

attend any other school in which elementary instruction is given, but it is obligatory that they should attend *some* school during that length of time. It would be more satisfactory if the time during which regular attendance is required were longer, especially when we consider the needs of the vagrant children on our streets. But we must be glad to have at least twenty-two weeks of regular attendance compulsory, and though this will not keep the begging children permanently at school, it may be made most useful, in connection with other influences, in breaking up habits of idle vagrancy, in awakening some germs of mental life, and developing some habits of obedience and self-control, which may serve as a basis, at least, for lifting the children to a somewhat higher plane.

But the question arises: How is this law to be enforced? For if some trouble be not taken to enforce it, it will only remain a dead letter on the statute book. Its enforcement is left very much at the good-will and pleasure of school boards and trustees, and its usefulness must depend entirely on the extent to which these bodies and functionaries are alive to the need and importance of taking active measures to enforce it. The law provides that school boards and trustees may appoint a truant officer to ascertain and report cases of non-attendance, and to notify parents and guardians of their liability for neglect of compliance with the law—five dollars being the penalty for the first offence, and the fine to be doubled on a repetition of it. But school boards will be very likely to treat the matter with a good deal of indifference, and truant officers, even when appointed, will find no little difficulty in accomplishing their task, unless the more intelligent and patriotic of our citizens take an active interest in giving them all the aid in their power. And no class have it in

their power to do more than those ladies who take so prominent a part in our various philanthropic societies, especially those which have for their object the uplifting of our sunken classes to a higher plane of morality and respectability. To begin with the children and take them young, is being more and more accepted as the most hopeful and economical method of elevating humanity, whether heathen and barbarian, or nominally civilized and Christian. Tramps—in other words idle and useless specimens of humanity who have grown up undisciplined and uncontrolled—are becoming a sort of fungus upon our Canadian life; and one which must more and more tend to demoralise it. It seems almost hopeless to reform a tramp! Infinitely easier and better it would be to prevent him; to take him in time and develop him into a good and useful citizen; and, humanly speaking, this might be done by bringing him early even under the regular discipline of ordinary school life. The increasing number of tramp-children who are to be seen infesting the streets of our cities and towns, and who, as it has been forcibly represented, graduate in vice with awful rapidity, is a subject of grave concern to thoughtful observers. Is there to be an ever-increasing proportion of an idle, depraved, unproductive class of society to hang like a dead weight upon our communities? Yet it must be so, if an ever-increasing number of children be allowed to develop into their natural result. Luther has well said: "It is hard to make old dogs tame, and old rogues upright, for young trees be more easily bent and trained, howbeit some should break in the attempt." It is not by any means an easy task to make even young rogues upright; but it is at least possible, with care and patience, while the other is, humanly speaking, well nigh impossible.

Of course, even compulsory educa-