

the mill from three sides; but their light artillery had little effect upon its strong stone walls. Reinforcements for the British arrived from two directions, and nearly doubled the number of the defenders; but still the enemy outnumbered them ten to one, or counting those actually engaged in the battle, more than two to one. The relieving parties took possession of a wooden blockhouse near the mill, but on the other side of the stream. Twice they charged the enemy's guns, but they were driven back. That they were able to hold the blockhouse was remarkable. As evening drew on, the firing ceased. The British strengthened their position during the night, expecting the attack to be renewed next day; but before morning came the invaders had disappeared. Without apparent reason, Wilkinson withdrew his army and retreated to Plattsburg; and a few days later he was relieved of his command. He was afterwards tried by court martial; but was acquitted on the ground that he had followed his instructions.

According to the testimony of their enemies, the conduct of the British troops on this occasion was distinguished by desperate bravery. The mismanagement and failure of the invasion would have been an event as notable as the failures of Dearborn and Hampton, had not another invasion, a few months later, crossed the frontier in the opposite direction to end in more lamentable failure. The affair at Lacolle Mill we may recall with pride, but Plattsburg has other associations.

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### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

"The Public Health Journal" for February devotes a series of special articles to the great question of Medical Inspection of Schools. The editor, commenting upon the value of this work, says:—

"Still in its infancy, medical inspection of schools has demonstrated its worth and has shown what a valuable contribution it can be to the educational systems of Canada. Its establishment in some of our cities and towns is but the logical outcome of the desire to see the child-life of the community given the best possible chance for development. A child cannot learn unless he is healthy; a child cannot be happy unless he is healthy; the child as father of the man must be healthy or our whole nation will decay. A great host of the troubles flesh is heir to are preventable. There is no need for thousands of children being consigned to early graves, or stunted and deformed manhood. Medical inspection of schools, carried out properly, will show us the defects and what we ought to do to remedy them."

Dr. Struthers, Chief Medical Inspector in Toronto, contributes an interesting and full report of the medical inspection carried on in Toronto schools. "There is today," writes this experienced physician, "such persistent neglect of the laws of health, and outrageous violation of the laws of the human body, that there is plenty to do to teach even the most rudimentary truths, and to care for manifest physical defects and disease. It is not the children of the ignorant, the intemperate, the vicious, or the too-busy only who suffer from the parent's lack of knowledge. It is astounding to learn the extent of prejudice and superstition in regard to health matters among otherwise well-educated people."

The work of medical inspection was begun in the Toronto schools in 1910, and has rapidly increased in scope. Today, the total staff comprises a chief medical inspector on whole time in charge of the department; twenty-one medical inspectors on part time; one dental inspector and four dental surgeons on part time; one superintendent of nurses and thirty-seven school nurses on whole time. The city is divided into twenty districts with a medical inspector and two nurses in charge of each. The medical inspector and nurses of each district are expected to have an accurate knowledge of the prevalence of disease, sanitary conditions,