

own difficulties over the Transvaal from 1899 to 1902, and the titanic Russo-Japanese war. Probably of the two, there has been no momentum in modern times which has afforded us as a nation so rude an awakening from the self-satisfied drift into which we had glided as the South African War.

The revelations in regard to our Army, made public in the Contemporary Review for January 1903, were unpleasant disclosures. Sir Frederick Maurice on that occasion, and also since, made a strong impeachment of the national health, asserting, among other allegations that 60% of the young men who had volunteered to serve their country were found at the end of two year's service to be "misfits" and incapable of bearing arms on account of defective physique. The statements made at the time in regard to the virility and manhood of the Nation were of so disturbing and disquieting a nature, and the appeal for light and guidance to the great national boards of health was deemed to be of so urgent a character, that in September 1903, the Inter-Departmental Committee on physical deterioration was appointed by the Lord President of the Council. In July 1904, the Committee issued its report, and it is "lest we forget" that I venture to call attention to the embodiment and the result of its recommendations.

It would be a platitude to reiterate the statement that the report should be carefully read by every person in this country holding even the least important of public offices; more especially should it be familiar to the great body of teachers, to whom its direct recommendations make peculiar claim, as the continuous note throughout is for an "educative impulse" which shall bring home the gravity of the issue and the extent to which it is possible through "educative effort" to make effective the findings of the report, backed up as it was by so much expert opinion.

It has been truly said that the State supports education— for everywhere are its hierophants, officials and ministers— and the secular arm punishes resistance to its claims; yet, I am personally convinced from some experience that "education" so called, has been a potent factor in the production of misfits. It is now hoped, however, that we are on the confines of a revolution in this respect, and it is not my present object