

The individual record cards, recently installed, are in constant use and are kept up-to-date by the school and Health Department. This system in actual working out warrants fully the claims made for it by its advocates during the past five years. It is indispensable in a school like the York Street School, where in one year there were four principals, where the pupil turnover is so immense, and where so large a proportion of the children labor under handicaps which might otherwise be unknown to the teachers. The home visitation conducted by the nurse, often under great difficulties, is of inestimable value. The experience of the nurse in the homes has convinced her that the chief handicap of the school in securing its highest efficiency is the often almost intolerable housing conditions which exist in the neighborhood. The city, for its own protection, cannot afford to have a festering sore near its very heart, and steps should be taken at once to secure accurate data as to living and housing conditions in this and similar neighborhoods. In spite of all the difficulties, something must be done. To the statement, "We can't afford the expenditure," the obvious answer is, "We can't afford not to make the expenditure." It hardly seems sane to spend fifty dollars a year on the education of a child when the value of the expenditure is nullified, or worse, by home conditions.

The housing conditions are largely responsible for the dirty state in which many children come to school. Frequently pupils have to be sent home. The availability of the Harrison Baths is a great asset to the school. It has a good moral effect on the home to send back children for uncleanness, but it is not always desirable to do so in the case of young children or border-line cases. When the children are young and do not present outstanding examples of uncleanness, but need a bath, time would be saved and school conditions rendered more tolerable were a shower bath for each sex installed at the school. One of the first lessons in Canadian citizenship should be personal cleanliness, and if the home does not offer proper facilities, the school should.

THE CLASSES IN OPERATION.

The Kindergarten.

The kindergarten was visited on the morning of December 4th. One head teacher and two assistants were in charge, each having special care over a division. The members of the senior division are regularly promoted in January to the Junior First. The room is well lighted and decorated. The floor, however, cannot be kept clean enough for kindergarten purposes. As stated elsewhere, this is to be remedied shortly. The cloakroom of the kindergarten—as of all other class-rooms in the building—is a part of the main room, without separate ventilation. This is not desirable.

During the first of the period of observation the divisions were being conducted separately. All the children except five or six seemed interested in their work. The rest of the morning the class was conducted as a unit. The first exercise was the singing of the National Anthem and the saluting of the flag. This was very well done. This was followed by fourteen exercises, involving singing, educational games