The next and most important of all things is the interior of the building. First of all we have the halls and corridors. These should be bright and airy and should be at least 10 feet wide in the ordinary size school, having we will say 8 or 10 rooms. The stairs, of which there should always be two, should be cut off from the halls if practicable with glass partitions, or encased in brick walls so as to avoid draughts and direct cold from entering corridors, besides giving, in case of fire, safe means of escape.

The stair treads should never exceed 7 inches, and from 6 inches to 6½ inches is much better practice. Stairs should be not less than 5 feet wide. The handrails should be plain and smooth, of hardwood, so as to permit easy grasp with the hand. There should always be a landing half way in the stairs, which should be well lighted with windows.

We now come to the class-rooms. These vary in size somewhat, according to the number of pupils, but according to the latest authorities no teacher should be asked to look after a greater number than 48, and this should be a definite number. These can be accommodated in a room 24 x 32, with a 13 foot ceiling, thereby giving each pupil 205½ cubic feet of air space, which is just 5½ cubic feet more than is frequently recommended. There is also another reason for adopting this size of room, viz., cost of construction, which is quite worth taking advantage of. The lighting of the class-room is also an important factor. This should without any question be placed on the left of the pupils. Large glass areas with small divisions are preferable, so as to secure the largest possible diffusion of light throughout the room. The separate windows, with brick piers between, causing very noticeable shadows, should not be tolerated. The sills should be 3 feet or 4 feet above the floor, so that children cannot see out when sitting down. The top of the window should come as close to the ceiling as possible, say 6 inches, not more. The glass area should be at least one-quarter of the floor area, and when the lighting is from one side only, I would not recommend any other system of lighting.

Window shades should be adjustable fixtures, so that the light may be secured from the top or bottom as required.

Ceilings can be covered to very good advantage with metal, of which many very pleasing stamped designs can be had. This is preferable to plaster on account of the latter's cracking tendency.

Blackboards should be 2 feet 6 inches from the floor in high schools, and in primary schools 2 feet 2 inches. The top of board should not be more than 6 feet 6 inches from the floor, and each board should have a chalk trough at least 3 inches wide. In some of the expensive schools these have vent ducts attached to them, and the dust is drawn away. Slate boards are by far the most satisfactory, although I have constructed them with cement and they are giving good satisfaction. Boards should be placed on two walls only, viz., in front and to the right, and to be absolutely correct should be kept 2 feet away from the corners.

If money will allow or a further grant can be obtained, I would advise using for a dado in rooms and halls some good patent plastic material which hardens in a short time and is seamless, and can be made in various colors. Wood used for this purpose is not satisfactory as it is full of joints and therefore holds dust and plaster, being very damagable, is useless unless protected with strong covering. The walls above the dado should be tinted a suitable shade, so as to get away from the glaze of the white finish.

Glossy surfaces should never be used.

The floors throughout in moderate-cost buildings cannot be better covered than with one of our natural hardwoods, but it must be from a good manufacturer, otherwise it will open up considerably and make objectionable dust receptacles.

Off each class-room should be separate cloak rooms for the different sexes. Each should have two doors, and these should both face in the class-room, so that all pupils will be under the observation of the teacher. Each cloak room should be well supplied with hooks, etc., and be well ventilated.

Regarding the doors between halls and class-rooms, some authorities advise having them open out, so that in the event of panic there would be no chance of all jamming against it. Others advise opening the door in, as in case of fire the teacher has full control and can take time to get proper order, but with the fire drill