

(hear, hear,) or have altogether realized the promise of their young and virile nationality. Like a virgin goddess in a primeval world, Canada still walks in unconscious beauty among her golden woods and along the margin of her trackless streams, catching but broken glances of her radiant majesty, as mirrored on their surface, and scarcely dreams as yet of the glorious future awaiting her in the Olympus of nations. (Loud and continued cheering.)

3. HUMANIZING INFLUENCE OF PLANTS AND FLOWERS.

The success which has attended the introduction of plants and flowers as missionary agents in one of the institutions of the Children's Aid Society, indicates that these beautiful ministers of pleasure and refinement will, in the future, constitute an important feature of all charitable and reformatory work. When the Rivington street Industrial School was open four years ago, it was attended by some of the most incorrigible ragamuffins to be found in the city. They were gathered from the streets and docks, where they seemed to live day and night. Totally ignorant or oblivious of all law and morals, they were masters in all the arts of juvenile depravity, as it flourished in "Corlear's Hook" and "Mackerelville." The utmost vigilance on the part of the teachers was necessary to keep them from jumping out of the windows when there was any unusual commotion on the street. A band of music, a target excursion, or a fire-bell acted upon them like a match on a bunch of fire-crackers. The school is now one of the largest, most orderly, and prosperous in the city, and one of the most effective means of securing these results has been flowers. Plants and flowers raised in a conservatory presented to the institution, have been given weekly as rewards for proficiency in studies and punctual attendance, and the desire to obtain them has been very remarkable.—Upward of a thousand beautiful plants have in this way been distributed throughout the poorest section of the Thirteenth Ward. So that in hundreds of attic and basement windows may be seen beautiful specimens of geraniums, fuchsias, myrtles, coleas, ivies and other plants; beautiful pictures, sometimes with a very dark back-ground, but which, besides gratifying the eye, we trust leads the thoughts up to Him who said that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.—*N. Y. Times.*

4. REBREATHED AIR.

We do not know precisely how rebreathed air produces its deleterious influence, nor is it worth while to stop to inquire, in this discussion. It is certain that its effects are fatal to health. It would be absurd to assert that the frightful prevalence of consumption is due entirely to this agency; as all intelligent observers understand that there are many causes operating to produce or develop this disease. It is nevertheless probable that impure or rebreathed air is the greatest agent of evil in inducing, and rendering fatal, pulmonary affections. The crowded, badly-ventilated school-room, is often the place where, early in life, rebreathed air commences its deadly work. Not one schoolroom in a hundred, in this country, is a fit place in which to confine children six or eight hours of the day. The little ones are herded together in a promiscuous crowd; those of tender years and those more advanced, the feeble and the strong, the sickly and the well, are all subjected to the same hours of study, the same school discipline, and all breathe the same deleterious air. The hardy and the strong may be able to resist the influence of the poison; the weak and tender ones grow pale and haggard, and, struggling on through their school-days, live perhaps to the age of puberty, and then drop into the consumptive's grave. Will parents never awake to the enormity of this evil?

Small, ill-ventilated sleeping-rooms, in which rebreathed air is ever present, are nurseries of consumption. These are not found alone in cities and large towns, or among the poor and lowly.—Well-to-do farmers' daughters and sons in the country—those who live among the mountains, where God's pure air is wholly undefiled, are often victims of consumption. How is this explained? Look into their sleeping-rooms; examine into their daily habits of life, and the cause is made plain. Old-fashioned fireplaces are boarded up, rubber window-strips and stoves have found their way into the most retired nooks and corners of the land, and the imprisoned mountain-air is heated to a high point, and breathed over and over during the days and nights of the long winter months. It is certainly true that girls in the country take less exercise in the open air than those residing in cities. They appear to be more afraid of pure, cold air than city girls. Consumption is not less rare among females in the country than in cities, in the present age. It was not so formerly. The declarations of grandmothers and old physicians go to show that, fifty years ago, consumption was hardly known in the rural districts. The winds whistled

through the dwellings then, and the fires blazed and roared upon the hearth. Half the time, in the cold winters, "the backs of the inmates were freezing, while the front parts of the person were roasting;" and yet there was less rheumatism than now, and no consumption.

Whilst we have made changes in dwellings, workshops, and public buildings, which operate to sadly deteriorate and confine the interior air, the outside atmosphere is just as pure, just as healthful, as in the days of our ancestors. Let us adopt means to secure a full measure of this "pabulum of life," clear, undiluted, uncontaminated, day and night, during the hours of sleep and study. Let us live as much as we possibly can in the *open air*, and the measure of health will be greatly increased, and life prolonged.

—In *Fireside Science.*

JAMES R. NICHOLS.

5. EVILS OF TOBACCO USE.

Any one who cares to inform himself on the subject will, by reference to any standard medical authority, find that tobacco is classed among the powerful narcotics; and, by reference to any standard dictionary of the English language, he will learn that a narcotic is a drug which benumbs the nervous system, producing, in proportion to its strength and the weakness of the person using it, stupor and sluggishness. It *lowers the vitality*, and finally brings on dyspepsia and its universal concomitant, lowness of spirits; and if used a long time, and to excess, produces serious derangements of the liver, headache and dimness of vision, and not unfrequently palpitation of the heart, ending in sudden death, which the intelligent physician or coroner then pronounces to be "a visitation of Divine Providence."

A Bavarian correspondent of one of the leading American newspapers has lately endeavoured to make it appear that Baron Liebig is arrayed among the defenders of the use of tobacco, but does not venture to declare that that eminent chemist advocates its use by healthy people. He merely says that the Baron asserted, in a recent conversation, that during the late war between France and Germany, invalid soldiers manifested a great longing for segars, which, indeed, they would be very likely to do if they had previously acquired the habit of smoking, whether it was beneficial or baneful.

I have had a large experience in the class-room, and I say, without any exception, that I never knew a boy or young man who had used tobacco, in any form, long enough to allow of its taking hold of his system fairly, who led his classes, or even excelled in them. The characters of all such have been marked, so far as my experience is concerned, by inability to concentrate the mind steadily and continuously upon a given point, with a consequent lack of power to conquer knotty difficulties, and by general fickleness of purpose. These results would naturally follow from the use of a drug whose effects upon the human system are such as have been described above.

We hear ignorant and silly parents complaining, in every quarter, of the inefficiency of their sons—that they can no longer get them to apply themselves steadily to any useful pursuit—that, in spite of all the money they have expended on them, they are unable even to write a creditable business letter, or read intelligibly a passage from a favourite author, or even the morning paper—that they are inclined to spend their time in amusements that require no capacity or application of mind—in short, that they are thoroughly trifling and frivolous. Now I do not attribute these results exclusively to tobacco, for I am entirely convinced that other causes conspire to produce them, but I do assert that the almost universal use of that narcotic by the boys and young men of the present generation is one of the most efficient of the causes of this deplorable state of affairs, which are not, in my opinion, yet at their worst.

If these statements and inferences are even partially correct, I submit it to the teachers of Pennsylvania whether they are not in duty bound to present them and hold them up persistently before their schools.

Of the disgusting filth which results from the use of this drug, which renders it almost impossible for a gentleman to travel in a public conveyance without defiling his garments, and which has rendered us a by-word among the nations, I will here say nothing.—*Eboracum, in Pennsylvania School Journal.*

IX. Short Critical Notices of Books.*

—GENTLE MEASURES IN TRAINING THE YOUNG.—By Jacob Abbott.

—There are few questions connected with the early education of children that are not discussed in the course of the volume, with reference to the leading principle of which it treats; each topic is illustrated by a

* New York: Harper & Brothers; Toronto: Copp, Clark & Co.