

Oxygenizing a City—(From page 4).

which was only 18, whereas nature's own air contains about 72. In accordance with irrevocable natural law, the dry, thirsty air went scurrying around the rooms, frantically attempting to absorb enough moisture to restore its equilibrium. Where could it get it? What better place than human bodies. To quench its thirst was good for the air but bad for the children.

A very hot, dry atmosphere is especially bad for the nose, throat and bronchial passages. The secretions made by these passages act as powerful germ killers, and if they are dried up, the natural resistance of the body to contagious diseases is largely destroyed. That is the reason why a child, placed in a school-room which acts like a dry kiln, becomes unfitted for the body and the mind to perform their functions. In order to avoid this condition of affairs, the Chicago schools have been fitted out with jets of water or steam in the basements, through which the hot air passes and becomes "humidified."

OTHER FIELDS OF EFFORT.

The article tells of many other classes for whom Dr. Evans provided fresh air. He brought about reforms which made better conditions for several thousand workers in bakeries and restaurant kitchens, and regulated the ventilation of hotel kitchens which was forced in the courts.

THE ACCOMPLISHED RESULTS.

That this campaign has considerably affected the daily lives of the people, is evident in many ways. Chicago is rapidly becoming a great out-of-door city. It has organized associations with the sole aim of making Chicago a fresh-air town. It has created a special city department for the purpose of abating, so far as is possible, the smoke nuisance. There are far more open windows in the homes, many more people are sleeping out of doors, than when Dr. Evans began his fresh-air work. The freeing of the modern city from tuberculosis and other impure-air affections is a task that will demand many years of infinite patience, labour and courage; but Chicago has already made good progress.

When Dr. Evans started preaching, these diseases appeared on the debit side of his 'Sanitary Trial Balance'—that is, the death-rate from them was increasing. At the beginning of 1910, Dr. Evans struck another balance, and this time these diseases appeared on the credit side—that is, the death-rate from them was decreasing. The gain was a small one, about nine per cent; but

the fact that there was a decrease showed that the preliminary skirmish had been won. Manifestly a material reduction of the death-rate from tuberculosis must take time, but the figures show that Dr. Evans is already making headway. If, as the sanitarians dream, the ideal city of the future is one in which the contagious diseases will not exist, the prime characteristic of that future city, as Dr. Evans has demonstrated in Chicago, will be freely moving, clean, fresh-air.

REACHING THE HOMES.

One pressing need remained, and that was to reach the people in their homes. In Chicago, as in other large cities, deaths from the impure-air diseases, especially pneumonia, occur chiefly in the winter time. These diseases, however, are not necessarily winter diseases; under favorable conditions they will flourish in midsummer. The explanation is simply this: that in winter we shut our windows and seal ourselves up tightly in our homes and apartments.

In the summer time people keep their windows open, and so escape pneumonia and other bad-air infections; in the winter they shut them down with a bang, and die by thousands. In fighting the generally prevalent fear of cold winter air, Dr. Evans could hardly enlist the co-operation of the courts. There is no law requiring people to open their windows, to sleep out of doors, to let a gale blow through their living rooms several times a day. The only possible resource was an appeal to public opinion, an educational campaign that should tell them of their errors and make a strong appeal for amendment.

ADVERTISING THE CAMPAIGN.

Dr. Evans became a spell-binder for fresh air. With the aid of a staff of assistants, he gave lectures, addresses, and even sermons on Sundays, with this subject as the text. He pressed into service such useful agencies as the ten-cent vaudeilles and the nickel theatres, for he would go on the stage during the performances and discourse to the audiences on fresh air. Indeed it has become almost impossible for the people of Chicago, however much they may try, to escape Dr. Evans' advice. If they go to church, to their lodge, to the theatre, they are pretty likely to hear it. They cannot escape it even in the street cars. The fact that there is usually much advertising space unutilized in these public conveyances, furnishes Dr. Evans with one of his opportunities. He offered the advertising agencies choice reading matter for