

Sanitary Science.

The education of the Chinese consists chiefly in memorizing of prudential maxims and moral lessons. The Hebrew had to master the "law" which contained minute regulations for the conduct of life. Prominent among these were rules relating to sanitation, many of them anticipating by 2000 years the discoveries of modern science.

That these two nationalities have outlived so many others is largely owing to the peculiarity of their education to which we have just referred.

Mental power is often spoken of as the chief aim in education. But is not mental health much more important? Bodily health is desirable but mental health is beyond all comparison more desirable. Children must learn and generally do learn the moral and social precepts necessary for their guidance through life, long before they are capable of appreciating the ethical and sociological principles which govern conduct.

In like manner their bodily health should be conserved by making them familiar with the wonderful discoveries of modern sanitary science.

This is a subject with which every teacher of every grade should be familiar and which should be taught from the earliest stages, so that no pupil shall leave school unfamiliar with the laws of health. That he may not be old enough to appreciate fully the underlying scientific principles does not materially lessen the benefits to be derived. Of course reasons should be given when they can be understood; but teaching of this kind must not be deferred until it can be fully understood. As in teaching morals, manners and patriotism the well versed teacher can, without formal or formidable lessons, but with a thought now and again in good season inculcate ideas and habits that will be of life-long benefit.

Occasional talks, or better still discussions will, however, be needed. Pupils can themselves be made to contribute much of the information from which to draw conclusions. Many of these lessons will be suggested in connection with the study of the Health Readers which require to be supplemented very largely by the teacher.

In striving after unity, remember that there is a unity in variety, and very often that the unity in variety is of the highest kind.

Do not neglect the physical, for there is neither success nor comfort in school work without the physical conditions are favorable.

Pupils who yield a cheerful obedience to the laws of the school, will grow up law-abiding citizens.

Between Day and Night.

The exact time at which darkness gives place to dawn—the dividing line between day and night—was legally determined, and a verdict for \$25,000 given on the decision in the Court of Common Pleas in Philadelphia recently, says the *New York Sun*. A young woman was knocked down by a locomotive on the Reading road while she was walking over a crossing at Norristown, at 6.30 o'clock in the morning of Feb. 14, 1893. The engine did not display a light, nor did it signal with whistle or bell. The company claimed that it was not negligent because at that hour dawn was breaking and no light was needed, and the entire case rested on the question whether or not it was daylight when the accident occurred.

The sun rose on the day of the accident at 6.54 o'clock. Several astronomers and other experts testified that half an hour before sunrise it is as dark as at any time of the night. From that time until sunrise, light comes so slowly that the point of half light is reached only seven minutes before sunrise. During the last seven minutes before sun-up light comes very rapidly, until the full day breaks. The plaintiff's lawyer claimed, therefore, that at the time of the accident, twenty-four minutes before sunrise, it was pitch dark. The jury rendered a verdict of \$25,000 in her favor.

Vertical Writing.

Professor Burnham, of Clark university, lays down the rules for writing the vertical script as given by Schubert, in a very brief form as follows: "Writing straight, paper straight, body straight."

The lines in the book must not be too long—not more than four inches. The pen-holder should point toward the elbow, not toward the shoulder. Fine writing at first is wrong. The writing for beginners should be very large. This rule applies whatever the kind of script used. Beauty should not be the aim at first, but power and control of the muscles. Professor Tuchs reports a visit to Vienna schools, where experiments with vertical script were being made. Looking over the class-room from the rear, one could tell from the position of the children what kind of script they were writing. All those in a bad position were found to be writing obliquely; all those writing vertically sat in good positions. The teacher of penmanship at the Worcester normal school has reported similar results. The vertical script was tried in the Wurzburg schools, and it was noticed that the eyes of some of the children who suffered from near-sightedness, were improved, according to the oculist,