

obtainable. The lecture subjects for last winter ranged from "Greek Art" and the "Songs of Shakespeare" to the "Prevention of Tuberculosis" and "First Aid to the Injured." One important work of these lectures is to acquaint recently arrived immigrants with the customs, coinage and laws of their adopted country; and another is to teach them the first essentials of cleanliness and hygiene. Some of these simple necessary talks are given and advertised in Italian and in Hebrew. More than two-thirds of the "Lectures to the People" are profusely and beautifully illustrated with stereopticon views. The lectures are delivered in the Museum of Natural History, in halls rented by the Board of Education, in halls gratuitously loaned by churches or benevolent societies, and in many school buildings scattered throughout the city. They are advertised—date, lecturer and subject—on bill-boards outside the buildings themselves, on large clearly printed cards displayed in neighbouring shop windows, in slips and booklets prepared for general distribution by the Board of Education, and in the newspapers.

As immigration pours in, the city finds itself confronted by new and newer educational problems, and the knottiest perhaps is that presented by the children described as "atypical." In a thrifty Yankee community those would be but a minute fraction of one per cent. in the school census—"a negligible quantity." But in a city so large and heterogeneous as New York they are too numerous to be ignored. They are the incarnate results of generations of over-crowding, over-working and under-feeding, little cretins, rachitic children, abnormally dull or defective children. When such a pupil appears in school the teacher is required to report its case, to ascertain many details concerning it, and to fill out a blank form furnished by the Board of Education. The child is then carefully examined by a medical expert, after a system which tests both its physical and its mental capacity. At the end of six months what is called a "follow-up card" is filled out by the teacher, and if another medical examination seems desirable, another is made. The school doctor makes his rounds conducting such examinations in every school twice a year. In many cases the little unfortunates are gathered into special classes, and given education peculiarly fitted to their needs. They receive daily three hours of manual training; they have four times as much gymnastic work as is prescribed for the normal child, and special stress is laid upon their games.

Of late the Board of Education has concerned itself also with the play of the normal child. In the elementary schools during recess, children are taught games and superintended in their play, and the