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## EDITORIAL.

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### THE MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS.

We have placed ourselves on record on several occasions as being in favor of the careful medical inspection of the children attending the public schools.

It is but a few short years since anything was done in this matter, and in these few years very marked progress has been made. In many countries in Europe medical inspection has been introduced in some form or other. In Great Britain an Act was passed some time ago making it possible for municipalities to have their schools inspected by a properly qualified medical visitor. Similarly in the United States.

What have the results told us? Much is the answer. Medical inspection has shown that many children are attending school who should be under proper medical care for some disease or deformity. In many instances these diseases are curable, but if left to run on might become incurable.

Then, again, we learn that many children are suffering from infectious diseases of some sort or other. This should be stopped at once.

Then many come from homes where the condition of things is very bad, and the children are neither properly clothed, housed, nor fed, and the moral environment very bad. In some places the free breakfast has been introduced.

In some quarters we hear a great deal about eugenics. This is very good, but there is no use talking about eugenics on the one hand and maiming and marring the child on the other after it comes into the world. This is very clearly a duty resting on the state.

It goes without saying that Mr. Jones has no right nor liberty to place an obstacle in the way of the health or success of Mr. Graham's child; and if he tried to do so he would be restrained by the state. In like manner Mr. Jones has no right to place an obstacle in the way of his own child, and, if he does do so, he should be restrained by the law.

The only way to get at the real facts is by the medical inspection of our schools. If one takes the trouble to examine the reports which medical inspectors have made on the schools in large cities in Britain and