

The first step in this direction was the establishment of Hainer Street School, now St. Thomas' Ward, a rented building, which took place in October, 1868. Next a fine brick building was erected in St. Paul's Ward, finished in 1871, at a cost of \$6,000, furnishings not included. Then the Central School, including a primary department, was constructed in St. George's Ward, at a cost of \$10,625, and opened in 1872.

But in proportion as the accommodation was provided, so did the number of pupils increase, and in order to supply the demand a new building was erected in St. Patrick's Ward, in 1874, at a cost of \$1,930, and lastly one in St. James' Ward, in 1875-6, cost \$2,216.

Instead of \$8,000 owned by the Trustees in 1852, the Trustees of 1873 hold \$32,000 in real estate, and instead of two Ward School Houses in 1853, we have now the following:

Central School, including Primary—Head Master, J. B. Gray, Esq.; Assistants, R. McClelland, Wm. Hindson, Miss Crawford, Miss Boyle, Miss Morton, Miss Darche, Miss McLaren, Miss Winlaw, and Miss Jones.

St. George's Ward School—Head Mistress, Miss Corbin. Assistants, Miss D. Snively, Miss Clark.

St. Andrew's Ward School—Head Mistress, Miss Wilkins. Assistants, Miss Waud, Miss Grey.

St. Thomas' Ward School—Teacher, Miss Snively.

St. Patrick's Ward School—Head Mistress, Miss Patterson. Assistants, Miss Brailsford, Miss Smith.

St. James' Ward School—Teacher, Miss Gross.

The number of teachers employed in 1855 was six, and the monthly pay roll amounted to \$220. The number employed at present is twenty-one, and the monthly pay roll amounts to \$735. It will be seen from these figures that the expenditure has not increased in proportion to the increase of accommodation and the amount of work done.—*St. Catharines Journal*.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL.

At the late Convocation of conferring degrees in arts, the following facts were stated as to the work of the University, in the address of the Vice-Chancellor:—

The number of students in McGill College, without reckoning affiliated colleges, had been in the session just closed, 352. The graduates in course at the present Convocation were 60. He remarked on the great contrast between the limited revenues of McGill, as compared with many other universities, and the large amount of work it was expected to accomplish. This disparity was likely long to continue, for the educational wants of the country were great in comparison with any probable increase of the resources of the University. He mentioned several changes and improvements in the faculties of law, medicine and arts, owing to new appointments which had been made in the past year. A catalogue of the library, now numbering 12,000 volumes, had been published. The examinations for schools had been re-commenced with success and would be continued this year.

In the future he hoped that, before next session, some additional accommodation in the buildings would be provided, more especially for the students; an additional lecturer would be appointed in the Department of Practical and Applied Science, and the present Professor's assistant would be appointed Lecturer in Drawing. Provision would be made to train students for the new examinations for Dominion Land Surveyors. Arrangements would be made for graduates taking post-graduate honour courses. Dr. Carpenter would deliver Museum lectures on Mollusca. The summer courses in Medicine had been greatly extended.

VI. Extracts from Periodicals.

SCHOOL-ROOM POISONING IN NEW YORK.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEDICO-LEGAL SOCIETY, APRIL 5, 1876.

Report of Committee to confer with the School Authorities, with a view to such Legislation as may promote the Health of School Children.

The undersigned, a committee appointed to confer with the school authorities, with a view to such legislation as may promote the health of school children, report progress. They have addressed to the President of the Board of Education a letter, of which the following is a copy.

To WILLIAM WOOD, Esq., President of the Board of Education, New York.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned, having been appointed a committee under a resolution of the New York Medico-Legal Society, "to confer with the school authorities, with a view to such legislation as may promote the health of school children," beg leave respect-

fully to call your attention to some of the evils which seem to us to demand a remedy.

At the outset of our inquiries, our attention has been arrested by a report of the Committee on By-laws, etc., of the Board of Education, under date of March 15, 1876, not yet adopted, and recommending a continuance, or at best only slight modifications of conditions which we are convinced are utterly inconsistent with due care for the preservation of the health of the children in the public schools.

We are gratified to observe in that report a full recognition of the unsanitary condition of the public schools generally, and the recognition of the power of the Board of Education to correct the evil, and this encourages us the more in submitting for your consideration the following suggestions.

We first notice the conclusion of your committee in regard to the amount of air-space required, and the causes of overcrowding. "In fixing the sitting capacity of rooms, the following shall be a minimum allowance of floor surface and air-space per pupil. In the three lower grades of primary schools and departments, five square feet and seventy cubic feet; in the three higher grades, six square feet and eighty cubic feet; in the four lower grades of grammar schools, seven square feet and ninety cubic feet; in the four higher grades, nine square feet and one hundred cubic feet." (Rep't, pp. 229-230.) "The Principals of schools, zealous in their desire for a large number of pupils, and in their competition in this respect with neighbouring schools, often also urged and harassed by the constant importunity of parents, have in many instances crowded their class-rooms, by admitting more pupils into them than their capacity would admit. This, of course, has been done by an exercise of their own authority, unlimited as it has been by any regulation, either of the Board of Education or of the Ward Trustees." (Rep't, pp. 227-228.)

Such a capacity of school-room space, though confessedly greater than that which now is and hitherto has been allowed thousands of children in the public schools of New York, is not, so far as we have been able to learn, consistent with physiological law, or with the opinions upon this subject of those whose scientific judgment is entitled to deference and respect. Without dwelling upon the universally acknowledged importance of a pure atmosphere as the first condition of health, we may be permitted briefly to rehearse certain facts as the basis of our recommendation.

The atmosphere chiefly consists of a mixture of two gases, oxygen and nitrogen, in the proportion of one volume of the former to four of the latter. Oxygen is also called *vital air*, because upon it depends vital existence; it is the first element of our bodily tissues, and, through respiration, affords fully three-quarters of our bodily nourishment throughout our lives, and is absolutely essential at every moment of our existence, to the healthy development and maintenance of our bodily organs; the other fourth of our nourishment we obtain in the shape of aliment, which also in part consists of oxygen. The nitrogen of the atmosphere is neutral, deemed to be merely diluent of the oxygen. There is besides, in the free atmosphere, a third gas, *carbonic acid* or *fixed air*, in the proportion of four volumes per 10,000. It is the same as that which miners call *choke-damp*, found in deep mines, shafts and wells, and in brewers' vats, so often first discovered by its fatal effects. But in the open air no one ever suffers on account of it, or for the want of an abundant supply of oxygen, the natural diffusion of these gases, when unrestrained, being always sufficient to maintain their due proportion.

The amount of air inspired and expired by a healthy person at every breath, is from twenty to thirty cubic inches, half a cubic inch of which is absorbed. And this half cubic inch wholly consists of oxygen. As applied to the whole volume of the air breathed (oxygen being one-fifth only), every individual renders not less than five cubic feet of air unfit for respiration every hour, by the abstraction of oxygen alone; but besides this, the half cubic inch of oxygen taken up at every breath is replaced by a relative amount of carbonic acid given out, so that the air respired *once only* contains of carbonic acid *one hundred times as much* as it did when it was inspired, $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of its volume. Nor is this all. Besides the surcharge of carbonic acid, and the absorption of oxygen, the air of closely filled rooms is still further contaminated by the exhalation of watery vapour, additional carbonic acid exhaled from the skin, the dead organic matter exhaled from both the lungs and the skin in varying quantities, but usually so abundant in the close, hot and dry atmosphere of our city school-rooms, as to be offensively apparent at all times, and a fruitful source of disease.

In regard to the deleterious effects of an excess of carbonic acid alone in the air we breathe, there is no difference of opinion among competent authorities. All agree that when it reaches the proportion of 1 volume per 1,000, it is dangerous to health; if not immediately, none the less certainly in its cumulative effects. It creates