

Diseases of the throat were found in 1,749 pupils. Diseases of the eye, ear and spine were frequent. In 1896 the number of infectious diseases was found to be less in the Boston schools than in 1894.

New York began this system early in 1897. Of 8,960 pupils examined, 1,156 were too ill to remain at school. Among these there were of

Specific infectious diseases.....	267	cases.
Oral and respiratory diseases	3,934	"
Ear "	66	"
Eye "	382	"
Skin "	628	"
Miscellaneous "	3,687	"
Diphtheria "	26	"
Scarlet fever "	8	"
Measles "	59	"
Mumps "	54	"
Chickenpox "	35	"
Croup "	71	"
Tuberculosis "	3	"

From these figures you will see the importance of daily medical inspection in connection with public schools. Its protective value to the public, and to school children in particular, cannot be over-estimated. All know how easily the contagious diseases of children may be and are disseminated, and how indifferent parents and guardians are to the protection of their own children, or others, from infectious and contagious diseases in school and at home. All know how these diseases in children lead to after results, impaired vision or hearing, chronic throat difficulties, diseased nervous systems, by which their effectiveness as pupils and students is impaired, and that thereby the work of education is seriously hindered, if it is not in the case of many pupils rendered altogether impossible.

As it would be impossible for a medical health officer in a large city to undertake school inspection in addition to his other duties, a sufficient number of local physicians should be engaged by the School Board for the purpose. In small towns and rural municipalities, school inspection could be done by the medical health officer of the municipality, a reasonable salary being paid him for this addition to his usual duties.

You will naturally expect me to say something of consumption, a disease which, for the people of most civilized countries, has, in the light of recent investigation and statistics, become a subject of the greatest interest and importance. It will not be necessary to discuss here the current opinions held by physicians of the influence of Koch's bacillus in the causation of that disease. It seems, however, that while the agency of the bacillus as a causative factor of consumption is proved, it is equally true that this microbe can only do harm to persons whose vital resistance is low, and who thus offer a suitable soil for its growth. It is recognized to-day, more clearly