

SCHOOL HYGIENE.—At a recent meeting of the Rhode Island Medical Society, the following resolutions were passed : First—Injury to pupils at school, while in the schoolroom, is mainly due to deficient ventilation, unequal heating, long confinement to one, often abnormal, position, and mental excitement not necessarily connected with effectual study.—Second—Two short sessions daily are better than a single long one.—Third—In sessions of three hours at least two recesses should be allowed, one of them to be devoted to light gymnastics.—Fourth—Study at home should not be required of pupils under twelve years of age, nor of older ones except under judicious limitations.—Fifth—The half-time system is desirable in localities where the children are engaged in steady industrial occupations.—Sixth—That among the most prominent causes of ill-health among pupils while attending school, we must recognize the following :—Attending balls and parties, sitting up late at nights, eating improper food, drinking tea and coffee, and especially reading works of fiction.

DIAGNOSIS AND VITAL STATISTICS.—It is greatly to be regretted that at the last meeting of the Ontario Medical Council there was a tendency, or we believe it was finally decided, to drop from the subjects of examination the essential one of diagnosis. In the practice of medicine, the importance of this branch of the science can hardly be overestimated, while in the collection of vital statistics, as touching the causes of death, it is absolutely of the first importance, if the returns are not to be not only useless but misleading and mischievous. In the absurdly unsatisfactory and erroneous returns of causes, such as debility, dropsy, worm fever, and ‘general break up,’ there is indeed a grim sort of “entertainment,” as an exchange puts it, which is made grimmer still by the reflection that if the treatment was as vague as the diagnosis ‘the debt of nature’ was paid before it was due. We trust as there has been an improvement in the law respecting vital statistics, that this branch will receive the attention it demands, and that medical men will be as correct and definite as possible in aiding in the returns.

IN INVESTIGATING the cause of a late severe and remarkable epidemic of typhoid at Croydon, Eng., it was found that a huge waste-pipe from the water tower of the waterworks had direct communication with the sewer. The greatest facility was thereby afforded for ærating the water supply with sewer gas previous to delivery.