A YOUNG mother was wheeling a baby in a gorset at Eighth Avenue and Forty-third Street when the child dropped its rubber teething ring. It rolled through a flock of sailors, not entirely dry, to the curb, but the polite bell boy caught it. The boy received it in the palm of his hand, gave it a wipe across his skirt and then thrust it back into the baby's mouth.

It is a not unusual sight, but what is singularly not occurred just as told, and the point of telling it is that the writer, who witnessed the incident, was then on his way up to the City College to ask Dr. Thomas A. Storrey about the new law for the compulsory teaching of the ways and rules of health to children in all the public and private schools of the State of New York.

And as Dr. Storrey dwelt upon the "development of health habits" which is the salient aims of the new system, I kept on thinking of the baby and the rubber ring. That mother, no doubt, was in a great hurry as recently as four or five years ago. The boy who received the ring is probably in school now and the baby is a grown man, if it survives.

The law in question is Chapter 307, the so-called Welsh bill, passed last May as an addition to the State education laws. It has been denounced by antivaccination agitators because the New Military Training Commission is referred to in the act as having something to do with the adoption of rules for the new health teaching and training. These agitators apparently make no distinction between the Welsh bill and the older bill passed on the same day, which was not creating the Military Training Commission and providing for military training of boys between the ages of 10 and 19. This commission, consisting of Major Gen. John F. O'Reilly of the National Guard, John H. Finlay, President of the University of the State of New York and Commissioner of Education, and George T. Fisher, M. D., Secretary of the Physical Education Department of the International Committee, Y. M. C. A., is to have the direction of the whole military training of the boys and girls in the schools of the State, both in public and private schools.

Dr. Storrey, as State Inspector of Physical Training, is to help in both enterprises, but the main work is to carry out and individualize the curriculum to the schools.

Details of the military training have not been worked out yet, but the syllabus for the health work has been completed by Dr. Storrey and approved by the commission, and is being distributed throughout the State, so that the work may be begun immediately. When the system is adopted in its entirety it will call for about 4000 hours of work for each child, but the instruction, possibly for a year or two, only 100 minutes a week. In large cities this work will be carried out, and no apparatus is needed for that. Of course, a slight increase in the number of pupils will increase the work.

"The children at the large schools, at stated intervals and health faults will supplement the 100 minutes of exercise from the start. Then each school has the right to do something better than this.

In this system, that there isn't the slightest reference to gun or drill in the syllabus, and there is specific provision for a pupil being allowed to substitute for the school work by supervised home health classes.

What the schools are doing to place children in the hands of physicians and dentists, to see that they get proper physical training and routine medical care.

Dr. Thomas A. Storrey

Dr. John H. Finlay.

The program, says Dr. Finlay, the head of all the educational activities of the State, is the most comprehensive ever authorized by the Government of any State or country for the health education and physical training of school children, and it will not doubt determine the lines along which physical education is to proceed in this country, where the States must meet the nation's needs in training for the responsibilities of citizenship.

The entire program, says Dr. Finlay, is the result of years of study and research, and the work is to be done under the direction of the State Training Commission. The qualifications of those engaged in this work are to be held as a standard by the entire country.

In the Winter months the State will publish a bulletin for the benefit of teachers, who will be required to submit a report to the State and to keep the State informed of the progress of the work.

The entire program will be carried out by a number of teachers appointed by the State and by the schools, and the work will be done under the direction of the State Training Commission.

The effect of the new law will be to place children in the hands of physicians and dentists, to see that they get proper physical training and routine medical care."

The New System of Physical Training in Schools

Not Merely Gymnastics and Athletics, But Medical Inspection and the Teaching of Health Habits Involved in Dr. Finley's Plan

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