

be given in the public schools for the development of national culture. He outlined a course of instruction in which simple folk dances were combined with musical training to aid in the development of the appreciation of rhythm and musical interpretation. The second paper, given by Miss McNeil of Halifax Public Schools, told of the interesting means used by music teachers to meet the problems of group instruction in the public schools.

The afternoon session was devoted to discussions of Health and the Public Schools. Dr. B. F. Royer told of the dire need of preventative medicinal care in Nova Scotia and the means being taken to meet this need in the city of Halifax and the Province. Dr. R. H. Woodbury told of the dangerous consequences arising from the lack of dental care. He showed a number of charts on this subject which were most convincing.

The early part of the evening session was concerned with the report of the Committee on Nominations. The following appointments were made: Executive Committee—Miss McIntosh of Sydney, Mr. Cameron of Sydney, Prin. Morehouse of Amherst, Prin. Ross of Halifax, Prin. Ruggles of Annapolis, Prin. Archibald of Bridgetown.

Members of the Advisory Board—Miss Hewitt and Miss Campbell.

The remainder of the evening was given to the organization of the Nova Scotia Teachers' Union which will be reported by some member of its executive.

The morning session of Thursday was concerned with the discussion of Subnormality and the Public Schools. Dr. Briscoe, of the I. O. D. E. Home in Halifax, spoke of the problems presented by the subnormal children who find their way into the public schools. These children because of mental defects are not able to do the work of the school nor are they capable of normal responsibility. They should be given motor training, and much attention should be given to their early formation of good habits, which are their only moral safeguard.

Dr. G. B. Wallace of the State School for the feeble-minded in Wrexham, Mass., said that feeble-mindedness is either accidental or congenital. In the former case it occurs in families of good mentality and the individual so affected is cared for by his family. Congenital feeble-mindedness is, however, a frightful social menace, for it is found to be responsible for 60 per cent. of inmates of our prisons, 50 per cent. of prostitutes and 90 per cent. of the illegitimate mothers. "All human ills come from feeble-mindedness." The remedies suggested by Dr. Wallace were: (1) Information regarding the prevalence and dangers of this menace should be given to the public. The methods of determining and training subnormals should be given in all our Colleges, Universities and Normal Schools. (2) Every child in school should be tested and his personal history, including medical history, per-

sonal character, school record should, also, be kept. (3) Subnormal children should be trained in special classes and should be watched and cared for throughout their lives for the protection of society and the alleviation of this public danger.

A number of resolutions were passed including the suggestion that the minimum period for a pension be thirty years service in the province, and that the pension pass to the widow of the male teacher so long as she remain such; commendation to the Public Health Association and Red Cross for their work in relieving physical disabilities in the province; thanks to Acadia University for the use of their building; regrets that Mr. Butler, secretary of the Institute, was kept away by illness; a promise to actively support the C. P. I. in its attempts toward reformed spelling.

The final meeting of the Association was addressed by Dr. Vincent of the Rockefeller Foundation, New York. This most stimulating and fluent address dealt with Problem Solving as the test of Education. Man's problems fall into several classes—physical, social, intellectual, moral and religious. The conscious effort of the individual is the best educator. Our schools have failed in this mission because they have presented to the child information which has had no relation to an end which he appreciated.

The Institute closed with a vote of thanks tendered to Dr. Vincent by President Cutten.

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH CAMPAIGN IN NOVA SCOTIA

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The efforts which the Province of Nova Scotia is making towards the improvement of public health conditions are quite in line with the world-wide attempts being made to preserve and protect lives, the necessity of which has been brought home as one of the results of the tremendous world war. Even before the outbreak of this, it was realized that in many particulars the showing which the Province was making—judged by those great indexes which measure a country's public health development, namely its General Death Rate, Infantile Death Rate and mortality returns generally—indicated a condition of wastage of life which could not but impress itself, by reason of its seriousness, on the minds of those who realized that these conditions were unnecessary, though permitted.

The measures then taken, which it was hoped might result in a betterment of these conditions, included an educative campaign of the Province to be undertaken by a largely increased staff of Public Health workers. This increase of staff was planned to provide for the appointment of the following persons: