

advanced through the different grades of the schools. Cohn, of Breslau, found 6.7 per cent. of myopia in the elementary, 10.3 in the intermediate, 19.7 in the high schools, and 26.2 in the gymnasia.

Other authorities quoted above have made similar investigations with like results; and among the causes assigned for this uniform development of it are imperfect light, impure air, bad construction and arrangement of desks and seats, badly printed books; all these conditions are found acting, not alone, in the school-room, but at home, when the child returns with a task to perform, which taxes the eyes to a late hour, or after the preparation for the next day is completed. How often do we find the young person engaged with a thrilling story, or a fascinating romance, willing to sit in any remote corner of the room, and strain over a badly-printed and badly-illuminated page. Conditions unfavourable to the strongest eye, but most damaging to one pre-disposed by heredity, or otherwise, to myopia. In addition to the above facts it is found that it is more especially proper to cultivated nations, while an uneducated people and barbarous tribes, are almost entirely free. The Germans are said to show a greater number of myopias than any other country. So much is this the case that any passing traveller through the states of Europe, must observe that spectacles form a notable feature in the German physiognomy. This points at once to their high intellectual status, to their indefatigable labour in intellectual pursuits, and the bad hygiene of their schools and school system, conditions existing in unchecked operation through all their history. There is a general agreement among authorities that a great development, or increase, of it takes place during school life, and the result is largely due to preventable causes. Brudenell Carter says: "There is no longer any room for doubt, that badly-lighted and badly-fitted schools form a great machinery for the development of myopia.

And it is possible that this machinery where, as in Germany, it has for a long time been in unchecked operation, may have an important influence upon the form of the eyeball, which

will be inherited by large numbers of the population."

Other authorities make similar statements. Ribot urges that, "since constant study creates myopia and heredity most frequently perpetuates, the number of shortsighted persons must necessarily increase in a nation devoted to intellectual pursuits;" and Dr. Loring goes still further, by saying, that "if by a nation devoted to intellectual pursuits, we mean that compulsory education shall be carried out in the full extent of its original meaning, and applied to every child that is born, be it male or female;" and if Germany is going to be taken as the type, and every other nation desirous of intellectual progress be compelled to follow her lead as an example, then I am of the opinion that not only the educated classes, as the term is commonly understood at present, but that the world at large will, in time, become near-sighted." If such views, original and startling as they appear, are near the truth, it becomes a matter of national importance to see wherein the school and its hygienic and architectural conditions act as a cause of near-sight, and discovering the cause, if possible, to remove it.

It is not my intention to construct a model school room, much less a model home, this can be better done elsewhere. But I may be permitted to mention in brief a few of the conditions causing myopia that are common to both school and home life of the young.

(a) A bad light is one of the most certain causes, situated as it too often is in front of the pupil or at his side, shining with a glare on a level with the eye, producing great irritation which is the precursor of a progressive myopia.

(b) Anything favorable to congestion of the head, as a bad position of the body, which is too often a necessity from badly constructed desks and seats, or which is, perhaps, a matter of choice when the pupil of studious habits gets in the corner at home, and with book in the lap and bent trunk he pores over it till a late hour.

Under this head might be included heat of room, wet feet, cold floor, indigestion, excessive length or intensity of study without interruption.