

filled in about the outside of the new wall, we should advise attacking this point first, and sodding or concreting with coal tar concrete, a space 3 or 4 feet wide around the building. This, if the grade is first made to slope sharply away from the house, will throw the rain which drips from the eaves, or runs down the walls, out upon the firm ground, and in the course of two or three seasons the filling will generally have compacted itself to a consistency as hard or harder than the surrounding soil, so that the tendency of water to accumulate just outside the walls will disappear; while the concrete, as it hardens with age, will present more and more resistance to percolation from below.

For keeping the dampness absorbed by the walls of the cellar from affecting the air of the house, a Portland cement coating may be perhaps the best means now available. It would have been much better, when the walls were first built, to brush the outside of them with melted coal tar; but that is probably impracticable now. If the earth stands against the walls, however, the cement coating should cover the whole inside of the wall. The situation of the building may perhaps admit of draining away the water which accumulates about it, by means of stone drains or lines of drain tile, laid up to the cellar walls, at a point below the basement floor, and carried to a convenient outfall. This would be the most desirable of all methods for drying the cellar, and should be first tried.

IN HINTS TO HOUSEHOLDERS, Ernest Turner says: An inhabited house is a sort of gigantic cupping-glass, and the heat-rar-fied atmosphere of its rooms is continually replenished from the air-stores of the soil, forced up, syphon-wise, by the excess of weight in the corresponding column of cold air outside. *Hence, to live on a poisonous soil is to breathe poisonous air.* . . . Soil, naturally wholesome, may be made poisonous by ourselves, and is very conscientious in returning the poison we have committed to its keeping. Cesspools and drains are the principal agent in this procedure.

#### EFFECTS OF THE PRESENT EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.

A very valuable contribution on this subject is to be found in the Sanitary Record, by Dr. Rabagliati (M. A., Surg. to Bradford Infirmary). After referring to the difficulties in attempting to estimate the effects on health of the national system of education, he writes: It seems to me that evidence overwhelmingly conclusive exists to show that children have been over-driven by the working of the Elementary Education Act. Medical men, teachers, and parents have all testified to this, and it seems quite impossible to overlook the importance of the evidence they have advanced. As regards the medical evidence, when the names of such men as Dr. Clifford Allbutt, Dr. B. W. Richardson, Mr. Fridgin Teale, Dr. Crichton Browne, Dr. Carpenter, and others, are mentioned as having expressed themselves more or less strongly in this sense, one feels how important is the weight of opinion arrayed in support of the view. Dr. Richardson speaks of the overwork in schools as a 'temporary insanity.' Dr. Crichton Browne 'can conceive of no surer way of depriving our artisans of the next generation of their manual dexterity than to insist on sedentary habits in the boys of to-day, keeping them with books in their hands during those years when the hand centres are evolving; and speaks of its being 'high time for a declaration of rights on behalf of helpless children, and on behalf of future generations also, whom, if we are not careful, we shall load with a burden more grievous than the National debt—a burden of degeneration and disease.' Dr. Clifford Allbutt says he 'has in the course of his professional career, conversed with large numbers of medical men, but that all those with whom he has conversed have had an opinion in one way.'

After referring to cases of serious illness believed to be caused by over school