Myopia and School Work

The notice of the report of the Medical Officer of the London County Council (p. 664) upon the work of his department in the schools is of interest, mainly because of the observations made upon the children who are admitted to the "Myope Classes." It will be remembered that these children suffer from high degrees of myopia; nothing under five or six dioptres is deemed fit for admission. This may have some bearing upon the observations that there is amongst them on admission a higher average of under nourishment than with normal school children. How can a child that cannot see with ease get the exercise and therewith the robustness of the normal? It has been established that the appearance of under nourishment is not always due to lack of food. This is a point that might well be determined with regard to these children.

But the abstract is of interest because it illustrates well the work that is being done by the school medical officers throughout the country. Too often we are inclined to look upon this work as "routine" and therefore devoid of interest. But to the open-eyed school doctor there are always points of exceptional interest arising which require investigation. The reports of the chief school doctor of the several education committees throughout the country abound in reports of investigations that have been made during the year. A list of these investigations is given in the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer of the Board of Education. Some of these investigations deal with eye matters. It would be of interest if our readers followed the example of Dr. Sourasky and sent the Editor of this Journal notes upon any observations of interest that appear in the reports of their local authorities.

William Mackenzie Medal

Ophthalmologists recently paid honour to the memory of one of the fathers of British Ophthalmology by establishing a William Mackenzie Memorial Fund, one of the purposes of which is the recognition and encouragement of original work in our speciality. William Mackenzie was a Glasgow man and his professional life was spent in that city. The memorial fund will be in the hands of