

CHILDHOOD DEAFNESS.

as to ensure not only a primary examination by an otologist but such further examinations as the otologist may deem necessary. The visiting nurse can also determine whether a child should receive free medical advice at a hospital clinic or be attended privately by a practicing otologist.

LIP READING INSTRUCTION.

The ability to read speech from the lips is invaluable to all hard of hearing persons young or old. Older people find lip-reading difficult to learn, but children take to it more quickly. In Toronto and Hamilton special classes are provided for all children whose deafness is regarded as likely to increase, as they grow older. Some children are instructed after school hours and others give up certain less important classes. For all their other instruction they are kept in their regular classes and are placed in front seats and in the best positions to see the teacher's face. Excellent results are being obtained. This plan is being followed in many cities in the United States.

SOUND AMPLIFIERS.

The latest idea in assisting hard of hearing school children is to place on the teacher's desk a sound amplifier connected electrically with the lighting system and wired to the seats of the hard of hearing pupils, each of whom wears an ear piece kept in place by a head band. At each desk there is an adjuster to raise or lower the volume of sound. This places the pupil in a complete parity with all the other scholars and gives excellent results. A special instrument known as the Radio Ear is being made by E. A. Myers and Sons of Pittsburg, Pa. This system is more effective and less expensive than giving instructions in lip-reading. As, however, lip-reading is of such great value in adult life to those who are hard of hearing, it is felt that it should become a part of the curriculum of all hard of hearing children.

NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Specialists in the United States contend that not less than 3,000,000 of their school children are suffering from incipient deafness to an extent that calls for otological attention. In a like ratio there would be 25,000 children of school age in Montreal similarly afflicted. This figure is many times greater than the number suffering from tuberculosis or from any other major ailment. Notwithstanding this latter fact no concerted action of any kind is being taken in the City of Montreal regarding deafness prevention, and considering how simple are the methods and how inexpensive in comparison to the enormous losses that now result from deafness, no reasonable excuse can be put forth for further inaction.