

It has not been possible to carry the comparison back so many years in Quebec; but from statistics available the diphtheria rates show a notable decline, which is most marked in rural districts. Thus, since 1896, the rate for diphtheria has fallen from 1.33 to 0.30 per 1,000 of population. Typhoid, however, shows no decline. The deaths from tuberculosis, though high, still show a decline from 175 in 1911 to 147 per 1,000 in 1915; but it is probable that the improved death returns make the situation seem less favourable than it really is.

But, however great is the saving of life in childhood, through the various means indicated, the state has established, at six years of age, a relationship, through the public school, with the family, which enables it to make an accurate estimate of the future material of its man-power. Prussia, as long ago as 1847, had established in Berlin the Central School of Gymnastics, and medical inspection of school children has been general there for many years. Not, however, until England's experience with recruits for the army in the Boer war in 1899 did she realize what the actual proportion of national defectiveness was; but only in 1907 was the Act for Compulsory Medical Inspection of School Children passed. The *Report of the Chief Medical Officer of Education* for 1914 states that 1,900,000 children were handled and 350,000 examined annually, of whom 75,000 received treatment. If this number be compared with the number of men rejected in the effort to secure 3,000,000 men within the military-age period for Kitchener's Army some idea of the physical and mental defectives can be obtained.

During the last five years in some cities in Canada, and for over ten years in New York and Boston, the inspection of school children has revealed many defects; but the following figures, based upon a careful examination of the children of three village and seventeen rural schools in one of the most progressive districts of Ontario in 1914, reveal the actual conditions in such communities, illustrated by many similar surveys in the United States:

TABLE 13.—RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN IN AN ONTARIO DISTRICT IN 1913

		Number	Number defective	Number of defects
Group	I.....	821	432	659
"	II.....	571	347	512
"	III.....	38 children in one room		Defective vision.....19
"	IV.....	50 children in one room		Defective vision.....21

NOTE:—The defects found in Group I included: Impaired vision, 104; carious teeth, 207; defective nasal breathing, 69; enlarged glands, 19; anæmia, 37; ringworm, 1; pediculosis, 12. Total, 512 in 821 children inspected.