

success when removed from large schools, and placed at inferior, but small and quiet schools. Again, the weak-brained, feeble-minded child often gets so teased, that at last he cannot be induced to go to school; his attendance is excused on the ground of health. What becomes of him after that?

Two important questions arise, than: (A) How can wrong-brained children be picked out? (B) What can be done for them?

A. How can the wrong-brained be picked out?

This raises the question whether the ordinary school manager is able, unassisted, to discover the brain condition of the children. Should there be an occasional medical inspection to aid the managers to determine how they may help on the development of the children? This might be met by occasional medical inspection, say twenty times in the year. We are not speaking of questions of hygiene or cases of illness. At the inspection, an experienced doctor, looking over the school class by class, would soon select those probably requiring some special care; the teachers would present for examination any child they found specially troublesome, often complaining, short-sighted, very passionate, &c.; and the cases of children excused from attendance on grounds of health would be considered; advice might be given on all cases. At a school I recently visited, a child was presented by the teacher as "not dull but somehow wrong"; grave brain defect was obvious; the advice given was to keep the child, if possible, at school and out of the gutters.

A boy was brought to me who was frequently absent, and often punished when in school; he had harelip, a defect of the heart, and an ill-developed brain. He has a right to be educated, and ought not to be punished for dulness of brain.

In examining a child as to brain condition, general excitability may be expressed by general fidgetiness and finger twitching. The posture of the hand when held out by a healthy child is straight; it assumes a special posture in the nervous, excitable child, and a

different position in simple fatigue. The teeth are usually ground in an ill-sleeping child. The parts around the eyes are visibly relaxed in conditions of headache, making it unnecessary to take a child's word as to whether it suffers; we can see it for ourselves. As to training the brain to stand strains, I believe it is better for the nervous child to be educated. It must meet the shocks and strains of life, and if *properly* educated and exercised it will bear those shocks and strains better than if untrained to think and to exercise selfcontrol.

B. What can be done for these children?

I am not a technical educator; a want is pointed out, and we are prepared to show how this special class of children may be classified, and in individual cases, or a group of cases we can say what will aid brain development.

In classes for the dumb I have seen cases very defective in brain being educated. In the highest class at Darent Schools I have seen feeble minded children being educated and sent out into the world. Small classes and special teachers could well manage the dull, the excitable, the wrongly made children.

As to the expense of teaching a few children in a small class room, instead of in a large room, would not the money be well spent in an effort to lessen crime, pauperism, and social failure? Should the endeavour be made to educate and save the child, or to reform the drunkard and criminal, and redeem the pauper to society?

I should like to see a tentative effort made. Provide inspection for a few large schools and two small class rooms with suitable teachers, and the truth of these statements would, I think, be soon demonstrated, and the value of classifying the brain power of the children would be recognised. The school examiner classifies by intellectual functions only. Every weakly or troublesome child who now escapes from public education is a failure of the system, and every such child is likely to be a public harm.

He was a good pathologist who gave three reasons why his patient could not get well, he was a better who against all reason rescued him, but he would be best who could prevent him getting sick.