

Miscellaneous.

Medical Inspection of School Children.

In a letter published in the *British Medical Journal*, Dr. Helen MacMurehy, of Toronto, speaks as follows:

"I beg to thank you for your courteous reference to two points mentioned by me in a paper on the medical inspection of children attending elementary schools. These are the only schools attended by many of the children of the empire, and it seems as if school were the only place to teach many of these citizens of to-morrow certain facts. How many young mothers know that the chances of life are 15 to 1 in favor of the baby nursed by its mother, as compared with the baby not nursed by its mother? How many people have a saving sense of the fact that a baby's chance of life depends directly on warmth, cleanliness, and good air to breathe? How many people really know when it is safe to give a baby solid food, or fruit? These things should be part of "the foundation of education," and a girl of 12 years old had far better learn these things, and have the beginnings of a health conscience, than be taught certain geographical and mathematical facts.

"Last year, travelling from Kingston to Toronto, I had as fellow passengers a mother and her little daughter, 7 years old. The little girl had a doll, and the doll was provided with a glass feeding-bottle, with rubber mouthpiece and all, quite complete! I think the manufacturer of dolls' feeding-bottles is 'an enemy to the republic.' That was a bad object-lesson for the little girl, and it would have been well to have it corrected when she went to school.

"In regard to the second point, 'the man in the street' has not time to learn bacteriology; but he has time to learn that when a man gets typhoid fever the cause was in the water or in the milk or other food that he put into his own mouth himself a short time before he was taken ill. When he once has mastered this fact he will probably be as careful as are the Japanese soldiers, or he will insist on having his supplies of these necessaries of life above suspicion. He should know that there is such a cause for every case of typhoid, and it does not need a Sherlock Holmes to find it out.

"Not long ago I sat at dinner beside an eminent Canadian lawyer. He turned the conversation on typhoid fever. 'The real cause is bad drains, isn't it?' he said, vaguely. I thought it was my duty to tell him that typhoid was caused by a certain-germ, and unless that germ was in his water or in his food or on his fingers he would not likely get typhoid fever from drains."