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THE WATCHER—MOTHER

Margaret Widdemer

She always leaned to watch for us,
Anxious if we were late,
In winter by the window,
In summer by the gate;

And though we mocked her tenderly,
Who had such foolish care,
The long way home would seem more safe,
Because she waited there.

Her thoughts were all so full of us —
She never could forget!
And so I think that where she is
She must be watching yet,

Waiting till we come home to her,
Anxious if we are late—
Watching from heaven's window,
Leaning from heaven's gate.

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Schools seems a slow process, it is most encouraging to note that over a period of a very few years the problem of the child who needs special help has become the concern of an ever-increasing number of people in our province.

Through the media of newspapers, radio, T.V. and magazines, in addition to the concerted effort of Inspectors, Teachers, Home and School Associations and other interested groups, the programme of the Women's Institutes of Ontario has progressed beyond our expectations in bringing this special help to those children needing such assistance in our rural schools.

Ninety-four copies of the sheet "Programme Suggestions" were sent out to all subdivisions in Ontario in December. Ten additional requests were answered for programme help. Speakers were arranged for six meetings on the subject. School Boards and Home and School Associations were entertained and panels and discussions held. In addition to this, Branch members all over the province have supported and encouraged their local Association for Retarded Children, with substantial financial help, volunteer classroom assistants and drivers for their schools. Resolutions asking for inclusion of these schools in our system of Education also show interest in the progress of the work of the Association. It is of interest to note that the Ontario Association for Retarded Children has taken over the responsibility of Camp Belwood, and for the first time at least one child from each local association will enjoy camp activities. This is a great step forward for those children who are unable to enjoy regular school classes and pleasures.

Interest is rising at a rapid rate in the field of Selective Education. That is, taking gifted pupils and enabling them to go forward as fast as they can. Consideration of their special

needs is being met with research, study and practice.

The Stothers Exceptional Child Foundation has completed its first year of activity. Progress is being made in its primary aim of providing improved services, diagnosis, research, information for teachers, liaison between home and school treatment agencies and service organizations, and also parents with information on available educational facilities. A press release of its accomplishments will soon be available.

In the February 27, 1957 issue of the Farmer's Advocate and Canadian Countryman, there appeared a rather pitiful yet poignant story called "Our Little Girl Was Born Deaf." Reprints of this touching little family drama and its struggle to overcome a severe hearing and resulting speech handicap, have been circulated by the Stothers Foundation.

From our point of view, I quote these excerpts: "We had it brought to our attention by the speech therapist that people do not outgrow speech habits; they have to be taught out of them.

"From our early grasping for answers to our child's problem, we have now arrived at speech therapy. The methods and psychology of this science have answered our needs as they can do for thousands of cases where speech is a problem. We suffered little by comparison with others, but had we known more earlier, we could have made faster progress."

It is a story like this that spurs us on with new and greater enthusiasm that all rural children needing help may benefit.

Inspector Wm. G. Rae of Incorporate 3 of Grey comments as follows on the results of Remedial Service which began operation in September 1956 in his Inspectorate:

"Any assessment of the results of the Remedial-Teacher service in this Inspectorate must, at this early date, be made in general terms, due to the fact that we have not made records in summary form that cover the factual evidence. Such summaries will be made toward the end of the school term in June.

"I might say, however, that we are definitely pleased with the change in attitude, the academic advancement and the general over-all

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THE GREATEST NEED IN THE WORLD

The greatest need in the world today is an item that always has been in dangerously short supply. Yet upon it depends the future of our children, our country, our civilization.

Atomic scientists, bombing planes, guided missiles—it is none of these. Nor can its scarcity be overcome by frenzied effort on production lines or in classrooms.

For this greatest need is true Christian character. Its worth is unquestioned as a quality of leadership. But Christian character never can be abundant at high levels until it is commonplace in all walks of life.

—From a Y.M.C.A. Church service calendar.

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