

too soon. The School Nurse will bring back with her from her visits to the homes of the children who above all need the services of the School Doctor and the School Nurse, an account of home conditions that will not only be of immense value to the school authorities, but will make us all open our eyes. There is probably enough money and to spare, spent in this city in charity, but it is not made effective. It is not given wisely. The School Nurse would be a valuable addition to our means of reaching those who need help. There are a good many families in Toronto living in one room. It is time that municipal, educational, medical and charitable authorities realized this and worked together to find and apply a remedy.

The effect of housing conditions on the school child was one of the first things that Medical Inspection of Schools elsewhere dealt with. To quote from the Glasgow report :

"It cannot be an accident that boys from two-roomed houses should be 11.7 pounds lighter on an average than boys from four-roomed houses, and 4.7 inches smaller. Neither is it an accident that girls from one-roomed houses are, on the average, 14 lbs. lighter and 5.3 inches shorter than the girls from four-roomed houses."

In London, Thomas has shown that though the physique of the children unquestionably varies with the number of rooms occupied, it bears a still closer relation to the number sleeping in each room.

THE WORKING OF MEDICAL INSPECTION.

A great deal of perseverance, judgment, and common sense must be used in the working of Medical Inspection of Schools. In the *British Medical Journal* of November 7, 1908, the following description occurs : "In some of the schools, on entering the hall a row of miserable children sitting doing nothing may be observed. This is, as it were, the school sick-room; the children are too ill to do lessons, and their homes are so bad that it would be a cruelty to send them there. The existence of a doctor in charge of particular schools appears to be unknown to the teachers, and the hospitals are known to be over-crowded. So for days at a time these unfortunate children wait there doing nothing and quietly suffering. Sore eyes, sore throats, abscesses, tuberculosis, these are a few examples of the sufferers who sit waiting for something to happen—a heart-break to the teachers, and a misery to themselves. It might be thought that no inspector, manager, or School Nurse could bear to pass in and out and to see this going on, but every one complains that there is no one responsible."

Among the 30,000 school children in Toronto we have only too good reason to know that there are some sore eyes, sore throats, and worse