

American Otological Society, there is no choice for us but to regard their statement as a matter of, to say the least, momentous concern.

Cut these figures in two; cut them in four; cut them in eight; and you will still be confronted with a condition of life in this City that calls for the keenest possible investigation and of preventive measures of the most drastic nature on the part of our Municipal and School authorities, and particularly of our newly formed Board of Health.

Cut off the left hand of 100,000 of our people and I doubt if the handicap would equal that of having 100,000 citizens deprived to a serious extent of their ability to hear.

**This, then, is my third contention, viz., that the number of deafened people in Montreal is very large indeed and that there are probably 25,000 to 30,000 children of school age calling for immediate attention.**

And here let me go back for a moment to my second contention, viz., that, if treated promptly, deafness can be forestalled in the majority of childhood cases but, if allowed to reach the stage of hearing impairment noticeable by parents and teachers, the victims will probably in later years be counted among the great army of the deafened.

Now Mr. Chairman, what conclusion can we draw from all these facts? There is only one, viz., that there rests upon the shoulders of the parents, the medical practitioners, the teachers, the School Boards, the health authorities, and particularly the Municipal Health Board, an urgent responsibility to *seek* and to *find* the source of the trouble at the earliest possible moment,— to dig up the soil and to hand pick the thistle roots before they have reached the point of showing their heads above the surface.

I am not going to minimize the task. I realize fully how great and how difficult an undertaking it is, but, cost what it may in time or energy or money, and it will yield you, not a hundred fold but a thousand fold in future dividends, and will save the oncoming generation from a degree of misery and of sorrow that no one living is capable of measuring.

For ten years in the United States men of great ability and of equal unselfishness and public spirit have been doing intensive work among the school children in about 100 of the larger American Cities, and have gathered together facts and figures of the utmost value. They have devised means of rapid group examination of the ears, and have tested these methods sufficiently to know their value and their limitations. Having met these men I know that I am safe in saying that they gladly would give all the information they have to any Canadian Medical or School Officials interested in the work. In other words, we in Montreal have to-day an opportunity of starting in this great undertaking at the point of investigation already reached in the United States, after years of research work and the outlay of a large amount of money, and in the name of humanity I beg of you that you will lose no time in starting to work.

And now, Mr. Chairman, perhaps you will allow me before sitting down to make a concrete suggestion. Although for some years I have not taken an active part in the work of your League, I have watched closely the progress that you have made, and I know that *action* is your watchword to-day, and that when you see an opportunity to make Montreal a safer, a better and a happier place in which to live, you do not hesitate to exert your energies in that direction. Now in the Montreal League for the Hard of Hearing (and let me