

the public schools was urged as early as the year 1875 by many eminent physicians, and strong representations were made to the Boards of Health both in Boston and New York to have medical inspectors appointed for this purpose. Not, however, till the year 1890 were these representations successful in Boston. In this year the Board of Health divided the city into fifty districts, giving an average of about four school houses and 1400 pupils to each district. Well-qualified and discreet physicians were readily found to undertake for a small honorarium the duties prescribed. These were as follows : A daily visit was made to each school shortly after the beginning of the morning session, and an inspection made of all children reported by the teachers as showing any symptoms of illness. If a child was found too sick to remain in school it was sent home with a card stating the reason and recommending it to the care of its parents and their family physician : prescribing by the inspector was forbidden. If there was any symptom of contagious disease the case was at once reported to the Board of Health. In the examination of the children in the school it was directed that every facility was to be given to the doctor, while at the same time he was requested to reach his conclusions with the least possible delay and annoyance to the school.

In the report of the Boston Board of Health for 1896, it is stated that from November 1st, 1894, to October 31st, 1895, the number of children examined was 14,666. Of these 9,188 were found to be sick, 1,745 were ill enough to be sent home ; of these 437 had some infectious or contagious disease.

Under the stimulus of the daily medical inspection, it was found that teachers became quicker and more expert in the detection of existing illness, sick children were promptly isolated, the danger of contracting infection was minimized and parents felt secure, even during the prevalence of disease in allowing their children to attend school. The number of children saved in this way from disease, possibly of a fatal character, is beyond computation, for undoubtedly the contact of children with one another in school is the most frequent method in which the contagions of the various infectious diseases are transmitted.

Statistics very similar to the above are to be found in the Reports of the boards of Health for New York from 1896 to 1899, and also in the Reports of the Boards of Health of Philadelphia and Chicago.

Not only does such an inspection do much for the direct well-being of the child itself, but it has an important influence in educating the scholars generally to the importance of hygiene, of pure air and good