

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE ACADEMY OF MEDICINE,
TORONTO.

AT the annual meeting of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, on Tuesday, May 5th, the committee on medical inspection of schools presented the following report. An abstract, and the resolution passed by the Academy, are also given. The committee consisted of Dr. McPhedran (Convener), Dr. J. F. W. Ross, Dr. R. A. Reeve, Dr. H. J. Hamilton, Dr. C. J. C. O. Hastings, Dr. W. L. T. Addison, and Dr. Helen MacMurchy (Secretary).

ABSTRACT.

Inasmuch as the law of this Province now permits and approves of medical inspection of schools, and since such inspection is no longer an experiment, but has been proved in almost all civilized countries to be a measure of great educational, social and economic benefit, your committee feel that on the profession and on our educational authorities now rests the responsibility of proceeding as soon as possible to organize and inaugurate a good system of medical inspection. In our opinion and to our personal knowledge, many children in Toronto are suffering from remediable disabilities and diseases which medical inspection would discover and put the children in the way of escaping or recovering from.

We would also draw attention to the fact that every endeavour should be made to secure, at the beginning of this work, as School Medical Officers, persons of high character, wide sympathies, great tact and consideration, as well as thorough professional training, and that school nurses be appointed to carry out the work under their direction, also that salaries should be paid for this work commensurate with its importance, the time required to do it well, and the salaries paid for other branches of educational and medical work. It is to be remembered that medical inspection of schools is not a charitable work, but an important department of the public service. This work should be co-ordinated in some way with the work of the Board of Health and the Medical Health Officer, and were the Province divided into health districts, each with its Medical Health Officer, giving his whole time to the work, it would evidently be of advantage to have the work of medical inspection of schools under his direct supervision.

It may also be pointed out that in every place where medical inspection of schools has been given a fair trial the number of cases of