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form or from the manner in which they are furnished, operate injuriously upon the health, or morals or the intellectual progress of the children who attend them. I beg to submit to the Council, *seriatim*, some of the more objectionable features in the forms and furniture of most of the school houses in the District.

1st.—The rooms in general are too low. Any person at all acquainted with the laws of animal life will immediately decide that a room in which it is intended that a large number of human beings shall frequently congregate and remain for hours together, should be at least twelve feet high: Fourteen or even sixteen would be better still; but less than twelve, few would admit would be either proper or safe.

But so far is this from being the case with our School Houses, that not more than half a dozen exceed nine feet; a great majority are under eight and a half; many are only seven and a half, and some are even less than seven.

2nd.—Another evil, not less frequent than the one just mentioned, is the total absence in most instances, of any means of thorough ventilation. The great object which seems to have been kept in view in the erection of our best class of School houses, was the exclusion of the air from without, in order that the greatest amount of heat might be produced and maintained, with the least amount of fuel. Hence in winter, when the door and windows are shut, such a room may be regarded as almost hermetically sealed. Now when it is remembered that each individual consumes (*i. e.* renders unfit for the purposes of further respiration,) about 200† cubic inches of air every minute,—that a much larger quantity is deprived of its oxygen by coming in contact with the heated surfaces of the stove; and that a very much larger quantity still, of pure air is taken up by the stove to support the combustion of the fuel, it will be easily seen that our school houses in general are exactly adapted to the production of early and fatal diseases.

3rd.—I am sorry to say that although in most instances our School Houses are erected in the most public and exposed situations, generally in the thickest part of the settlement, frequently at the crossings of public roads, often nearly adjoining Meeting Houses, country Taverns or Stores, yet only in a very few instances are they furnished with water closets or privies of any kind. Many of them have no sort of enclosure around them, and not a few are placed in the angle of a field, an orchard or a garden, into which the children are forbidden to trespass, so that no open or common ground remains in their neighborhood, except the public highway.

Now I need not remind Your honorable body, that unless we make some effort to cultivate a proper delicacy of feeling in our children,—at least, furnish them with the means of observing the common decencies of life, when numbers of both sexes are thrown together, we can scarcely expect any other result than that in riper years their minds will be brutalized and their moral sense impaired.

4th.—I feel it necessary also to bring under the notice of the Council the awkward and improper manner in which many School Houses are furnished. The lowest seats in some of them, though intended for infants of from five to six years old, are considerably higher, than the experience

† See note A.—Appendix.