

the county council. In 1930, the 127 high schools of Ontario received in grants from the counties the sum of \$1,176,417.00 or an average of \$9,263.00 to each high school. There is still another feature to be remembered. In Ontario, the high school boards are quite distinct from the public school boards; in Quebec, the local board, Protestant or Catholic, has charge both of elementary, intermediate and high schools. Hence it is that all our intermediate and the great majority of our high schools teach the elementary as well as the higher grades. The economic side of our secondary education is, therefore, an important one. This fact is not offered, however, as an excuse in any respect for the Quebec schools, as the now admitted good quality of our matriculants shows that no excuse is needed.

The present writer, like Professor Leacock, is a native of Ontario and was educated at the Galt Collegiate Institute in the days of Doctor William Tassie. But, while unable to venture

upon such large generalizations and comparisons as those which flow so readily from Professor Leacock, we are convinced from long experience that, in spite of the economic handicaps mentioned above, the history and development of Protestant high school training in the Province of Quebec is a magnificent tribute to the intelligence, the good-will and the energy of the minority, rather than the reproach that hasty criticism has endeavoured to make it appear.

That the controversy should have arisen at all is regrettable, and we are at one with a wise commentator who urges that it would be well if people could be induced "to substitute a little collective private thinking for a flood of individual public talk". But the attack upon our high schools having been made in the most public way possible it is only right and just, in the interest of harmony, that corrective information should be respectfully submitted.

J. C. S.

DIPHTHERIA

The acute infectious disease of diphtheria has again made its appearance in our schools. This disease is more or less prevalent and is to be dreaded in epidemic form. It attacks all classes of the community and may appear at any time of the year.

Diphtheria is a constitutional affection and is exceedingly common among children, especially those from 3 to 12 years. It generally manifests itself in the throat. One of the first symptoms that appears is difficulty in swallowing. If the disease obtains a hold over the patient a little white membrane will probably appear over the throat. If the inflammation extends to the larynx and if the membrane cannot be broken the patient will suffocate and die. The disease spreads so rapidly that death occurs, in extreme cases, before medical aid can arrive.

Even when fatal results do not follow, many complications result from diphtheria, such as paralysis of the muscles which affect swallowing and speech. The eyes are sometimes affected and other parts of the body may be paralyzed. The working of the heart and many other bodily functions may be affected.