

work of the highest scientific and technical character, involving as it does the widest and most exact knowledge of the exact sciences, no real or permanent advance is possible without the enthusiastic devotion of a trained man to the work and to this must be added adequate laboratory facilities for the work to be done, and a permanent appointment, secure from political influences, and encouraged by such remuneration for services of supreme importance to the community and country as will

create a body of medical officers of health, one for every county or large urban area, whose work will promote more than any other single agency, national welfare, communal prosperity and individual happiness.

How the special county health organization is to be worked out in Canada and what the wide work of a county health officer should be, will be outlined in a final paper.

THE PHYSICAL EDUCATION OF BRITISH CHILDREN.

By PHILIP SNOWDEN, M.P.

In 1907 the British Parliament passed an Act to create a department of medical inspection in connection with the National Education system. For some years previous to that time a few education authorities, notably Bradford and the London School Board, had done such work in a limited and experimental way, and the facts which had been ascertained by these bodies, and which had been put before Parliamentary Committees and the Congresses of various societies, showed that the health of a large number of the children attending our elementary schools was in a deplorable state. With the assent of all parties in the House of Commons, legislation was passed three years ago to give the Board of Education power to require every local education authority to appoint a school medical officer, who must make a medical examination of children immediately before, or at the time of, or as soon as possible after their admission to an elementary school. By a later order of the Board an examination was to be made of all the children then in the schools of the country.

A proper system of school medical inspection cannot be organized in a year, and up to the present the work of the officers has been mainly directed to the building-up of an efficient method of examination and tabulation, and of bringing the vari-

ous voluntary societies which exist to provide medical relief into close touch with the school medical department. "The aim has been to devise the most simple and expeditious way of bringing the children through the process of medical examination into the hands of those qualified to treat them without unduly harassing the parent or weakening his responsibility." The idea in the minds of those who instituted this system of school medical examination was to ascertain the general physical condition of the school children and the state of individual children, so that the school curriculum could be adapted to their capabilities, and so that incipient disease might be detected and arrested. The idea was that the medical examination would enable the education authorities to make the physical development of the children as much a part of their work as the education of the mind.

The chief medical officer of the Board of Education reports that most of the provincial education authorities have begun to do their work in a thorough and systematic way, over one hundred of them having made examinations beyond the requirements of the code. The London County Council is given a very severe reprimand for its neglect to do the work imposed upon it by law. The report says: "I should be failing in my duty if I did not make it clear that the degree in which this authori-