

SCHOOLS MAKE GOOD CITIZENS

Some of Winnipeg's Educational Problems Are Outlined by Dr. McIntyre to Women's Club.

Struck fresh from the mint of understanding experience, Dr. Daniel McIntyre's lecture yesterday afternoon on local educational problems, arising from Winnipeg's position as an immigration centre, was one long to be remembered by his audience of the Women's Canadian club. Touched with intimate anecdote, vitalized by reading of the pupils' own contributions, and pulsating with the life interest of the man behind the address, the lecture became, not an entertainment, but a message gleaned from Winnipeg's efforts to carry out the best traditions of the British race. It was the romance of the Canadianizing of the new peoples.

Lady Atkins presided, and the function was held at the Royal Alexandra hotel.

Sympathy to the Fore.

Nationalization, the doctor premised, did not mean the obliteration of national feeling, and of respect for the country, religion and traditions of the new people. So, in approaching the foreigner the spirit of sympathy must be kept to the fore. Confidence and mutual understanding must be there. The parents must be assured that their children would not learn to despise their own people in a Canadian school. This assurance given, the strange-speaking small person presents himself. A little boy's letter telling of his first day in a Canadian school, related graphically of his finding a collar on the street and taking it home and washing it in preparation for the big day. But when it came he was frightened and thought it would be better to stay at home. But go he must, and lo the teacher smiled at him and spoke a greeting in German. A new Canadian was born.

In further effort to reach the new people a visiting teacher was employed. She spoke several languages, and her duties were to provide a direct contact between the foreign-speaking home and the school. She visited the newly-arrived families, explained about the schools, got the children there, looked after absences, encouraged good attendance, and in all ways was friend to the parents and the child.

Another factor was the psychological impression of a dignified building, well heated and decorated, set aside without direct payment, for the use of the neighborhood children.

Cleanliness was taught both by the installation of shower baths and by the system of medical inspection. Two doctors and four nurses were in charge, the nurses visiting the homes and advising the mothers.

Lessen Infant Mortality.

"The little nurses leagues" came in for honorable mention when the speaker told of the small persons who were directed in the proper care of babies, with a view to lessening the infant mortality. The little ladies took their duty to their city very seriously and were on the look out to reprimand and point out the better way to mothers of their acquaintance. They had accomplished not a little in their own neighborhood homes.

Coming to the more staple efforts at Canadianizing, the doctor related the system of teaching English. The spoken word came first, and every effort was made to have the pupil think as well as speak in the tongue. "Thought and the feeling of a race is embedded in a nation's speech," said Dr. McIntyre, "and so a far road is travelled in making citizens when our students can speak our tongue."

"So far I have spoken of our methods with children beginning their education here," went on the speaker, "but we also have the problem of older children, and indeed many full-grown persons who have received some education in their native tongue, and who wish to go on." Special classes were instituted for this class, and they came in numbers with almost as many different motives as persons, ranging from the matron who "wished to read her water rate bill" to the young man after a university degree.

Good Literature Encouraged.

A list of the books read by the children showed that not only were they taught English, but encouraged to read good literature. National sentiment was not a thing of time and seasons, but was built up day by day through the school routine of history, geography and so forth. The floating flag symbolized every day for the children their conviction of the protection and freedom of their new land. Household science courses had done much to teach Canadian ideals of a home, and these classes reacted almost immediately on the pupils. The new schools had made special provision for this, and the doctor extended an invitation to the women to visit the William Whyte school and inspect it.

"But, after all, it's the teacher that makes the school," concluded Dr. McIntyre. "And let me pay earnest tribute to the city staff and also to the long line of progressive school boards that have made possible our flexible system."

It was announced that the executive, in pursuance of instructions, had voted \$100 each to the Red Cross Patriotic fund and Belgian fund.

The annual meeting of the club will be held Nov. 27, and the nominating committee for that event was appointed as follows: Lady Atkins, Miss Peplow, Mrs. Ed. Brown, Miss Jones, Mrs. R. W. Craig, Mrs. A. W. Ross, Mrs. Henry Gordon, Miss M. H. Anderson, Mrs. Eric Humber, Miss Norquay, Mrs. Daniel McIntyre and Mrs. H. J. Parker.