

have been witnessed and seriously felt by this department. Our plan will secure daily accounts of all pupils and buildings.—*Journal of Education* (Boston).

EVIL THINKING.—What if we look this question squarely in the face and speak plainly for once. Is it not true that evil thinking is poisonous to the brain? When a strong imagination once fills itself with the love of abominations and begins to expend itself upon forbidden pleasures, is not the brain tissue subjected to injurious strain? We know very little as yet concerning the action of the brain cells during thought production; but what we do know suggests that conscience in one form or other is the register of the effect which thought has upon what we may call the soul. The higher the nervous organization the more effective will be this reflex register. Men of lofty genius may assume to eliminate conscience: but it is assumption and nothing more; the index will move with every thought. No enlightened imagination ever gave itself over to lechery and the filth of it without suffering from the recoil when it beheld the record on the dial of conscience. Freedom of thought is demanded. I do not

deny this freedom; it is the world's safety; but there is the breadth of a universe between freedom and the wholesome use of freedom. That which we call soul makes man a divine animal, and he owes to it the same care at least that he owes to his body—healthful exercise, pure food, a rich atmosphere. When he finds that certain substances injure and presently destroy his stomach, wisdom leads him to avoid them. Certain imaginings are destructive of the soul and will disintegrate the obscure but essential centres of life as surely as arsenic will irradiate death from the stomach to every cell of the system. We need not go very deep in physiological observation to become aware of a correspondence between the condition of the brain and the thought upon which the brain is fed. The gambler becomes a maniac sooner or later; so does the thief, the robber, the murderer for gain. These may never be violently mad; but in most cases the brain gives way in some serious degree. We say that a certain course of education liberates the mind and insures its health; but is not this too often a mere piece of thoughtless phrasing? Is not moral health usually lost sight of in the consideration?—*Maurice Thompson, in the New York Independent.*

GEOGRAPHY.

THE POPULATION OF THE EARTH.—According to the latest statistics, the total population of the earth is now 1,480,000,000, as follows: Europe, 357,379,000; Asia, 825,954,000; Africa, 163,953,000; America, 121,713,000; Australia and Tasmania 3,230,000; the Oceanic Islands, 7,420,000; the Polar Regions, 80,400.

Λ. TURKISH RAILWAY.—Antoun Youssouf Loutti-Bey, a prominent man of Cairo, member of the "Societe Khediviale de Geographie," has asked from the Ottoman Government the concession for a standard-gauge road starting from El-Arish on the Egyptian frontier, along the Mediterranean coast through Gaza, Jappa, Caiffa,