

Doctor May declares the present system of giving \$400 for every small Institute which agrees to raise \$200 from local subscription a failure, the payment thereof not business-like, and the system of distribution as not established on equitable principles; and therefore recommends that the annual grant to Mechanics' Institutes be paid in proportion to the work done in Evening Class instruction, that the maximum allowed for Library and Reading Room be two hundred dollars, and holds that the majority of Institutes would be more successful if they received a regular sum of \$100 per annum for the purchase of books than they are at present under the present erratic system.

It has, however, been held that the Legislature in their wisdom, and after much experience in the matter, established the principle upon which the present law is founded. It has been proved beyond question that Institutes in small towns and villages absolutely require annually a large amount of money aid besides the funds raised by members' fees, not only to call such Institutes into existence, but to keep them in existence, and to render them useful to the people of that locality; while to Institutes in large towns and in cities, with about a thousand members and numerous other sources of revenue, the Legislative Grant constitutes an item of secondary importance; and it is for this reason, for the purpose of helping those most that are most in need of help, and who without a liberal help would starve, that the Legislature in their wisdom established the present mode of distribution as under existing circumstances the most equitable, and did not deem it wise to pay aid to Evening Class instruction according to the number of pupils attending, and considering that *as the work done*; no doubt well knowing that in a sparsely settled section of the country, in small towns and villages the work of inducing and gathering a small number of persons to attend Evening Class instruction, to keep up the same and make it successful, is far greater than in a large city where those desiring such instruction come to a certain office and have their names enrolled; and also that the *work done* by a teacher who instructs only twelve pupils must be done as thoroughly as by the one having a class of forty. It would be very questionable equity to give to a city Institute which has 500 pupils in its Evening Classes out of 50,000 inhabitants twenty times as much legislative aid as to a small Institute having 25 pupils out of 1500 inhabitants; the iniquity of such a system will even become more apparent when it is taken into consideration that the salary paid to a teacher instructing a class of twelve pupils is not much if any less than that of one having forty pupils, and that those small classes are generally found in small places where the majority of Institutes are situate. Nevertheless, as experience has proved in many instances that the nicest and finest theories have proved abortive in practice, so it has often been found that the machinery employed and the rules adopted in carrying out a plan