

ed to one or the other side. Slight injuries occur everywhere, but are much more noticeable in the structures of the eye, if judged by their effects.

Low degrees of astigmatism are very common. They seldom diminish vision to any great extent. Higher degrees are less common, but more serious as to damaging vision. Of 630 pupils examined for it by Drs. Williams and Ayers in the District, Intermediate, Normal and High Schools of Cincinnati, 25 astigmatics were found—four per cent. Among the same pupils there were 72 shortsighted. We may therefore infer astigmatism to be one-third as frequent as Myopia and to be about four per cent. It is usually combined with either shortsightedness or oversightedness. Sometimes shortsighted astigmatism is found in one meridian and oversighted astigmatism in another.

Its effects are to diminish the acuteness of vision for both distance and for near objects. Should the scholar persist in using the eye largely, in spite of its defect, the consequence will be a complaining eye or eyes and inability to pursue fine work. Such complaints are similar to those produced by shortsightedness and oversightedness.

The treatment of such cases is by the use of glasses, but it is not resorted to except in the higher degrees and more urgent cases. It takes several hours of very careful examination before a case can be prescribed for. The glasses have to be ground for each case and hence are very expensive. For these two reasons, both included under *cost*, it is plain that a majority of cases go untreated. A case without glasses should not be urged to commit long lessons, or be expected to excel in his classes.

THE WASTE OF LIFE.

An address with the above title has been given not long ago by Dr. A. N. Bell, of Brooklyn, N. Y., editor of the *Sanitarian*.* By the title is meant the excessive and preventible loss of life from bad hygiene. "It is held in law that whoever accelerates death causes it," says Taylor.† Among the several causes there enumerated the school-house comes in for the following notice:—

"School-houses, public and private, are a disgrace to human nature. Situated, constructed and furnished with utter disregard of the nature of the soil, exposure, air and light, they are in effect systematic institutions appropriated to the nurture of disease and the acceleration of death. With reading lessons recounting the horrible act of the half civilized nabob of Calcutta, more than a century ago, and the no less barbarous act of the captain of the emigrant ship *Londonderry*, twenty-five years ago, and school physiologies teaching that each individual requires for healthy respiration 2,000 cubic feet of air hourly, notwithstanding these instances and this patent knowledge, examples are not wanting in the public schools of our large cities where the air-space appropriated is less than fifty cubic feet and with little or no provision for change: literally, schools for the growth, culture and promotion of scrofula and consumption, and the hurdling places of the infections of childhood. Three hundred cubic feet of air-space, with efficient provision for change three times an hour, is the lowest possible estimate which should be allowed. With less than this, the air speedily becomes poisonous and the active nidus of infection."

*Trans. American Medical Association, 1874.

†Medical Jurisprudence, Amer. Edit., 1861 p. 470.