

No one will deny that wherever State education exists the medical profession must be recognized, sooner or later, as having a definite place and part in such education. We should be, through our representatives, an integral part of the school system. We can do for the rising generation what no one else can do. The Board of Education needs a medical adviser as truly as it needs a legal adviser. The Minister of Education should have a medical officer as one of his staff, as the President of the Board of Education in the British Government now has Dr. Newman and Dr. Eichholtz.

What, then, are the duties of the medical officer to any education authority? *What does medical inspection of schools mean?*

The School Medical Officer must be competent to advise the education authority as to the school itself:

1. The location of the school building.
2. The size and position of the playground.
3. The arrangement of the class rooms.

Each unit should approach as nearly as possible the ideal, 15 x 25 x 30. The desks should be separate and either adjustable or different suitable sizes, arranged, say, in six rows of seven each, thus favoring good healthy postures. The light should be from the children's left, and the left wall should be nearly all glass. A few high windows may be placed in the rear wall, and the broad aisle should be at the right, so that the desks are all near the light.

There are four other things that everyone knows about. As a rule, the school is not remarkable for:

1. Its pure air.
2. Its cleanliness.
3. Its comfortable temperature (65 to 68 degrees).
4. Its good water supply.

The School Medical Officer may be expected to create a powerful public opinion among the school population on these few broad, elementary, essential requirements of a healthy life. Pure school air and a really clean schoolroom no one has yet given us. But the School Medical Officer will do it.

This is only one part. It is, after all, the *child* who is the centre of interest. We should know whether height and weight correspond with the proper average for the child's age. The general nutrition, the cleanliness or its lack, the teeth, the nose and throat, with special attention to the tonsils, adenoid growths and enlarged glands, the sight, hearing, speech, and mental condition should all be observed. Finally, any disease or deformity claims special attention, and transmissible disease of any kind is most important to detect,