

ing a "let-off" below the reach of the frost, that cannot be closed summer or winter. It should be covered with an absolutely close covering, laid on with sufficient slant to run the waste water off. Your thirst would be great if you could drink the water after seeing three or four children standing with dirty feet at the pump-spout washing their sweaty hands and faces and all the washings audibly trickling down into the well. Under no circumstances should be omitted the duty of pumping the well empty, if possible, two or three times a year, or at least just after the spring thaw and again at the end of the summer vacation.

The plan of carrying water in a pail from a neighbor's is not to be commended. The supply is apt to be irregular and insufficient, not to speak of the annoyance and inconvenience often occasioned to the neighbor whose well is thus appropriated by the school section. The corner of the school-room where the pail stands is often in a disgusting condition. The leavings are thrown on the floor, dust sticks, filth collects, at last mud has the monopoly. Then the school-pail; it is enough to say it is usually wooden and unacquainted with hot water. The pail plan should be tolerated only when it is impossible to get pure water on the school ground. The probability of getting good water should invariably be considered in the selection of a site.

In this division, last spring, I found that forty-five per cent. of the schools were supplied with wells and pumps in working order. Twenty-eight of these—more than half—were considered pure and wholesome; eight of them doubtful; and the rest were pronounced bad and unfit for drinking purposes. Thirty per cent. depended entirely upon the neighbours. In some of these cases the water is carried in a pail, whether the snow is deep or the roads hot and dusty, for

a quarter of a mile or more. The remainder drew their supplies from springs, resorted to expedients that came most convenient, such as eating snow, or did without altogether. Nothing about the average school seems to receive more severe letting alone from those whose duty it is to keep them in order than the school well and privies. Not one well in twenty is properly lined and covered, consequently it soon needs cleaning; the cleaning is neglected; it goes from bad to worse; the well gets a bad name, and it not unfrequently happens that it is allowed to cave in and gradually fill up.

Before the summer holidays, I mailed a circular to every school section, from which the following is an extract: "When decaying earth worms, frogs, snakes, rats, sewage or rotten wood are in the well, the water becomes unwholesome, and the well should be cleaned out. Perhaps the best test for such organic impurities, in inexpert hands, is to put one or two drops, or enough to give a pink colour, of a solution of permanganate of potash in an ounce vial of the suspected water. The solution should be of the strength of eight grains of permanganate to an ounce of pure water—distilled water, or filtered rain water caught in the open, or the London water-works water will do nearly as well, if more convenient than the others. If the water be unfit for drinking the colour will be discharged, or bleached, in about twelve hours, and usually the impurity may be seen precipitated at the bottom of the vial. The test is more satisfactory if a similar bottle of pure water be treated the same as the suspected sample and placed along side it for comparison." In some cases where this simple test was applied it resulted in the well's receiving a thorough cleaning. The average distance of the nearest privy from the school