

HEREDITY IN RELATION TO EDUCATION.

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I take the first opportunity to thank the Ontario Teachers' Association for the compliment paid me in affording me an opportunity to address them. Though it has fallen to me to reside during the greater part of the last twenty years in the neighboring Province of Quebec, I can say as regards Ontario's institutions, "I am to the manner born," for I was born, received my Elementary, High School and College (University College) education in this Province. Further, I have had the privilege of teaching in an Elementary School, a High School and a Collegiate Institute under Ontario regulations; and I look back to a portion of this period as affording some of the happiest days of my life.

Among many improvements that I notice as having taken place within the last twenty years, is one that was obvious to me on visiting the High School Section this morning. Most of those present were of mature years. Some had evidently grown gray in the service. This means that, so far, at least, as this department of educational work is concerned, a conditional of permanency has been reached, which is in itself a guarantee of considerable progress; in fact, that teaching has become a profession amongst you. I have had the pleasure of meeting here those to whom I sustained pleasing official relations, some former associates in teaching, and several old college friends as well as more recent acquaintances. But amid all this, I to-night experience a feeling of sadness.

I miss from among the educators of this Province a man of much worth and many accomplishments; one probably best known to you as an esteemed High School Inspector—John Milne Buchan. I miss him as you could not, for he, as my teacher, more than any other individual, guided and moulded my youthful life. Of him I must ever think with reverence and gratitude; and I would not be doing justice to my feelings did I not this evening, on making brief temporary contact with that system of education of which he once formed so important a part, pay this tribute to his memory.

I do not know that I can better return the compliment you have paid me than by speaking my views without reserve. I have chosen a subject that may be new and interesting, and one to which I have devoted a good deal of attention: "Heredity in Relation to Education."

It is of course necessary that the education of a country shall be systemized, harmonized and consolidated.

This involves so much machinery, including examinations, inspections, reports, etc., that those concerned are under constant tempta-