

"Situated, constructed and furnished, with utter disregard of the nature of the soil, exposure, air and light, they are, in effect, systematic institutions appropriated to the nurture of disease and the acceleration of death." "Literally, schools for the growth, culture and promotion of scrofula and consumption." The poisonous effluvia pervading the atmosphere of these unventilated rooms is not only breathed and rebreathed, but it adheres to the walls, furniture and clothing, and is absorbed by the drinking water. "It creates a nidus," says Dr. Bell, "which is not only in itself poisonous, perpetually lessening the vital force of all who inhabit it, and predisposing to blood poisons of every kind, but it also becomes a hot-bed for the planting and propagation of specific poisons," as diphtheria, scrofula, &c.

Again, instead of being cheerful and attractive, especially internally, the buildings are monastic and almost penal in design. The windows too are frequently in most objectionable relation to the seats and positions of the pupils.

Few subjects affecting the public health are of greater importance than that of School Architecture, in its most comprehensive sense. It must be born in mind that the school room is a place where children spend a large portion, about one-fourth of their time, during the most susceptible period of life. "Just as the twig is bent, the trees, inclined," and the intellectual and moral development of children is largely determined by the physical conditions by which they are surrounded.

Physical education and development too, instead of being left to chance, should accompany, if not precede mental and moral education. For the latter must largely depend on the former. Herein lies, perhaps, the greatest defect in our School system. Attention is not given to physical education and development.

If, then, compulsory education is to be fairly carried out, if children are to be compelled to attend school for a certain number of days in each year, suitable school-rooms, constructed in accordance with our present knowlege as to their requirements, should most certainly be first provided.

In selecting a site for buildings, dampness of soil must be most carefully avoided. High ground, especially if sandy or gravelly, is frequently dry. The average level of soil, water should be at least 3 feet below the surface of the ground, or below the cellar, if any. This may be secured by proper drainage. Even a concrete floor will not keep water from a cellar built in a saturated soil, while a cellar story, or that