

It is not necessary to argue the value and necessity of medical men ; but it is difficult to convince the laity, who through ignorance or indifference, do not understand the wisdom of precautionary measures.

Systematic medical inspection of our schools, not only in regard to the hygiene of the school house but the examination of the pupils for the purpose of excluding contagious and infectious diseases, must commend itself to the judgment of every thoughtful citizen of Manitoba.

It has been estimated that 70 per cent. of epidemics might be prevented by school inspections.

In Paris, France, medical inspection of schools began in 1842. The first inspection on this continent was at Boston in 1894. The school population of Manitoba is not medically inspected, even in large centres like Winnipeg, Brandon, and Portage La Prairie.

The total school population of Manitoba is 87,677 ; that of Winnipeg, 15,499 ; Brandon, 2,076 ; and Portage La Prairie, 1256.

France, Germany, and Switzerland, have had for many years medical inspection of school children. Their practical results, in the prevention of epidemics and the detection of physical and mental defects have been most astonishing. Only in 1907, did England pass an Act making it a duty for the local authorities to employ medical inspectors of Board Schools.

To my knowledge, some teachers afflicted with pulmonary tuberculosis have been employed. In one district two successive teachers were engaged and both died within two years from consumption. This is an outrage.

It is a crime. Every teacher before entering a normal school should pass a medical examination as rigid and thorough as that for life insurance.

In concluding this subject, the fringe of which has only been touched, I hope this Association, representing professional opinion, will memorialize the Minister of Education on the advisability of inspection of Elementary Schools and of Normal School teachers.

The Chicago Society of Social Hygiene has requested this Association to consider the question of The Sterilization of Criminals and other defectives by Vasectomy.