

those who were doing this life-saving operation more often than he, and he offered it as a small contribution towards the improvement of the technique of the operation.—Taken from *Canadian Practitioner*.

## SANITATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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My reason for presenting a paper upon a special subject connected with State medicine, rather than a report upon the advance made in sanitary science during the past year, is that each of you has doubtless watched the current thoughts as presented by our medical journals upon this most interesting subject.

Sanitation in our public schools is a subject, however, that is not discussed with the enthusiasm, it seems to me, that it merits. A little investigation along this line in his immediate neighborhood, would satisfy the most unobservant that the subject is not a hackneyed one.

So much of the early life of children is spent at school and beyond the immediate control of their legal guardians, that it is not unnatural that we should concern ourselves regarding their environment.

A well-ordered system of public education cannot be instituted without taking into account the proper sanitation.

The State, through the various boards, has taken upon itself the responsibility of the educational supervision of our children. May we not then, as medical men, and women, as parents or as friends of the free school system, demand of the State such methods as will promote physical vigor as an accompaniment of intellectual training?

Much thought has been given by educational associations to the course of study best suited to the wants of their pupils. A great deal has been said by medical men, both before this society and elsewhere, about the evil effects of over-crowding the youthful brain; less, however, regarding proper sanitation in our school room.

Many of our leading medical colleges

have wisely established a chair of State medicine. Our efficient State Board of Health, as well as those of other progressive states, has done much to bring this matter before the proper authorities. The normal schools of our State should likewise make sanitary science a part of their college curriculum.

The establishment of free education for the masses was undoubtedly intended to prepare them for the responsible duties of citizenship. The knowledge thus gained along the well-established course of study in our public schools, with no perfected system of physical training, is not enough to make them useful members of society.

Permit me, then, to present a few thoughts upon this important subject, more to bring it to your attention, than to formulate an elaborate system of sanitary procedure.

## SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Since children are more susceptible to morbid influences than adults, the school house should be hygienically located. The beauty of architectural design should in every case be subordinate to the demand for abundant sunlight, and the building so constructed as to make dampness either in cellar or walls unknown; the locality should be far from swamps, ponds or excessive tree growth.

## VENTILATION AND HEATING.

Upon no subject connected with the construction of school houses are we so ignorant as upon that of heating and ventilation. Our location as a State, geographically, is such, that during most of the school year, fires must be maintained for the comfort of pupils. This prevents the possibility of window ventilation, as in summer. The importance of good ventilation cannot be over-estimated.

Since each person vitates more than two thousand cubic feet each hour, much ingenuity is required to furnish them that amount of pure air at a temperature of not less than 65° Fahr.

The condition of the air in the ordinary school room, should we stop to think of it, is simply staggering. Contained in