

regarded and treated as such; yet, now let me here ask you a question: Are you not all very fond of, and very proud of, clever, precocious, hard-working pupils? Do you not pat them, and pet them, and spur them on, with stimulant praises, and look forward to their eclipsing success in competitive or other examinations as your noblest trophies? Take heed of what you may be doing, for the "paths of glory too often lead but to the grave," and you may be but harking them on in pursuit of a phantom that "only flies to lure them to their doom."

Up to last night it was my intention to close my address at this point, but I was then reminded, by the valuable pertinent observations made by yourself, Mr. President, and by several other gentlemen who followed you, on the highly important subject of school ventilation, that I should not have passed unnoticed the most potent, perhaps, of all the physical factors of disease to which teachers are subjected. In several of my previous addresses—delivered in other places—I gave prominence to the destructive operation of contaminated school-room air on both teachers and pupils. Fearing, however, that my paper, should it embrace all that I desired to submit to your attention, or even any considerable moiety, would much exceed the limits I could hope to be acceptable to my audience, I was constrained to curtail it as far as possible. I do not now regret this decision in relation to defective school ventilation, for the sensible and forcible observations to which I last evening had the pleasure of listening, satisfied me that your body do not stand in need of any stimulation to awaken a conviction of the deleterious influence of this morbid agent. Dr. McCormack, of Belfast, some years ago published a very instructive book on the subject of rebreathed air in its relation to pulmonary consumption. He is, perhaps, rather too concentrative in his theorem when he asserts that this disease has for its sole and constant cause rebreathed air. It is, however, my firm conviction that it has no more potent or prolific factor, and there cannot be a shadow of doubt that the high mortality of teachers is, to a very large extent, ascribable to this poisoning agency.

How you are to protect yourselves against this death-dealing evil I confess I fail to conjecture. Artificial ventilation is, in truth, a costly provision, and I question if even in our large cities, in which Trustee Boards are constituted of a more liberal and intelligent class of men than those generally chosen in rural or village communities, our representatives would venture to call for the necessary annual appropriations to meet the expenditure. It seems to me that one of the greatest evils connected with our schools is their largeness. It is well known that large hospitals are, in the aggregate of their results, about as good as none at all; indeed, many sanitarians regard them as worse than none at all. How, within the cubic space available in even our best schools, an adequate supply of even moderately-poisoned air is to be