

pupils to remain at home until all danger of contagion is past, as certified in writing by a competent medical practitioner. The school regulations require that the teacher shall exercise all these precautions, and they have been strictly enforced in most cases.

On the other hand, usually no record is kept by the teacher of the number of absentees through sickness, or the nature of the sickness. The report of the Hamilton schools which has been published in the annual report of 1883 is one of the notable exceptions.

It appears that in the school register there is no column set apart for recording the daily or monthly number of absentees through sickness, and no blanks are provided except in a few instances.

There is room for improvement in the water supply. About 60 per cent. report having wells situated on the school ground, the remainder depend upon the generosity of their neighbours, and in one case the report mentions that the water is procured from a ditch. There are no means reported as being used for the purpose of testing the purity of the water supply. About 38 per cent., however, state their opinion that the water used is impure. We may presume that the remainder possess an abundant supply of pure and wholesome water, although of this there is at present no certainty. In some instances it is stated that the water is scarce, and impure; scarcity may possibly be in these cases an advantage.

The wells are situated sufficiently distant from school buildings and out-buildings, except in a very few instances. In one case, where instruction is given in hygiene, the well is only forty feet from the outhouses. In another case the well is ten feet from the school and twenty-five from the outhouse; soil sandy and no

drainage. In this case the report says, "The outhouse system is used, and the condition as to cleanliness 'beggars description'; 'no disinfectants are used.'" It was never cleaned since built. There are eighty pupils reported under charge of the teacher—winter average forty-four.

The report informs us that in a very few places water-tight boxes are used, and ashes or dry earth, with disinfectants for purposes of deodorizing the excreta, and that the boxes are properly emptied and the contents removed at frequent intervals. This is the exception to the rule, however, the old outhouse-vault system being almost universally used outside of cities.

In reply to the question, What measures are adopted to keep outhouses clean? the most common answer is, "They are swept, or they are scrubbed when the school is cleaned," indicating that nothing is done to remove the excrementitious deposits of years of accumulation. I have known instances in which the necessity for removal has been overcome by digging a new pit which, after a few years, would again be filled up and become unfit for occupation. In large schools where there is an attendance of between 300 and 400 pupils such a condition of affairs is very objectionable and should be disallowed.

One case is reported where there is a brick school-house—the outhouse is twenty-five feet from the school-house. In another place it is fifteen feet from the school-house. The outhouse-pit system in these instances must be classed as a nuisance.

There is very little to complain of with regard to care exercised by teachers in protecting children from injurious consequences of sitting in school with wet clothing. The seating of pupils at desks is very fairly attended to also.

In endeavouring to improve the sanitary condition of schools, trustees