

ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS

SCHOOL HYGIENE AND CHILD LIFE.

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IN the first place, I desire to render my warmest thanks for the honor conferred, in my election to the Presidency, Canadian section, and as Hon. Vice-President, International Congress of Hygiene. To have assembled in Buffalo, a chief commercial centre, State of New York, is a well-merited compliment, as for many years it has taken a leading part in science. The world-renowned scenic beauty of Niagara Falls, near at hand, is an attraction of special interest. Why are we here at present, and with what object in view? As evidence of a deep and abiding interest in child life, and school hygiene, attractive problems of this twentieth century. Few subjects are calling forth wider or more diversified attention at present than hygiene, which aims to make growth more perfect, decay less rapid, and death more remote. It treats of the laws of health in the widest acceptance of the term, and includes a knowledge of the causes of ill-health, and disease generally, as well as its prevention, and the necessary means of preserving health, by strengthening the whole system. In health all the functions of the body are performed regularly and normally. On the other hand, manifestations of discomfort arouse suspicion that some organ is defective, the result of disease, and it is here our little friends require school inspection, to guard in time any irregularities in life's struggles. The gratitude of every lover of his country, is due to those of this Congress, who at much inconvenience assembled here to consider the vital problems of hygiene.

On fact, we have a drama before us, the fretful lives of a coming generation, for which protection is the order of the day. Observing carefully in its widest aspect, surprise and rejoicings are aroused at the practical outcome, since the first meeting of Congress in Nuremburg, 1904, as a foundation of national welfare, and prosperity, as well as good citizenship, to promote so far as possible healthy infancy, and the genuine principles of hygiene, as advocated by the progressive spirit of the present. Two exceedingly important problems are before us, the consideration of the child outside the school, and in the process of education within the school. As to the success of this Congress much really depends on the diversified lines of these investigations. To accomplish a good and lasting work, care and inspection of a coming generation