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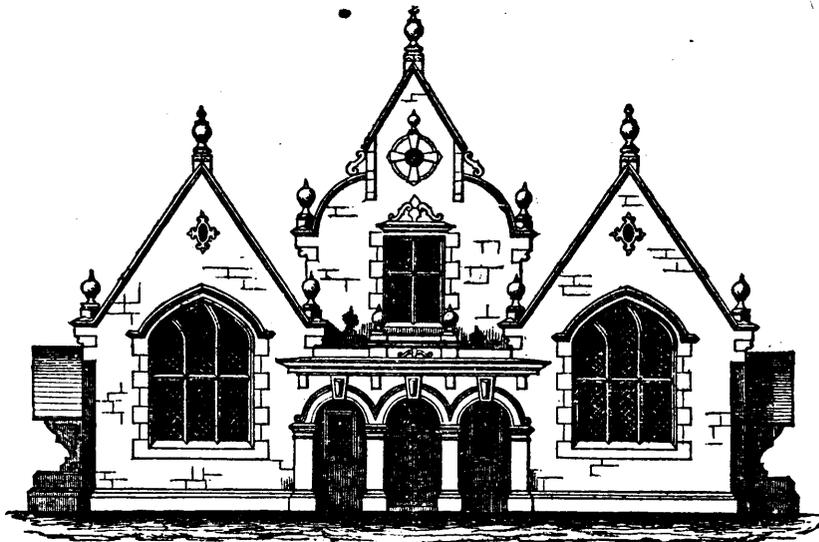
FOR

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No. 3.



FRONT ELEVATION of one of the Series of School-houses (including residence of Teachers) recommended by Her Majesty's Privy Council Committee of Education. Description and interior arrangements will be given hereafter.

School Architecture.

(BY THE HON. HENRY BARNARD, STATE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS, CONN. AND RHODE ISLAND.)

[Concluded from No. 2, page 29.]

[In our last number the Common Errors in School Architecture were pointed out, and the general principles stated in respect to location, style, construction, size, and light, together with some remarks on ventilation. The remarks on ventilation are here concluded, and the remaining important topics of School Architecture are practically and admirably discussed.—Ed. J. of E.]

5. VENTILATION.

Symptoms of bad air in a School-room.—Every man and woman, who received any portion of their early education in the common school, can testify to the narrow dimensions, and low ceiling of the school-rooms, and to the discomfort arising from the close, stagnant, offensive atmosphere, which they were obliged to breathe. Who does not remember the comparative freshness and vigor of mind and body with which the morning's study and recitations were begun, and the languor and weariness of body, the confusion of mind, the dry skin, the flushed cheek, the aching head, the sickening sensations, the unnatural demand for drink, the thousand excuses to get out of doors, which came along in succession as the day advanced, and especially in a winter's afternoon, when the overheated and unrenewed atmosphere had become obvious to every sense? These were nature's signals of distress, and who can forget the delicious sensations with which her balmy breath, when admitted on the occasional opening of the door, would visit the brow and face, and be felt all along the revitalized blood, or the newness of life with which nerve, muscle, and mind were endued by free exercise in the open air at the recess, and the close of the school? Let any one who is sceptical on this point visit

the school of his own section, where his own children perhaps are condemned to a shorter allowance of pure air than the criminals of the State, and he cannot fail to see in the pale and wearied countenances of the pupils, the languor and uneasiness manifested, especially by the younger children, and exhaustion and irritability of the teacher, a demonstration that the atmosphere of the room is no longer such as the comfort, health and cheerful labor of both teacher and pupils require.

Effects of bad air on the Health of Teachers and Pupils.—In this way the seeds of disease are sown broadcast among the young, and especially among teachers of delicate health. "In looking back," says the venerable Dr. Woodbridge in a communication on school houses to the American Institute of Instruction, "upon the languor of fifty years of labor as a teacher, reiterated with many a weary day, I attribute a great proportion of it to mephitic air; nor can I doubt, that it has compelled many worthy and promising teachers to quit the employment. Neither can I doubt, that it has been the great cause of their subsequently sickly habits and untimely decease." A physician in Massachusetts, selected two schools, of nearly the same number of children, belonging to families of the same condition of life, and no causes, independent of the circumstances of their several school-houses, were known to affect their health. One house was dry and properly ventilated—the other damp, and not ventilated. In the former, during a period of forty-five days, five scholars were absent from sickness to the amount in the whole of twenty days. In the latter, during the same period of time and from the same cause, nineteen children were absent to an amount in all of one hundred and forty-five days, and the appearance of the children not thus detained by sickness indicated a marked difference in their condition as to health.

The necessity of renewing the atmosphere, does not arise solely from the consumption of the oxygen, and the constant generation of carbonic acid, but from the presence of other destructive agents,