

physical or mental. Of these predisposing causes the only ones for which our schools can be directly responsible are over mental work and imperfect ventilation, but they must also be held responsible for their treatment of those children who have been brought into a state of lowered vitality from any cause whatever. Further, should any child so reduced in resisting power be exposed in the school-room to the risk of inhaling or otherwise taking into his system the bacillus of tuberculosis, the school must shoulder the responsibility. The question then that we must endeavor to answer is, "Are our schools guilty of the charge of assisting to spread tuberculosis in any of the ways which I have pointed out?" My answer is yes. With your permission I shall now endeavour to give reasons to justify this answer.

1. *The treatment which children receive in our schools whose vitality has been lowered from any cause whatever.* Our system makes no provision for meting out different treatment to children of different dispositions or different constitutional strengths. All in the same class grade must receive and must do the same work both in character and amount. Now, I am aware that with any system it would be difficult to avoid this defect. The teacher is not given sufficient discretionary power in assigning work to the various members of his class. Even the little discretion in this respect which the system allows the teacher is further curtailed by the trustees and the parents of the children. The trustees measure a teacher's work and worth by a standard which they can understand. How many pupils did the teacher succeed in passing at the last examination? The parents on the other hand goad both teacher and pupil to further and increased effort. The parent is anxious that his child should not only do as well as the children of his neighbours, but he wants his child to excel all others in the race for class distinctions, forgetting or rather not knowing that he is doing his best to make his child an intellectual nonentity or a physical wreck. By this process children already physically weak are still further reduced in strength, and even those who were naturally strong have that strength impaired. The teacher is not so much to blame. He may be intelligent enough to see the danger to the child and conscientious enough to wish to avoid it, but he is