

Last year the Ontario Provincial Government passed an Act which permitted the establishment of auxiliary classes for physical and mental defectives, providing the latter did not fall within the classes known as imbeciles and idiots. This Auxiliary Classes Act has been followed by the usual regulations, and Toronto has availed itself of the Act by deciding to spend \$300,000 on an institution wherein these unfortunates will be taught and housed.

The Department of Education has gone a step further. It has given Dr. Helen MacMurchy the supervision of the education of the feeble-minded within the Province. The choice is a happy one. The diagnosis of the feeble-minded is both a medical and a psychological task. Dr. MacMurchy not only comes of a family of educators, but she has herself taught, and latterly has spent many valuable years on the study of the problem. She takes up her new duties with the good wishes of all teachers.

The increasing complexity of school problems in the United States was illustrated at a recent dinner by Dr. P. P. Claxton, Commissioner of Education. He referred to an incident related by Dr. James Clarke in his reminiscences of Oliver Wendell Holmes. The two were at the time students in Harvard when an argument arose about metaphysics.

"I'll tell you, James," said Holmes, "what I think metaphysics is like. It is like a man splitting a log. When it is done he has two more to split."

The schoolmaster of a small village asked his pupils the following question:

"In a family there are five children, and the mother has only four potatoes to divide between them. She wants to give every child an equal share. What is she going to do?"

Silence reigned while everybody thought hard. Suddenly a small boy stood up and gave the following answer:

"Please, sir, mash the potatoes."

Miss Primer—"After all, the modern public school is a mere machine."

Mr. Trustee—"Well, and what part of the machine do you call me?"

Miss Primer—"Oh, you're one of the cranks!"

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