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have been given, we may speak with more assurance of the various items which were presented in competition in the educational line, and among which our American exhibitors hold a distinguished rank. In fact it was the pride of all Americans at Vienna, to point to the excellence of our common school work, even if we had not gained the greatest honors in connection with our machines and fabrics.

The school-houses of the Exposition first attract our attention, and are worthy of our examination. Of these there are only two, the American and the Swiss, primary or rural school-houses, suitable for the accommodation of from eighty to one hundred

pupils, and divided into two rooms.

pupils, and divided into two rooms.

The American school-house is very simple in design and in finish, both inside and outside. It occupies thirty by sixty feet of ground, and is divided by a central hall or entry into two rooms for two grades of school, and is fitted up in the style of hundreds of our New England school-houses. One room is scated with single desks for fifty pupils, with a platform and teacher's desk. A Mason & Hamlin cabinet organ occupies a place by the teacher's desk, from which an organist is constantly evoking pleasant school-music. The walls are lined with a slated blackboard, of proper dimensions, and maps and charts of various kinds are suspended above them. Mason's Musical charts occupy a place upon the frame, and all other items of school furnishing, from the mat and scraper at the door, to the crayon, books, slates, drawing-books, pencils, rubbers, etc., in and about the desks are in their places. Here, in this school-room, if no where else in Vienna, the American feels at home, for such school-houses as this have made our American homes so attractive, and the hunthis have made our American homes so attractive, and the hundreds who daily visit this model to study its construction, will certainly carry away with them new ideas with reference to

America, from the simple republican school-house.

The Swiss model school-house is a very neat and well constructed building, possessing in its exterior more of architectural adorning than the plain American house. The materials of construction are wood, though the school buildings throughout Switzerland are usually of brick or stone, covered with a brown cement and decented with classical designs, which become durable or naments decorated with classical designs, which become durable ornaments

to the architecture, under the influence of the climate upon this plastic material. The general plan and arrangements of the various parts of the school-huilding are not materially unlike our own. The school scats and desks are of various patterns, but do not equal in style or comfort the American. Cheapness of construction still compels the use of long desks and benches, not unlike those of New England thirty years ago, at which from two to eight pupils sit. The feature of a foot-rest under the desk iron-framed desks. The Germans, in their school furniture, unlike the American and Swiss, in some patterns, adopt the retary chair, inserted at proper intervals in long plank benches. With cuar, inserted at proper intervals in long plank benches. With such heavy wooden furniture the school-room loses the light and airy appearance of the American school-house. The black-boards occupy a large space upon the walls, and are made of slate, or of a slated surface upon a mortar foundation. We should judge that much attention is paid to black-board work in the schools, from the excellent specimens presented in the Exposition, as well as the excellent black-board surfaces we saw in other school-

Good maps and charts were suspended about the Swiss school-house, and in the use of graphic illustration of the studies taught in their schools, we are quite sure that the Swiss and Germans

are in advance of American methods.

In the matter of light and ventilation, neither house in the Exposition presents a perfect model. In the matter of light the teacher or pupil is obliged to face windows, and in ventilation the windows and doors are the only avenues for the ingress and egress of air, faults which, perhaps, would be remedied in houses built for school purposes, instead of for exhibition.

Judging from what we have seen, we incline to the opinion that in all that goes to make up a healthy and comfortable school-house, the American school-house should rightfully re-ceive the first premium at Vienna, as the judges have given their

award.

In our next article we propose to write of models and apparatus for schoo's.

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