

present all winter, it never became epidemic, and in all only four cases occurred. This, we believe, was due to the free use of formaline (1) as a spray on the clothing of persons coming in any way in contact with persons in attendance on patients; (2) as a gargle; (3) As a wash for attendants and also a body-wash for the patient during the desquamation period; (4) and lastly, in vapor form for final disinfection of the premises.

At no time during the fall of 1897 and the winter of 1897-8 was it deemed advisable by the Board to close any of the schools, for it was felt that, by continuing the schools in the usual manner a fairly positive, though not absolutely effective, method of tracing contagion was available. At intervals the various rooms were disinfected, so as to minimize the danger of disinfection.

But we did not go far enough, nor did we begin our systematic efforts soon enough. After an epidemic gathers way, such as it did with us, no measures are too stringent that will effectively stamp out the disease. Had we insisted upon a general daily use of prophylactics by all scholars, to be carried out, if found necessary under the inspection of an assistant sanitary officer appointed for the purpose, and to be continued so long as contagion manifested itself, bacteriologically or otherwise, I firmly believe that very positive results would have followed our efforts. As it was, we hardly realized, at the time, the difficulty of our task, but by persistent efforts along the lines indicated, success was finally assured.

The epidemic undoubtedly was aggravated, if not prolonged, by the wretched ventilation in some of the class-rooms. And this phase of the question brings me to the second, or preventative part, of the subject. Every school room should be ventilated in such a manner that the quantity of foul or vitiated air exhausted or removed shall be effected by methods at once positive and uniform.

The danger to health of foul air has been known for years, and for a generation at least the importance of well-ventilated schools has been insisted upon by all who have made education a subject for scientific study. But the officials whose duty it is to provide and to supervise the construction of our school buildings have in general regarded ventilation as a new-fangled fad, much as the Boer is said to regard a bath.

In the Province of Ontario children of school age are required to attend school. We compel them for five days in each week to occupy in common certain rooms, and we provide officers and penalties to enforce the law. Certainly this makes it our plain duty to know that the rooms are fit for occupation, and surely no