

poses would not be allowed. We visited the Asylum at St. Johns in April last, and rooms and dormitories which were in 1865 pestiferous, were in 1871 sweet and endurable. No more positive evidence, therefore, can be adduced of the success of Dr. Howard's method of ventilation than the results observed in his own Asylum.

Dr. Howard's system consists in the admission of fresh air at the upper part of a room; the air passes along the ceiling and falls as spray to the floor; in its transit it must to a certain extent mix with the foul air of the apartment, but only to a slight degree, while the latter being of higher temperature, is floated to the upper strata, and is carried off by an upward shaft at the ceiling. This shaft is in connection with an air-tight receiver, having within it a fan of four blades; this is kept constantly revolving by means of a clock-work arrangement and weight; to the receiver is attached a discharge tube, which passes out above the roof of the building. The revolution of the fan produces a vacuum, and must draw the air through the tube which opens at the ceiling of the apartment to be ventilated; this air is then forced through the discharge tube, and is rapidly diffused or carried off by the wind.

From experiments instituted by Dr. Howard it would appear that the largest quantity of foul air in a room twenty feet high, when there is defective ventilation, is about two feet from the ceiling; a room of the same height yielded a large portion of foul air ten feet from the floor, but there was almost perfect absence of impurities at the ceiling and at the floor. From these facts it would appear that a discharge tube would be more efficient if opened at two feet from the ceiling in an apartment of twenty feet in height, and one foot in a room of ten feet altitude.

We need hardly allude to the urgency of ventilation. To secure a healthful condition of the body, constant change of the air of an apartment is an absolute necessity. The emanations from our bodies are such as to render any apartment in time highly poisonous, so much so, as to preclude the continuance of life. Decay is constantly going on in our bodies, and an arrest of these changes is inconsistent with these continuance of life. The problem consists in getting rid of these effete particles after they have been separated from the living mass. Hence the urgency of adopting some rational system of ventilation. More especially is this urgently necessary in public buildings, schools, gaols, lunatic asylums, churches and other buildings where large numbers of persons are met together.

The Court House of our City has been long known to be very deficient in ventilation. So much so that on more than one occasion the Judges on the Bench have been obliged to relinquish their official duties through indisposition. The Quebec Government have wisely determined to endeavour to improve the present state of that building, and we believe that Dr. Howard has in hand the contemplated improvement. If he succeeds as well as he has in the Lunatic Asylum at St. Johns, it will go far to secure the confidence of the public in his invention, and will we trust, lead to the adoption by other ill-ventilated public buildings throughout the country of the Howard system of ventilation.