

The Canadian Ministry of Health

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AN opportunity of speaking to teachers even through the printed page is a great privilege and one that has a high intrinsic value. It is not only the teacher who reads these words but his or her pupils—branches as it were of the intellectual tree deriving their nourishment from the parent stem—who read the word and take the thought. Nor is this true only of the few passing moments in which the Teacher's eye reads, or the Teacher's ear hears, the fleeting thought. It is true also of the rest of that Teacher's professional life-time and the remaining days of that Teacher's intellectual life. This gives the pages of the "Educational Review" a high intrinsic value.

Many Canadians do not yet realize that we have a Ministry of Health in the Dominion of Canada, and that at Ottawa a Minister of Health has been in his seat in the Cabinet Council for nearly two years. The Act establishing the Canadian Ministry of Public Health was assented to by His Excellency The Governor General on June 6th, 1919, and came into force at once. The Hon. N. W. Rowell was the first Minister of Public Health, and upon his resignation from the Government, the Hon. J. A. Calder was appointed to succeed him. Dr. John A. Amyot, C. M. G. was appointed Deputy Minister of Health and Col. D. A. Clark Assistant Deputy Minister after the passing of the Act in 1919.

The Provinces, under the British North America Act, have control of education, public health and other matters with which Child Welfare is inseparably connected. So that of all the great opportunities opening before the new Canadian Ministry of Health in its administration, the greatest is that of co-operating with all the Provincial Authorities, with organizations, official and voluntary, and with private individuals, throughout the whole Dominion. This was provided for in the statute establishing the Dominion Ministry of Health by creating a body to be known as the Dominion Council of Health, representative of all the Provinces and of the people as a whole. The Chief Provincial Medical Officer of Health in each province is a member of this council. Three of the Provinces, New Brunswick, Ontario and Alberta, have a Provincial Minister of Health as a member of the Government, and several of the Provinces have a Bureau of Child Welfare or other child welfare work under the direction of the Chief Provincial Officer of Health.

There remain, however, some matters connected with Public Health which are more National than Provincial in their scope. Among these may be mentioned Quarantine, The Medical Inspection of

Immigrants, the Control of Patent and Proprietary Medicines, the Opium and Drug Act and the Regulations in regard to Opium and Drugs in the Treaty of Peace and in the work of the League of Nations, the Analysis of Foods, Housing, the National Research Laboratory, Venereal Diseases and other matters.

Among the duties and powers of the Minister of Public Health are expressly mentioned the Conservation of Child Life and the promotion of Child Welfare, and so the first New Division of the New Ministry of Public Health was the Division of Child Welfare. The first step in the organization of this Division was the publishing according to law by the Civil Service Commission on February 5th, 1920, of an advertisement setting forth the qualifications standing, and experience required for Chief of the Division; stating when and to whom applications should be made. The appointment was made in April and the work of the Division was begun in May 1920.

Among all the measures of Reconstruction, Child Welfare holds the foremost place. As the Prince of Wales said in his home-coming address Dec. 19th, 1919, at the Guild Hall, setting himself to answer the question, "What do the British people want?"—

"The British people want that all men and women shall receive the just reward of their labours and that every child born into the Empire shall have a fair sporting chance."

It is that "Fair Sporting Chance" for all our children that the Department of Health and the Division of Child Welfare and the Provincial Authorities are thinking of. The war has opened our eyes. The Baby, the Ex-baby and the School-child are our Canada-to-Come. No Baby—No Nation.

We want to be of use to the Mother, the Father and the Home. So our first publication, just issued is "The Canadian Mother's Book." This book is for you. There is a copy for you. Write to the Deputy Minister of Health, Ottawa and give him your address and your copy will be sent to you, free. No postage stamp is required for this letter. Put O. H. M. S. on the envelope. Some day one of your pupils will whisper to you the news that "We have a New Baby at our house" or you may be "asked to tea" where the mother would like a book. Just send us the address—(no stamp needed) and we will do the rest. The "Key Industry" of Canada is Child Welfare.

AT a recent meeting of the Dartmouth School Board it was voted to raise all the teachers salaries. At the present time nineteen of the thirty-two teachers are receiving salaries below the minimum required by statute. The proposed increases will bring all salaries to at least this minimum.

Education begins the gentleman, but reading, good company, and reflection must finish him.—*Locke*.