

set upon an altar and all loyal subjects have been expected to bow down and worship it, and anyone who would dare to criticize it adversely was considered as wanting in appreciation of the truly good and beautiful and was even liable to be accused of a lack of patriotism. So, sir, it was with considerable astonishment that I heard Dr. Bryce giving voice to the opinion that all was not as perfect as we had been expected to believe, and that our system was even defective. With the Doctor I am of opinion that our children are expected to go to school at too early an age. Speaking as one who has throughout his life been connected with educational work as pupil, as teacher and as trustee, I am of opinion that those children who begin their school career at 7 or 8 years of age will be found at 12 or 13 years of age to be as far advanced as are those who first went to school when they were only 5 years old. While such pupils are as far advanced educationally, my experience goes to prove that physically they are stronger and intellectually they are better equipped for their life work than are those who were sent to school at an earlier age. And allow me to say further, sir, that this opinion based upon experience is substantiated and confirmed by medical science. It is a well known fact that every organ and tissue of the body is strengthened and developed by exercise, if that exercise be not too severe or indulged in for too long a time. What is true of the coarser tissues of the body is true of the finer ones, as cerebral and nerve tissue. Over exertion, on the other hand exhausts and if persisted in permanently enfeebles. This is particularly true with regard to the tissues of the young. Like the Doctor I am of opinion that a child under 7 years of age should have little or no strain thrown upon his cerebrum; that until the tissues of the brain are physically developed intellectual effort instead of being beneficial is highly injurious.

Again I agree with the doctor when he pleads for shorter hours for those who first go to school when they are 7 years old. The development of the various tissues of the body depends upon the amount and character of the pabulum supplied. This pabulum is supplied by the blood and the character of the blood depends in large measure upon the digestion. Now sir, we all know that anyone who is physically exhausted cannot perform the complex act of digestion satisfactorily. A child who has been