necessity for the medical inspection of schools. Had the importance of preventive measures been more thoroughly realized there would have been less delay both in the recognition of the necessity for, and in the institution of medical inspection.

Why the most superficial physical examination at school undoubtedly tends to prevent much actual ill health, owing to the resultant discovery of disease in the early stages, as well as of many simple ailments which might ultimately become serious.

Physical Examination

In speaking of the History of Medical inspection we find as far back as the schools of Hellas at least the aspect of school hygiene, viz., physical examination was recognized as a means of developing the ideal citizen of which we have already spoken. The training of the body was regarded as of equal importance with the training of the mind. But in the Greek world physical education was a reality. It did not consist of a systematized code of physical exercises, nor of a course of physical training imposed at set times. It was a natural education of a child's body, directed partly to securing healthy growth and development of good physique, and partly to creating a favorable reaction upon the child's mental and moral activities. As quoted from an article

upon this subject,—"Man was a whole to the Greeks of that day, and one part of him could not be sound if the other parts were not." A national school which trained the minds only and neglected the bodies of the pupils would have been inconceivable to the Greeks of that day.

This was long ago. Suffice it to say that here and there throughout the world spasmodic efforts have been put forward in the interests of the health of the child at school; but it was not until the last century that anything of a durable or lasting character was accomplished.

We find that apart from physical training Dr. Karl Lorinser was the first medical man to make a thorough study of school hygiene. In 1836 he published a pamphlet in which he attacked the educational system and pointed out that the then long school hours, the subjects taught, and the school management generally, were largely responsible for deterioration of the children's health. This created a great stir in Germany and led to the general admission that school hygiene was a subject for special and thorough study. In 1842 Dr. Seguin published a book re the condition of the feeble minded, which marked a great educational advance in the field of school hygiene. It is the first practical differentiation of educational methods for feeble minded children, and it was soon followed even in England by the establishment of a number of institutions for the education of such children.

In England

In England for the most part these matters were neglected. Children coming from well to do homes were not at that time considered to be in need of health inspection. The only provision was arrangements to make clean the child who came to school dirty. But the Education Act of 1870 changed all of this, bringing as it did every child under the direct attention of the State Educational Laws. But it was 20 years after the institution of compulsory attendance before any

medical advice was thought necessary in this particular. During this intervening time, however, many observations were made by men both in England and on this continent, which in some instances formulated the basis of further enquiry. Cohn of Breslau was the first. He was an army surgeon during the Prussian war of 1866, and had observed defective vision among the soldiers, and a little later on published his famous report upon the eyesight of some 10,000 school children. His investigations gave rise to much speculation and as a result medical inspection of schools was advocated by Virchow and discussed in that year at the Scientific Congress. Later Cohn himself drew up a scheme of duties for school physicians which was first considered at the International Congress of Hygiene at Geneva in 1883.

Other Efforts

In 1875 Prof. Bowditch recorded the measurements of height and weight of 25,000 school children in Boston. In 1881 Hertel of Copenhagen began an extensive inquiry into the conditions of school life. One year later, as a member of a Danish Commission, he reported that of 16,000 children examined in both primary and secondary schools, 29 per cent were unhealthy. In 1884 a Royal Swedish Commission was appointed to investigate health conditions in school, and on their behalf Prof. Axel Key examined 18,000 children in several countries and published a report upon the growth and development of boys and girls at different age periods. The result of this investigation was that he found over 35 per cent of children suffering from chronic physical defects, such as anaemia, headache and short sight.

Dr. Francis Warner of England, in 1885 first directed his attention to the examination of school children, with especial reference to their mental status. His pioneer work led to the appointment in 1888 of a Committee of the British Medical Association for the Scientific study of the mental and physical conditions of child life. In 1892 Warner published a full report of the examination of 100,000 school children in some 20 schools. The result of his investigations was to arouse general interest in the whole subject of educational hygiene, and as a result mental deficiency was officially recognized by the appointing of a Royal commission on the Blind, Dumb and Feeble-Minded; and while at this work Dr. Warner drew public attention to many conditions adversely affecting the health of the school child. In fact he laid the foundation of the science of child study and stimulated the interest of many medical men in the large field of school hygiene. In England at this time the authorities were slow to take hold of the matter, while during this period in Germany there was a popular agitation for systematic medical inspection of schools, and had become universal throughout that country.

First Official Step

The first official step in England was the appointment of medical officers to act as advisors on general medical matters in connection with the Elementary education, and especially for the examination of children suffering from disease necessitating absence from school. No statutory provision for these appointments or for conduct of any medical inspection existed, but progressive school boards, taking a wide view of their general powers, appointed medical advisors as necessary officers under the general powers conferred by certain sections of the Elementary Education Act of 1870.

Then in 1891 a medical officer was appointed by the school board of London, and two years later Dr. James Kerr was appointed at Bradford, ostensibly for the purpose of examining absentees from school who were alleged to be suffering from disease, but who did not furnish a Doctor's certificate and from this small beginning many other duties were required of him and finally Dr. Kerr was recognized as the pioneer of all official routine in connection with medical inspection in the Elementary schools of England. He was the first man to enter the schools daily in the role of a school doctor and to study all the problems of school hygiene.

In 1904 we read where Dr. Leslie McKenzie writing states, in England the system has so far spread that already there is a society of medical officers for schools. The larger school boards provide for medical attendance on their teachers and pupil teachers, for the regular visiting of their school for the dove-tailing of medical school inspection with the regular work of the public health organizations, and generally for the discovery of infection among school children, and the prevention of infection by detailed periodic examinations of school premises.

Other countries taking on medical inspection of schools have been Austria Hungary, 1873; in France in 1886 and thoroughly re-organized 1896; Argentina in 1888; Norway began in 1885 and was completed and made obligatory in 1891. Sweden began as far back in 1868, and have been reorganizing and placing on a more up to date basis, 1895-1899. Japan, school doctors appointed for every school in 1898.

Switzerland, 1898 passed legislation insisting on a thorough medical examination of every pupil before entering school for the first time. Germany in 1891, although certain districts were under inspection as far back as 1870.

In U. S. A. separate states are taking up this important question. Some 10 or 12 states already have made same compulsory. Even in Russia, Bulgaria and Roumania quite well organized systems of school inspection have been obtained from 1871 to 1904 respectively. So much for the History of Medical Inspection.

(Continued on page 2)

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(Chicago News.)

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"That's not the fault of the ambrosialene," replied the barber. "Ambrosialene is one of the best restorers we have."

"I'll admit it's a restorer," went on the customer who was next, "but not for hair. If I knew the manufacturer of ambrosialene I'd write to him and take over his entire stock on hand. I'd put it on the market as—"

"What?" asked the barber expectantly.

"Well, our maid took that bottle of restorer and made our furniture look like new with it."

"Maybe it was hair-stuffed furniture," said the barber.

"Maybe it was. Anyway, ambrosialene does the work and our parlor suite has raised in value."

"While the maid was working so industriously, my wife was running our sewing machine, which squeaked agonizingly for the want of lubricant. She reached for a bottle of sewing machine oil, as she thought, but got the ambrosialene. She poured some of it into the wheels and things and the old dingus picked up speed so fast that my wife could hardly keep her feet on the pedals. Ambrosialene, the hair restorer, is the best sewing machine oil on the market."

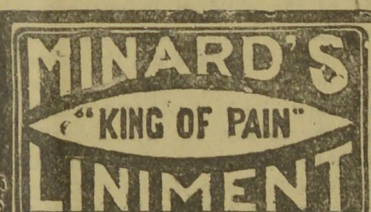
"Our brindle pup had been indisposed for some days and a veterinarian had prescribed a medicine to be given him before meals and at bedtime."

"Willie, my son, was in attendance as nurse, and gave Fido a spoonful of ambrosialene by mistake. The dog immediately sat up, wagged his tail, ran out and playfully bit three neighbors."

"Ambrosialene is the wonder liquid of the age. I'm sure it would make a corking salad or shoe-dressing, varnish remover, fly poison, sprain ointment or substitute for gasoline."

"Well," said the barber, waiting patiently to get a word in, "I have another hair restorer I just now got in. It's called violetofomeo and is guaranteed to—"

"Give me a bottle!" snapped the man who was waiting. "I want to surprise the boys with a new soft drink to-night. I'll bet violetofomeo will do it."



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REGISTRATION OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

Male citizens of the United States living in Canada of AGES 21-30, both inclusive, MUST REGISTER BY REGISTERED POST with the Registrar under the Military Service Act of the district in which they live, during the TEN DAYS NEXT FOLLOWING SEPTEMBER 28th, 1918; and such CITIZENS OF THE AGES 19, 20 AND 31-44, both inclusive, must so register during the TEN DAYS NEXT FOLLOWING OCTOBER 12th, 1918. It must be emphasized that THIS INCLUDES AMERICANS LIVING IN CANADA OF THE ABOVE AGES, MARRIED AND SINGLE, and includes ALSO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SECURED DIPLOMATIC EXEMPTION OR HAVE REGISTERED WITH AN AMERICAN CONSUL, OR HAVE REGISTERED FOR MILITARY SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES.

Registration letters may be handed to local Postmasters for despatch to the proper Registrar, under the Military Service Act.

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.

NOTICE—MILITARY SERVICE ACT, 1917

MEN EXEMPTED AS FARMERS

Having in view the importance of leaving a sufficient number of men on those farms, which are actually contributing to the National Food Supply, notice is hereby given as follows:

1. ALL MEMBERS OF CLASS I POSSESSING EXEMPTION AS FARMERS which is expiring and WHO WISH TO REMAIN EXEMPT should communicate with the Registrars under the M.S.A., of their respective districts, REQUESTING AN EXTENSION IN TIME OF SUCH EXEMPTION. Questionnaires will thereupon be issued to these men by the Registrar and they will receive further exemption upon furnishing satisfactory proof that they are contributing sufficiently to the National Food Supply.

2. In order to facilitate productive employment during the Winter months, MEN EXEMPTED AS FARMERS SHOULD APPLY TO THE REGISTRARS FOR PERMITS TO ENGAGE FOR THE WINTER IN SOME OCCUPATION OF NATIONAL INTEREST, SUCH AS LUMBERING, MUNITION WORK, ETC. Such permits will serve to enable exempted farmers to pursue other useful occupations for the months during which farming operations cannot be carried on.

MILITARY SERVICE BRANCH.