

in the well's receiving a thorough cleaning. The average distance of the nearest privy from the school well in this district is 39 yards. I have not heard many complaints of the pollution of the water from this cause. In one school section, No. 20 London, where diphtheria violently broke out, the head of a family that lost five members told me that he attributed the disease to the proximity of the school well to the site of an old filled up privy vault. This brings me to the subject of

#### SEWERAGE.

The description of the out premises of country schools given by Prot. Church, of Greenville, at the Sanitary Convention held there last year, is so graphic and generally applicable that I cannot help repeating it here. He said: "On many school premises one may see a mean, dilapidated building, bearing all possible marks of disrespect and execration, remote from the school-house, difficult of approach to sensitive pupils at all seasons of the year on account of its publicity. In the winter the snowsifts in at numerous crevices; the northern blasts make it a veritable cave of the winds; in winter it is as comfortless as an iceberg; in summer as malodorous as Tophet." One of the particulars he enumerates is not so generally applicable as the others, that is the remoteness. I know several cases where more remoteness would be very desirable. Most people have a lively fear of drinking water contaminated by such sewage, but few fear disease from air thus polluted. An illustration of death and disease from the latter cause occurred at Pittsfield, Mass. Partly because of its boasted salubrity a ladies' seminary was established there and well patronized. But through ignorance or carelessness foul gas from the vaults and cesspool at times pervaded the building, and as a consequence, fifty-one out of the seventy-seven young ladies in the institution were attacked with typhoid fever, of whom thirteen died. Thorough investigations, conducted by Doctors Palmer, Ford and Earle, proved that the polluted air was the cause of the epidemic. In most cases the rural school closet consists of a vault over which is constructed a small frame building. These usually last for many years without being emptied or disinfected. I am sure they are a source of much harm and danger to the health of the children. The system ought to be radically changed. The old-fashioned vault is falling into disrepute with sanitarians everywhere. No class would hail a practicable reform of this evil more heartily than school-trustees. I believe they would readily adopt an inexpensive dry-earth closet if its working could be clearly explained, and its advantages shown.

The official regulations on school accommodation require that there be separate offices for the sexes, and that the entrances be screened from view. In this district there are three schools out of the hundred with only one closet; only about 35 or 40 are properly screened from the general play-ground and school windows. Four have urinals attached to the boys' closet. These are useful in keeping the seats clean. Nine are reported to be regularly disinfected, the disinfectants being lime, chloride of lime, road-dust, or ashes.\*

\*DISINFECTANTS.—Chloride of lime,—sprinkle around dry; copperas (sulphate of iron),—dissolve in the proportion of one pound in a gallon of water, and wash or sprinkle with the solution; whitewashing with lime,—put some copperas solution in the whitewash. The chloride of lime is put up in close half-pound boxes at 5 cents each; copperas is about 5 cents a pound.