

## THE CALL OF THE DEAFENED

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### FOREWORD

Twenty-five thousand children of school age on the Island of Montreal are believed to be suffering from incipient deafness. A large number of them can be cured if treated promptly. If neglected many of them will become permanently deafened. This estimate is based upon statistics collected during recent years in several large American cities, and has been partially confirmed by a test of the school children in Verdun, carried out by the Montreal League for the Hard of Hearing in 1928.

Similar conditions presumably prevail throughout the whole Dominion, but as yet, except in Toronto, little or nothing is being done in any part of Canada to grapple with the problem.

Aroused by the discovery of startling facts of this nature the people of this Continent are awakening to a stern sense of their responsibility and, for the first time in history, the claims of the hard of hearing are receiving the consideration that they merit.

Deafness throughout the ages has been an affliction from which humanity has suffered untold sorrows and economic losses beyond the power of man to estimate. Silenced ears have known no distinction as to age, sex, class or race, and lives of the brightest future and of men and women greatly needed by their fellows have been stifled equally with those of little children and of older people of less importance in the world's affairs.

More than surprising is it that, while the sciences during the past century have been bettering conditions in almost every channel of life's activities, not until the last decade has any concerted attempt been made to