

likely to hear it in common parlance; the term "back-block" school, is the expression employed by the layman. Half-time schools are not uncommon, one teacher being employed for three days a week in each of two schools. Indeed, the diligent inquisitor might also find here and there a teacher in charge of three schools, giving two days a week to each. Last of all is the correspondence course, intended to reach the child in the remotest corner of the land.

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In Canada we are at present greatly concerned regarding the question of immigration. We invite our countrymen of the Old Land, and also foreigners, to come in by the hundred thousand to fill up our waste places. But what are we doing to maintain and develop the efficiency of the native-born? The annual report for 1922 of the Chief Medical Officer of the English Board of Education contains these pregnant words: "It may be safely assumed that from 80 to 90 per cent. of children are born healthy, and with the potentiality of leading normal and healthy lives. Whatever be the facts of parentage, the tendency of nature is to reassert the right of each new generation to the heritage of healthy birth. The fact is that after the first year of life, the young child has to bear a heavy burden of environmental neglect, associated with bad housing, poverty, and absence of hygienic provision. As a result, the school medical service is faced with the hard issue that, out of an infant population born healthy, 35 to 40 per cent. of the children who are admitted to school at five years of age, bear with them physical defects which could have been either prevented or cured. This is indeed a bad start on the journey of life. When we are in a position to attend properly and effectively to the health of the pre-school child, we shall have secured, in the first place, a mode of life in which the child can enjoy bodily comfort and a happy mental outlook; secondly, a reasonable opportunity for its proper education; thirdly, an immense saving of medical supervision at the beginning of school life and subsequently."

Unlike the great cities of the Mother Country our British Columbia cities may claim to have no slums; but in Vancouver there are numerous dwellings the mere exteriors and externals of which make the heart sick. The existence of these will persuade the thoughtful person that even in this favored land we can ill afford to withhold close medical supervision from the pre-school child.

At a recent luncheon of the Civic Bureau of the Board of Trade a discussion took place on the desirability of calling into existence a "Preventorium," for the special benefit of children who have a tendency to tubercular troubles. The matter is one that should enlist the interest and co-operation of every thinking person. For some time, through the generosity and hard work of the Rotary Club, we have had, in the centre of the city, a clinic with this very object, among others, in view. In the building erected for the clinic the Board of School Trustees maintains an open-air class for the benefit of very delicate children. This is all to the good; but much more is needed. Many of our class-rooms might be converted into what would practically be open-air schools. Then, too, as in New Zealand, the daily physical exercise lesson should wherever possible, be taken out of doors, with special provisions for remedial treatment for physical defectives. Many lessons also could frequently be taught out of doors to the great advantage of both teacher and pupils. In fact, in this possibility we have at our feet a mine of gold to which the prospector has hardly given a passing glance. It is high time we had entered into the use and enjoyment of the heritage Nature freely offers us, a gift we have done nothing to deserve.

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By the will of the late Mr. Braid, wholesale grocer, Vancouver, the School for the Blind comes in for a legacy of \$10,000, to which may be added almost \$20,000 more. All honor to this Scotsman's public spirit, and to the Scotsman's hereditary interest in education. This is an example which hundreds of others, with great benefit to their own happiness and inward growth, would do well to follow. Vancouver needs, yes, badly needs, a library building worthy of the city; a similar structure to house the museum now huddled into the top storey of the utterly inadequate Carnegie library building; a public hall with large and small auditoriums to accommodate great and small public meetings, and to enable high-class musical entertainments to be conducted with comfort; a picture gallery to encourage the collection and exhibition of pictures likely to educate the public taste. Vancouver has these and other needs that should stir the hearts of many to do as the late Mr. Braid has done. Or, let them go one better: that is, present their thousands during their own lifetime, that they themselves, as well as others, may see and rejoice in their good works.



A 1924
Mr. Micawber

Waiting for the
Right Moment
to turn up.