

PLAN FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

As there will not be sufficient time before the schools close in June in which to have an audiometer test made of the children's hearing, and as it is most desirable that a survey of some nature be made upon which ameliorative action for the 1931/32 school season may be based, the following course is respectfully suggested by the Montreal League for the Hard of Hearing, as probably the most satisfactory under the circumstances.

1. Obtain, during the present month of May, from all the teachers in the public schools a list of all pupils regarding whose hearing acuity they have the slightest reason to suspect even the first traces of impairment. For the determination of this fact the following plan might be followed:
 - (a) On a given day throughout all the schools set aside a half hour in which to have a hearing test made, to be followed up, on subsequent days, by a test of those children who might happen to be absent on the official testing day.
 - (b) Have the teacher inform the children that the School Board desires to discover whether all of the scholars can hear perfectly (omitting any reference to deafness) and that a test will now be made and that each scholar will be expected to repeat the exact words that the teacher may use. Absolute silence will of course be necessary during the test.
 - (c) Have each child in turn go to the back of the room to a point as far as possible from where the teacher may stand.
 - (d) In as low a voice as possible above a whisper, but not actually a whisper which is not a fair test because of the hissing sound, tell the child to repeat three simple sentences, such as "This is a fine day". "The black beard is made of wood". "Chalk is white and soft", etc.
 - (e) Write down the names and addresses of all scholars that show any hesitation in being able to repeat what is said to them.

N.B. For the above test a list of suitable sentences might be prepared in advance for the teachers. It would also be well for the teachers to practice amongst themselves the previous day, so as to discover the actual pitch of the voice to be used in their own class rooms.

2. To the list of names obtained as above add the names of all children who have repeated their grades during the past three years and who are still attending school.
3. During the summer vacation set aside a room in a central school, such as the High School on University Street, and have same fitted on a semi-permanent basis for the use of the 4 A Audiometer.
4. Employ three teachers to take charge of the test, one outside the room receiving the children, keeping them quiet while the tests are going on, and grouping them for each test, the other two teachers inside of the room, one at the instrument and the other among the pupils.
5. Notify the children to come to the school on a certain day and hour.

N.B. In three hours it should be possible to test from 160 to 200 children.
6. All children who show a defect of 6 units or more should be sent for a second time and given a second test, their first and second papers being carefully compared, and if the hearing impairment is confirmed in the second test they should be examined at once either by an Otologist selected by their parents or at a hospital clinic.
7. All the tests might be made in the morning and the three teachers could then examine the test papers during the afternoon.
8. In a short time the School Board, from the reports of the three teachers and of the Otologists, should have a fairly accurate idea as to the number of children that should be given lip-reading instruction and class assistance by means of an amplifying instrument, and plans could then be made in time for the school opening in September.

It is of course understood that the above plan is not as satisfactory as a complete annual test with the 4 A Audiometer of all the children in the several schools, but it is probably the best method that can be devised at this period of the year.