

CHILDREN WITH DEFECTIVE SIGHT.

A letter received by Mr. Gardiner, principal of the Ontario School for the Blind, from the Superintendent of the American Mission School for the Blind at Bombay, India, mentions that the estimated number of blind people in India is 500,000, of whom certainly not more than 500 have had any opportunity for an education or training along industrial lines. Reports from many places in the United States, as well as from several European countries, indicate that blindness is decreasing in the most highly civilized communities, largely as the result of greater knowledge, and more attention to preventive measures, on the part of physicians and nurses. While the returns of the last Dominion census on this subject have not yet been tabulated and published, there is reason to believe that a similar statement is applicable to Canada. Nevertheless, it is probable that there are now—as there always have been—many young people in Ontario who ought to be enrolled as pupils in the School at Brantford, but are not. Some parents of blind children have never heard of the School; others are sensitive about letting it be known that their children are afflicted; many, from what might be described as excessive affection, do not like to be separated from their children, even for the children's good. To get into communication with the parents of those for whose benefit the school is maintained, the principal depends largely upon the kind intervention of neighbours, teachers, ministers and municipal officers and he will be glad to get from any reader of THE LANCET the name and post office address of any person under twenty-one years of age, who is blind, or whose sight is so defective that attendance at the local Public School is not practicable. By the methods in use at Brantford, a good English education can be acquired by the sightless, and instruction is also given in such trades as are available to enable the blind to become self-supporting. There is no charge for board, tuition or books. Address H. F. Gardiner, principal O. S. B., Brantford.

MEDICAL PREPARATIONS, ETC.

THE TEST OF A TONIC.

The field and function of a systemic tonic is generally understood and appreciated by both physician and patient. To stimulate, whip or goad the vital processes is not to "tone," but, on the contrary, to ultimately depress. A real tonic is not a mere "pick-me-up," but some agent that adds genuine strength, force and vigor to the organism. The genuine tonic is a builder or reconstructor of both blood and tissue.