

the school room, its heating and ventilation, the shape and height of its desks and seats, and the hygienic condition of its closets, must all be regarded as of the greatest importance to the health, development, and future well-being of the scholars; any neglect of such inspection must be regarded as a distinct breach of trust on the part of those in control.

Recently, however, in many cities a still further advance has been made by the daily inspection of the scholars themselves in regard to matters of personal hygiene and the presence of disease of all kinds, but especially of contagious disease. The first important movement in this direction was made in Brussels by Dr. Jannsens, who in 1874 obtained the appointment of Medical Inspectors for the various public schools, whose duties were not only to supervise and report on the school rooms, but also to inspect the children attending the school and to report on the condition of their health, and the presence of disease among them. In the report of these inspections for the year 1880 it is stated that attention had been given, not only to faults in the construction of the room and its appointments, its temperature and the amount of vitiation of the air, but also to the condition of each child, to the form and extent of gymnastic training it received, to the care of the eyes, ears, teeth, skin and body, to the duration of the lessons, and to the frequency of open-air instruction. Accurate anthropometrical records had been kept as an excellent guide to the condition of health of each pupil; at the same time careful watch had been kept on all children showing symptoms of disease, and rigid regulations had been made for the isolation of all infectious diseases. As a result of their supervision it was stated that at the time of the report there had been no epidemic of infectious disease in Brussels since their methods had been carefully carried out, although in other cities of Belgium and throughout Europe severe epidemics had occurred.

The marked success which attended this work attracted the attention of physicians and sanitarians throughout Europe and in America and new regulations calling for the more or less frequent hygienic and medical inspection of schools were promulgated in all the more important educational centres. In 1875 the French Minister of Public Instruction issued a circular to the prefects of all the départements of France directing that inspection should include both the hygienic conditions existing in the school and the health of the individual pupils. In Switzerland, in Italy, in St. Petersburg and in several of the larger towns in Germany, medical inspection of the scholars as well of the school room was instituted.

In the United States the regular hygienic inspection of scholars in