

eye, ear, nose or throat disease which to a greater or less extent debars them from the advantages of a modern education, and which, secondarily, induce the various forms of "fatigue" and bodily disease to appear, which must play an important role in handicapping the physical, mental and moral development of the child. While fully prepared to admit the importance of other disabilities, the writer fully believes that aside from mental incapacity there is nothing so essential to the acquirement of an education as good eyes and ears, and without them the pathway to an education must be thorny indeed.

The pity of it is that practically all of such conditions, and many more too numerous to mention, could be cared for or cured if detected early in life by the annual systematic examination of all school children's eyes and ears; and of the various methods that have been essayed from time to time to accomplish this purpose, the simple examination by school teachers is the only one that has been even reasonably successful, and is surely the only one that contains sanguine prospects of becoming universally adopted. Such examinations would be made if only all health and educational authorities, aroused to the importance of the situation, would issue their separate orders that such examinations *must be made*; the pity of it is, they do not do it. The writer further feels that such examinations can never reach their highest usefulness unless performed with methodical regularity every year. The sporadic care of this child and that child does not suffice; the general and kindly observation of children by even willing and intelligent teachers, with occasional advice to students and parents that medical advice be sought, is not enough, for generally no attention is paid to such unofficial suggestions, certainly not as much as would be paid to a formal printed notification of the child's imperfect physical condition, and besides this, many important and serious diseases may exist without exciting the observation of the average teacher. The examination of these organs of special sense by physicians is no novelty, and has been accomplished many times for the purpose of gathering statistics and doing good. The employment of physicians for this work, however, has been well proven to be practically impossible, as it involved too great an annual expense, and almost invariably produces so much professional jealousy and friction as to place an efficient quietus upon any future investigations. For the purpose, therefore, of overcoming these two objections, and yet of accomplishing the end in view, the writer proposed, in February, 1895, that such examinations should be