

co-operation of members of the learned professions. Changes in the law may soon be needed, viz., making schools districts, co-terminous with municipalities, each township being a ward for the election of one trustee,—the trustees to be paid for their services, like county councillors, and so on; levying the school tax on real estate only; and estimating all land whether under cultivation or not at the same value; requiring trustees to keep the school open for a certain number of months in the year, and encouraging them to make such arrangements as they may deem necessary for having all the children in a school district, whose education is not otherwise provided for, attend school, etc., etc.

One thing is certain; for all we have to do we must have sufficient funds. We ought to have a grant of from forty to fifty thousand dollars per year at least, apart from what may be required for a Normal School. I am sure that if instead of giving one hundred dollars per annum to each of our schools, we could give two hundred, they could be carried on much better and would accomplish more gratifying results than at present. And if the salaries of those engaged in this important work were better than most of them are at present, better work and much more of it would be done. We ought to have the very best people—people of cultivated minds—people whose heart and will are in their work, and to get these we must pay liberal salaries. In a country like ours, where so many avenues are open to energy and ability, teachers must be well paid or the profession will be left largely to those who, for the most part, are its least efficient members.

I desire to offer my warmest thanks to my friend, Mr. Mulvoy, for his great kindness in discharging the duties of my office during my absence; and to you all, gentlemen, for affording me one of the most enjoyable recreations I have ever had. The time not consumed in travelling was very fully occupied. I have obtained a great many ideas which, although not sufficiently important to find a place in this report, will be worked out as time goes on. I tried, too, not only to receive, but to give information. But the change itself was a rest, and I feel all the better both in mind and body for it.

Respectfully,

W. CYPRIAN PINKHAM.

Education Offices,
Winnipeg, Dec. 19, 1881. }

Moved by Professor Hart, seconded by Canon O'Meara, That the report be received; that the Superintendent be warmly thanked for it, and that his travelling expenses, amounting to two hundred and fifty dollars be paid.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. Mulvoy, seconded by Prof. Hart, That the report be printed in pamphlet form for distribution.—Carried.

The meeting then adjourned.

MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOLS IN BRUSSELS.

The 33 schools of the city of Brussels, which are supported wholly or in part by the public funds, have been since 1874 subject to regular sanitary inspection by the Board of Health. This is done through 5 medical officers who devote their whole time to the work. The objects for which this sanitary supervision was undertaken, and which have thereby been to a good degree already attained were: (1) to secure the uniform observance of hygienic law's with regard to cleanliness of buildings, water closets &c., ventilation, heating &c., and to call immediate attention to any violations thereof or to unhygienic conditions in, or about any building; (2) to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in, and by means of the schools; (3) to determine beforehand what children are liable to suffer injury, by reason of some constitutional tendency, from the course of study and discipline, that others might bear without harm, and to make such pupils the object of special care with a view to building them up physically; and (4) to assure to the pupils, proper sanitary instruction, so that the schools shall become a means of diffusing, both by precept and example, information with regard to sanitary laws among the people. These blanks which are their "means of controlling and putting upon record the effects of the school régime upon the health and progressive development of the child," are taken from the report of Doctor Janssens, chief of the Health Department of Brussels, read before the International Educational Congress, Aug., 1880, at Brussels. The scope and practical results of the system cannot be given in the words of Dr. Janssens and those of his colleague Dr. Bonmariage who also read a report before the same body. Extracts from the former will be marked (J), from the latter (B).

"What is needed to secure to this numerous group (children in school) the benefits resulting from the progress of the sociological

sciences? One single reform; viz, the establishment of a hygienic and rational supervision of schools. * * * "The authorities have completely ignored that vital question for the youth in school." The medical inspector "should possess some aptitude for teaching that he may readily know when to give the children elementary notions of hygiene; when he should describe to them, for example, the results of the abuse of alcoholic drinks, and of tobacco, the dangers of the remedies of charlatans and of the prejudices constantly reappearing against vaccination; when he can develop certain critical observations, for which his weekly visits will furnish him the occasion, on the subject of vicious attitudes of the causes of nearsightedness, of the unseasonable use of clothing too warm, or too thin &c., for example "He should know thoroughly the exigencies of a school building, with its class-rooms and dependencies, he should look after the methods of lighting, natural and artificial, the choice of apparatus for warming and ventilation, and apply himself diligently to the study of the many questions which form a part of the code of modern school hygiene."—(J).

"The best constructed buildings may be rendered unhealthy by the negligence of those in charge of them. The medical inspector should look out for any defects which may arise in the working of the warming or ventilating apparatus; oversee the condition of the furniture, the way the building is kept in repair, the conditions of the walls, water-closets, sinks and other dependencies; and at the first appearance of a defect of a nature to compromise the healthy state of the premises, he should refer it to the authority by which the school is made right. His attention will be especially directed to the condition of the air as to purity, as to alteration by dust, by corporeal emanations, by fetid gases, by carbonic oxide and by carbonic acid in excess. He should examine the thermometric bulletins which should be placed in each class-room, and ascertain whether the 4 daily observations have been duly registered by the teacher or by his assistant. In short, he should see whether the teacher has rationally acquitted himself of the care which devolves upon him with regard to the renewal of the air in the class-room."

"In the daily observations of the temperature, he should not be satisfied with the averages taken by the teacher in the one spot where the thermometer is hung, but he should take in person, the temperature at different heights, at the level of the floor, and at the height of the pupils' heads, and should note, to have them remedied, the differences existing between the different strata of air." "The aim of the modern school is to favor by all possible means the progressive development of the child, from the physical, as well as from the intellectual and moral point of view. It is hence proper that the medical inspector of schools should be considered a co-laborer in the general regulation of every establishment placed under his surveillance, and that he should even have a word to say in contributing to reform the programme of studies, the actual aims of which are generally a little too ambitious, gymnastic exercises should alternate with the lessons in a proportion much larger than is reserved for them at present. * * The model school of Brussels has adopted the uniform system for all classes, of having $\frac{3}{4}$ hour of lesson alternate with $\frac{1}{4}$ hour of recreation."

"The surveillance of the physician should moreover extend to certain infirmities which call for special treatment at home and which are a contraindication to gymnastic exercises. So also he should seek to combat the exclusive preponderance of the right side, and to obtain subjects more or less ambidextrous; he will thus succeed in preventing spinal curvature in more than one predisposed child." "He should have a natural sympathy for childhood, and especially for those unfortunate by nature." "If in summer the heat becomes so excessive as to render attendance at school prejudicial to health as well as to a profitable session of the class, he should not hesitate to order an immediate suspension of the exercises." "In the common schools of Brussels the lessons can be suspended when the temperature exceeds 82° Fahr." "In short, with respect to the healthy child, he is to favor by every means in his power, the development, i. e., the physical education of the subject. As to mental training, he should also have the right to make that the object of his investigations. Superannuated methods must be abandoned, by which children are burdened with superfluous details, their memory fatigued, their attention wearied, and the brain, which avenges this ill-treatment by inertia, strained by an indiscreet abuse. The aim of hygiene and pedagogy, linked in a common interest, should be to lighten the programmes." "Sick children should specially receive the attention of the physician. * * * The school is, in fact a very favorable means for the propagation of infantile maladies and notably of the eruptive fevers (small-pox,