

unless a very occasional painting and calsomining can be called such. Most of our schools built in very recent years are well lighted but a great number of them are not so. You can prove the truth of this statement by visiting a few of the schools in your own neighborhood.

Now if what I have already said is true ; if our schools tend to undermine the health of our children and thus render them more susceptible to invasion by the bacillus of tuberculosis ; if there are to be found in most of our schools children already suffering from tuberculosis ; if the condition of our schools is such as to favor the distribution of the bacillus of tuberculosis in full possession of its disease—producing powers—then we must acknowledge that our schools are centres from which this dread disease is spread among our children. Is this true? Can we prove it to be so? To furnish absolute and positive proof of this statement would be difficult if not impossible. To ask anyone to prove that a particular individual contracted this disease in a certain place when the germs of this disease are so widely distributed would be to ask the impossible. But while we cannot furnish incontestible evidence of the truth of the charge I have brought against our schools the presumptive evidence is so strong that it cannot be reasonably called in question. The system of intellectual hothouse forcing in vogue in many of our schools, the impure air and the lack of ventilation found in many of our schools, the dust and want of sunlight so characteristic of many of our schools, the presence of children already suffering from tuberculosis in many of our schools, the presumable impregnation of the air in many of our schools with the bacilli of tuberculosis, the very high death rate of our children from tuberculosis contracted at or about the school age, these all point to our schools as the probable source of that disease which is yearly carrying off so many of our people. The proof is not positive but it is so strongly presumptive that it becomes almost, if not quite, positive.

Now if this is the condition actually existing in our schools, if our schools are, as I have endeavored to show, in any of the ways pointed out, responsible for the spread of tuberculosis, what is our duty? To rectify the defects in our schools and thus prevent them from being any longer a breeding place of