

- 4—A strongly built fellow, abnormally stupid. Seems utterly incapable of learning how to read, though he can do simple mental arithmetic. Defective palate.
- 5—Mother considered mentally defective—had St. Vitus' Dance. Third term in Junior 2nd. Conduct, fair in school.
- 6—Juvenile Court twice. Exceedingly dull. Troublesome. Defective palate.
- 7—Giggles hysterically; stammers. Defective palate. No progress in spite of fairly good attendance.
- 8—Low grade imbecile. Father professional man. Mother defective. Up before clinic. An institutional case.

The problem of the mental defectives in our public schools is not a figment of the minds of a group of lop-sided theorists. It is a reality, and the quicker the citizens of Toronto awake to a full understanding of the facts, the better for the children and the community.

Summary.

The seriousness of the problems of educational waste is thoroughly understood by the principal and staff of the Park School. Great emphasis is laid on the period between 3.30 and 4.00 p.m., when, after the regular session of the school, backward children receive individual attention. When special teachers are provided this will be no longer necessary as it will be possible to give the necessary regular sessions while children are fresh and not after a whole regular school day has lessened the receptiveness and energy of the children. The treatment of dullness, or even stupidity, should not be such as to lay it open to interpretation as a punishment. The principal has tried giving an hour of special instruction each day between 9.00 and 10.00 a.m. to forty children—ten each selected from four similar grades. He has frequently taken a class of six from each of several grades. This is excellent work and very effective, but is an unreasonable tax on the principal and moreover takes him away from other necessary work. Through the clinic the principal located the most serious cases of mental defect so that teachers would be able to direct their main efforts to those capable of responding. The principal and school nurse have kept persistently after dilatory parents who refused to have children operated on for adenoids and diseased tonsils, which were seriously interfering with school work. The principal also made a survey of non-attendance in the school, and used this as a basis for a successful campaign to bring up the percentage of attendance.

The Park district is a prevailingly British district. There is no valid reason why two or three classes of Senior Fourth children should not be graduated each year. However, before this can be done it will be necessary to take some very drastic steps such as the following:

1. The provision of "floating" teachers to give individual help to children who need their help in weak subjects.
2. The starting of special classes for abnormally "slow" or abnormally "rapid" children.