

"Health," he says, "is the last pre-occupation of a school-master at present. Narrow rooms, low, damp, deprived of sun, saturated with bad odors, sometimes too hot and close, or subject to draughts, flat desks, seats too high or too low, clothing tight round the neck, the waist, or the legs, positions dangerous for the lungs, the stomach and the circulation, the spinal column and the brain, restraint in one position too long, brilliant colors, dazzling reflections of light, either in quantity or direction—these are the conditions in the midst of which the *great majority* of children are brought up at schools, and even under the roofs of private families." Statistics innumerable can be given of the death rate attendant on these circumstances, if required. It is an incontestable fact that one-half of the children die before they are ten years of age.

It would be quite another question if we speak of the incurable debility, chronic affections, germs of mortal illness, or of premature old age, brought on by the continued violation of the elementary principles of hygiene. In our day, every one follows his own personal wish in the education of his children, and is perfectly indifferent to the principles of philosophy and hygiene.

Our officers of health should have access at all hours for purposes of inspection. The *New York Tribune* says, and we quite agree with it: "Even our public schools, held in buildings constructed for their especial use and supposed to be under the watchful and enlightened care of the public authorities, are, as we have often shown, generally models of all that schools ought not to be; overcrowded and unventilated; poisoned, not only with the pent-up exhalations from the inmates, but frequently with adventitious sewer-gases; and very many private schools, wholly exempt from any semblance of official supervision, are in worse case. One or two rooms in an ordinary dwelling-house, barely suited for the sanitary needs of a small family, are hired by some speculative pedagogue who knows no limit except that imposed by the dimensions of benches and desks to the number of pupils whom he is anxious to pack therein. Ventilation in warm weather depends on inadequate windows, and in winter these are shut, and the scholars wedged still closer together to make room for an air-tight stove; and in such pens in every town, hundreds of children stifle half the day