

school hours to mental work do become as thoroughly proficient in purely mental branches as those in schools where no such choice is given, and while manual labor would be a great advance, the introduction of classes of instruction in the useful arts and sciences would in equal degree be another. I have for years held the view that our system of education is too conservative. We are educating too much in one direction, glutting the market, as it were, with the one sample and quality beyond the demands and the necessities of a new country. The evil is noticeable in the over-crowding of the professions and the robbing of the artizan's bench, the farm and the factory, and that too, at a sacrifice of health and true physical development from the teacher's desk to the judge's chair. The same story is everywhere being told and only those who have ample physical resources to call upon on entering the race, retain it in any great degree, while incalculable harm is done thousands whose muscular and nervous systems are not equal to the severe strain. This should not be; the products of our schools should be fully developed men and women, able and willing to work with hands as well as head, producers as well as consumers, men who by occupation and training shall develop the manufacturing and producing trades, men who will employ labor and successfully compete with the skilled artizan of other lands, men and women, too, educated in the useful and decorative arts. Leading to this end the kindergarten method of teaching is to be recommended. These classes fail to receive the encouragement they deserve and are not as common in our schools as they should be. The degree of healthy rest and recreation afforded, and amount of practical knowledge received by the very young in this method of instruction, is beyond the comprehension of those who have not witnessed results.

I do not regard with great favor the system of isolation and placarding in infectious diseases as at present insisted upon, and would say that in my experience orthodox measures have not proved satisfactory. To make isolation perfect we should provide means for separation and removal of those first attacked. There should be homes or hospitals where a parent or nurse could take care of the sick entirely away from other members of the family, it should not be requisite to placard the dwelling-house during a long course of sickness, and pre-

vent the wage earners from pursuing their occupations. This is a great hardship and a great wrong, especially to people of limited means, who are generally the greatest sufferers. It is a tedious wait of days and weeks as one after the other is taken down with the disease, and it is a serious thing to ruthlessly cut off the revenue, and that, too, at a time when extra expense is necessarily incurred. I venture the assertion that the number now placed on the poor list of the various municipalities by this means, demand an outlay far exceeding what would be required to provide comfortable shelter for the sick, and poor people are prevented earning many dollars that should add to the comfort of the afflicted and family as well. Removal would relieve the burden, preserve the self-respect, and independence of the family and oftentimes relieve the public of their care. Notification to the health officer should be insisted upon in all cases, but after that has been done the interest of the afflicted family should be consulted equally with that of the public.

You will remember that at our Toronto meeting in February last, we approached the Government on the subject of establishing a Biological Laboratory. I regret exceedingly to learn that no real advance has been made, although the question may still be under the consideration of the Honorable the Premier and his colleagues. The importance of an institution of this kind as a means of studying the cause, nature and prevention of disease, as a means indeed of original research, cannot be over-estimated, and I trust that at this united meeting the matter will again be pressed by a strongly-worded resolution.

A more perfect and uniform method of collecting and registering vital statistics is being generally felt by scientists. It would be well, I think, to consider the advisability of some action being taken by the Dominion or Ontario Government, as the case may be. I intend, if present at the Milwaukee meeting of the American Public Health Association, to submit the matter for consideration to that body, as well whether the system should not be uniform throughout the civilized world, every Government having its special branch attached to a Government Bureau—in our case, perhaps that of the Department of Internal Revenue. General adoption, uniformity, and reliability, are of first importance to make such statistics of real practical benefit.