

buildings are in prospect for the well-informed physician to do a lasting favor to his neighborhood by interesting himself in the sanitary features of the structure. Even though he be not a member of the Board of Education he will certainly have friends among the members through whom he may influence the architecture. He may through the local press interest others of intelligence and make such building the occasion for extending knowledge of the principles of ventilation and lighting and of the harm to the health and education of the children due to such defects. In the remodeling of old buildings and the adjustment of all possible means to minimize their defect by introducing devices for aiding ventilation and through the arrangement of shades, awnings, etc., to regulate the lighting much may also be accomplished. Most of my correspondents regard this as a fertile field for professional endeavor still too little cultivated.

A department of work most readily conceded to us by the people and in a few of our larger cities already established in official station is that dealing with contagious diseases. The reports of work in Boston and other cities are very interesting from the professional side and not less profitable from the citizen's standpoint. The great increase of such diseases on the opening of schools in the fall and their rapid decrease on closing schools in the spring show their dependence upon the intimate relations of school life for their extension. Often 40 to 80 children are huddled together in a room, generally with lack of ventilation, compelling them to breathe disease-contaminated air again and again, and favoring the concentration of disease emanations till contagion is render-

ed almost a certainty. Edward Bok, of the *Ladies' Home Journal*, is correct when he says: "A national crime lies at the feet of American parents;" but he has, in my opinion, mistaken the character of the crime. It consists, not in the curriculum of the schools, but in their unsanitary conditions which are the product of combined ignorance and parsimony. The ignorance can only be eradicated by the efforts of our profession and when it is gone the parsimony will vanish.

The rapid decrease of contagious diseases, especially of diphtheria and scarlet fever, which follows where there is daily medical inspection of those pupils found by the teachers not to be in good health, shows how valuable a service physicians may render in this way. Of course in small communities it might not be possible to arrange for a system of inspection at the school houses, but much might be done if teachers were required or expected to send all ailing children to their family physician for inspection and a report as to their fitness to continue in school. We should find the work very slightly burdensome, even if we did it gratis, and it would often enable us to detect the early symptoms of serious disease among the children of our clientele, thus preventing much suffering and anxiety.

During the past winter several cases of diphtheria occurred in one quarter of our town, and we found great advantage with but slight inconvenience and marked relief from the "scare" among the people, in a rule that all teachers should inspect their pupils' throats each morning by inquiry as to soreness, and in the smaller ones by external examination for enlarged glands. All cases showing any signs of trouble were required to bring a physician's certificate that they had no contagious