

process is even in them a decidedly dangerous as it is most certainly a pernicious one. This villainous cramming system is well known to medical men as a strong etiological factor in the production of hysteria, chorea and other nervous disorders, to say nothing of undermining the physical health of the child and so preparing the way for other serious ailments. One question for a Commission on Education to enquire carefully into would be as to how these baneful influences which are on the increase and constantly working havoc with the nervous systems of school children could be guarded against; and no doubt any such enquiry should go along the lines of educating parents, guardians, nurses, and especially the teachers themselves, particularly in our large cities, of the danger of continually subjecting the immature nervous systems of these young children to the constant excitement, strain, and mental activity, which is the accompaniment of our common school education. Dr. William Townsend Porter has probably investigated and given more study to the influences of school life, which go to produce these all too common neuroses of childhood, than any one else. His extensive researches demonstrate that children who are advanced in their studies have greater weight, greater height and greater girth of chest than those who are not so far advanced in their studies but of the same age. He would establish then a physical as well as a mental examination, and would prohibit the entrance of a child into a given class until his mental and physical condition corresponded to his associates in that class. A child physically weak will not be, in the great majority of instances, capable of keeping pace with his class, and in the effort to do so will be all too often spurred on by appeals to his young ambitions and possibly by threats of physical punishment, both tending to work upon an already over-tried nervous system, and hence the calamitous results. As Dr. Porter then points out, there should be a great deal of importance attached to a methodical examination of the physical system as well as the mental, which still further emphasizes the need of medical inspection in the schools of the large cities where our social systems have assigned more excitement, strain and mental activity than in the quieter rural districts. It is the opinion of well-informed neurologists that such a system would be a preventive measure of the greatest value, and that many children would be thereby spared from the clutches of many neuroses. There is another factor which must not be lost sight of and which tends to act as a fore-runner to neurotic diseases. The seats in our schools, the desks, the light, the ventilation are