

other homes. The truth of this observation has been frequently shown in Ontario. Our present system of placarding houses in which the infectious diseases are located is only partially beneficial, even when all cases are promptly reported by the attending physician, for the reason that in most cases a physician is not called to attend the patient till after it has been possible for many of the child's mates to have become infected. The symptoms presented by numerous cases of diphtheria or scarlet fever, in the absence of an alarming epidemic, are not regarded by parents at the onset as being of sufficient importance to warrant seeking medical aid, or even detention of the child from school; so that for days, perhaps, the child is permitted to cough, sneeze, or expectorate the germs freely, while coming in close contact with other children. The like is true of other infectious diseases to which children are especially subject.

In order to prevent the spread of the disease from the school, daily medical inspection of schools has been introduced. Work of this kind has been in operation for many years in the city of Brussels, Belgium. The city of Boston in 1894, at a time when an epidemic of diphtheria showed the authorities that a medical reform must be adopted, began a system of daily medical examination of the schools. Dr. Durgin, Chairman of the Board of Health, thus describes the methods by which the work is carried out in that city:

"The Board of Health divided the city into fifty districts, giving an average of about four school-houses and fourteen hundred pupils to each district. No difficulty was experienced in finding well-qualified and discreet physicians who would undertake the duties prescribed; and the Board selected and appointed one physician for each district. His duty was to make a visit to each master's school daily, soon after the beginning of the morning session. The master received from each of the teachers in his district early reports as to the appearance of illness in any pupil in his charge. These reports are given to the visiting physician, who at once examines the reported children and makes a record of his diagnosis and action in books furnished by the Board of Health for that purpose, and kept in the custody of the master. If the visiting physician finds the child too ill, from any cause, to remain at school, he advises the teacher to send the child home for the observation and care of his parents and family physician. If illness is from a contagious disease, the child is ordered home and the case reported to the Board of Health. The disposition of the sick child while at home, and the proper isolation of cases where contagious diseases develop in such children, as well as giving them a warrant for returning to school, depend principally upon the school inspector."

During the first two months 4,962 pupils were examined and 564 were found to be too ill to remain at school. Of these 212 suffered from contagious diseases, 43 being cases of diphtheria.