

To our mind it matters little what system has been adopted in New York. What we must do here is to develop a method that will suit our own special needs, and fall within the appropriation of the Board for this purpose. Of one thing there can be no doubt, namely, that so long as the medical inspector is an appointee of the Board, the inspector must be governed by the rules of the Board. The Secretary of the Ontario Board of Health is a medical man, but he is amenable to the rules laid down by the Provincial Cabinet. The medical inspector must, therefore, be under the Board of Education.

We trust that the Board of Education may be able to find some course which will enable Dr. MacMurchy to work along with it in devising an ideal system of medical inspection of the schools. The question is a simple one and admits of a ready solution. Patience will find the way.

As things stand at the moment of writing we do not see any reason why the Board of Education and Dr. Helen MacMurchy could not arrange their differences. We appeal to the good sense of the Board of Education to adjust this apparent misunderstanding. Any personal words that may have passed between Dr. MacMurchy and Inspector Hughes should be allowed to die of neglect. Deal with the principles of the case.

FIRE PROOF PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

We have on several occasions referred to the necessity of having asylums, hospitals, refuges, prisons, schools, homes, etc., made of fire proof construction. This costs a little more at the time; but it pays in the end. Wooden beams for steel ones is poor economy.

Just the other day there was a fire in the Asylum at Brandon, Manitoba. In a short time the building was a complete ruin. The press despatches state that the loss amounts to \$500,000, and that against this there is \$250,000 of insurance.

Here there is a net loss of \$250,000. There is also the inconvenience to the work of the asylum. There is the danger of the patients who are now housed in a temporary fashion. There was also the danger that many of them might have been burned to death. There is the further danger that many of them might have escaped and done much damage. All these risks were run for the sake of a little false economy. Twice in Toronto have libraries of great worth been destroyed.

But we are only concerned with such buildings as the state uses for the housing of human beings. People may live in fire traps if