

been given; the burden of study will be fitted to the back, and school education will be made to help, not hinder, development in later adult life, and will not overtax the child brain.

To sum up, medical inspection will materially help the improvement and education of this young nation of Canada. We must remember that the child when he comes under the influence of the school law, "has already lived through a long and adventurous history. He is born of parents of a given race, of a given community, themselves featured and developed by incalculable perplexities of influence. He has inherited certain predispositions of his parents. He may have been affected by parental diseases. He may have suffered in his life before birth. He has through many critical moments struggled into individual existence. He has survived all the serious vicissitudes of his first week, his first month, his first year, his first five years of life. He has learned to walk, to talk, to assert his place in the mimic community of children. He has acquired individual habits. He has laid the basis of morals. He has come to some sense of individuality in the family. He has even acquired the rudiments of citizenship. He has at last, by force of the law, made the great transition from the home to the school, from his cradle community to the community of strangers, from the soft nurture of family sentiments to the realities of discipline."

At every stage in his history he has acquired something that his whole life will not extirpate. He has been touched, perhaps, with some diseases that make him safe against them for ever. He has found his organs fit enough to carry him thus far, but he is now about to enter a much vaster struggle, a more remorseless ordeal, a life full of greater stresses, energies and dangers." One, too, into which he is forced by the state.

Is it not, therefore, important and essential for the state to search out the pre-school life influences, and to study their bearings on the modifications it is necessary to make in the course of study of each particular child, and the educational system culminates in the production of the state-evolved man or woman, upon whose completeness devolves the growth of the people as a nation.

What, then, are the principles that should be adopted in a system of medical inspection, one applicable to this province? This is a question which I think should be considered by a special committee appointed by the Government for the purpose, and the personnel of which should be representative of both the teaching and medical professions, which committee should report at an early date. My opinion is, that the system should be under the control of the health authorities and be conducted by medical practitioners acting along definite lines, the immediate object being to ascertain the fitness or otherwise of each child.