

physical condition of students before they are allowed to compete in inter-collegiate sports. And yet at the same time a heterogeneous mass of humanity, without any form of selection, and utterly regardless of its fitness, is driven through a so-called education. Society at large must sooner or later awaken to the realization that the indiscriminate education of the masses cannot be too strongly condemned, for excessive demands upon the brain power of a community must ultimately lower not only the intellectual, but also the moral standards. Even with the crude and imperfect methods now used by the alienist, if the opportunity were given to him to apply his tests, it would be possible greatly to reduce the numbers of those who are seriously injured mentally and morally by a schooling ill adapted to their individual needs and necessities. Everyone admits that it is the duty of the physician to warn those with weak hearts or lungs not to overtax those organs. Is it not equally important that the mental welfare of the community be safeguarded? Only some men are born to be educated; how many more, unfortunately, have thrust upon them an education, which is disastrous not only to themselves, but also to the community at large?

To prevent the sins of over-educated fathers and mothers from being visited on the children unto the third and fourth generation is a problem of great sociological as well as economic importance to the State. The sudden expansion of mental powers may be quite as unfortunate as the sudden acquisition of riches, and the community that heedlessly imposes mental tasks indiscriminately upon the children in its Public schools adds greatly to the list, already appalling in length, of those who overtax the capacities of hospitals for the insane.

Gentlemen, only when we realize the truth of these observations by competent authorities will medical inspection rise as part of our school economy to its essential and proper proportions.

DR. ROBERT LAW (Ottawa).—I congratulate Dr. MacMurchy on her excellent paper, bringing forward this question which is now coming into prominence as a live matter, and consider that this matter will shortly be considered part of the regular routine of a Health Department's duties, and that the work should be under direction of Health Department.

In Ottawa the Health Officer has done such work as has been done; this was chiefly in control of contagious diseases, with the result that the schools have been kept free from any epidemic; and in throat inspection cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria have been removed from classes.