

Ontario Department of Agriculture

WOMEN'S INSTITUTES.

Children : Their Care, Training and Happiness as Future Citizens

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A lecturer not long ago was speaking on the importance of conserving the health of the nation by taking proper care of the children, and in the course of his remarks he said that there was a well-founded belief that the Government was doing more to ensure a good breed of cattle and live stock on the farms than they were to maintain a healthy race of men and women. He mentioned an instance where a large appropriation had been made to stamp out hog cholera in a certain district. At the same time there was an epidemic of disease among children and not the slightest effort made to combat it. His moral was:

"If you want to be taken care of by your country be a hog."

This, of course, is a little overdrawn and yet it may point a moral, or at least emphasize the importance of doing everything possible to provide that the children, who are to be future citizens, shall be fully safeguarded in their rights, that every boy and girl will be certain to have a decent home, good food, adequate clothing, opportunities for education, and also that their physical health should be carefully enquired into by experienced persons so as to make certain that they will have good eyesight, good hearing, good teeth, open nasal passages that there may be good breathing, a straight spine and sound feet and limbs. *Health* means *happiness*, and both together mean clean, *useful citizenship*.

It was, therefore, with great pleasure that I accepted the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture to tell the people of the Province something about the Children's Protection Act, and the work that is contemplated under its provisions. It is important to the success of this movement that everyone should understand the law and the system under which it operates. Without this knowledge no one can give the proper kind of assistance and the more people who read this pamphlet and other such publications, the more prospect there will be of providing a friend for every friendless child, and doing useful public service.