

It is undesirable that basement air should enter into the general circulation during school hours, but it should be possible to draw off the air from all class rooms, rewarm it and send it back into the class rooms again before school hours, while they are still unoccupied. This would save large quantities of coal and would not detract from the effectiveness of the ventilation as the fans could be supplied with fresh air from the intakes fifteen minutes before school opens. The necessary arrangements for this should have formed part of the original installation, but they can still be made. The Bureau is informed that in many school houses while the buildings are being heated up in the morning it is necessary to take in outside air just as when the children are in their seats. This is extremely wasteful of coal.

Lighting.

The lighting of the south rooms is good; that of the north rooms in some cases is poor. At least one room visited gets little or no direct sunlight during the school session, yet it has no more glass than rooms on the south side. In fact, with the exception of a few rooms, the ratio of window area to floor area is practically the same throughout the building. The Provincial regulations give 1:6 as a minimum ratio of lighting area to floor area where there is a good exposure. As the actual ratios vary from 1:5.8 to 1:6.1 the Provincial regulation is complied with, as far as the southern exposure is concerned.

The artificial lighting is insufficient, as electric lights are installed only on the ground floor and in the special rooms on the next floor up.

Play Area.

The play area connected with the new school gives 20.3 square feet per child in the total membership, and 23.9 square feet per child in average attendance. This is entirely inadequate. Organized games are quite impossible, and as organized games are the only ones which have much value from the standpoint of moral education, the Park School, even more than most others, is seriously handicapped in its work. The Board of Education has decided to tear down the old building none too soon. The project of making it an Opportunity School would have robbed Park School itself of needed play space, besides being out of the question from an economic point of view. The Park School should be in the most real sense an opportunity school—as should every public school in the city—and the first step in making it such is to combine the old yard and new yards.* The combined yards would give 73 square feet per child in the total membership and 86 square feet per child in average attendance. If the lots at the east and west of the old yard—now covered with undesirable buildings, practically slums—were purchased or expropriated by the Board, the per pupil area would be respectively 98.2 and 115.5 square feet. At noon and after school hours this total play area—about 150,000 square feet—could be used for football, baseball, tennis and other group games without infringing on the space necessary for games and apparatus adapted to the needs of small children. Ample play space is a crying need of this school and district.

*Since this was written the old building has been demolished. A modern school playground, therefore, is now quite feasible.