

that they may be properly cared for, and not allowed to interfere with the child's progress in school.

This, followed by teaching in public health as far as their age and education will permit would do much to relieve a great deal of distress and diminish our death rate. If a child could tell his parents what could be done for the prevention of tuberculosis by proper disposal of sputum, and the adoption of proper hygienic measures, the time and money expended in teaching them these things would be well spent. The same would be true if every child could explain to his parents why it was better to boil the drinking water and why certified milk is cheaper in the end than milk of doubtful quality. If the children were able to demonstrate to their parents that tuberculosis and typhoid fever are preventable diseases, much more would be done towards educating the masses. The homes must be reached, and that can be done more readily, if we have a good system of medical inspection of schools and instruction in hygiene.

Sir Victor Horsley in addressing the British Medical Association refers to medical inspection of school children as one of the primary questions of the day, and says, "Here is a department of national work for which alone the medical profession can be and is responsible."

Our Department of Agriculture each year spends a great deal of money on animal and plant life because they as representatives of the people carry out the wishes of the people. If the Local Government do not spend as much money in caring for the health of the children of this province as they might it is because the people are not ready to permit it. In the matter of medical inspection of school children the Government has given school trustees the power to spend money for this purpose—it is now for the people to allow it to be done. It is to be hoped that the Department of Education will at an early date devise some workable scheme by which medical inspection will be carried on in a most effective manner.

Locally through the Academy of Medicine of Toronto our profession have been endeavoring to accomplish something in the matter. There has just been published in the *Lancet* the report of a committee appointed by the Academy upon medical inspection of schools. The Secretary, Dr. Helen McMurchy, has been most untiring in her efforts to secure information regarding what has been accomplished by medical inspection in the United States and Europe. I would recommend the careful perusal and consideration of this report. It is our duty to not only help in this work but to direct it. It certainly opens up a very wide field in the realm of preventive medicine.