

pared with the less favorably circumstanced people of other and older countries. Let us examine for a moment this much vaunted superiority. In entering, too, on a consideration of the claim advanced, it may simplify matters and lead, perhaps, to a clearer elucidation of the facts of the case, if we take first a glance at the sources from which the parties lauded may be expected to have derived their information; and then advert to the many patent evidences of their having generally profited by their "hygienic and anatomical" investigations. The vast majority of the American people are indebted to that excellent national institution—the District School—for whatever educational attainments they may happen to possess. The schools bearing that name present a close resemblance to the Canadian Common Schools under the Old Act. "reading, writing and ciphering" constituting about all they aim at imparting,—the teachers, as a rule, being, in point of learning, but a step in advance of their pupils. They do a noble work, for all that, in placing within the grasp of the poorest the key of knowledge; though I cannot forbear availing myself of the opportunity of saying that the admirable parish school system of Scotland is far ahead of that which obtains in Canada or the United States. In neither of these latter do we find any attempt made to illuminate the youthful mind in relation to the matters treated of by our reviewer, and even if we pursue the enquiry a step further, the results are nearly as unsatisfactory, for in the "academics," "seminaries," and "select schools (so called), but little is attempted. Indeed, we might extend our examination to much more pretentious institutions, and still meet with very little to reward our labor. In a few of them, no doubt, a physiological text-book of some description, figures on their lists; but the study being wholly optional, and not apparently popular, comparatively few engage in it.

But after all, is it not fairly within the range of our question to consider the more advanced schools of a slender minority? What we are seeking to arrive at is, where do *the masses* obtain their information in relation to the subjects stated? Certainly not appreciably in any of the "halls of learning" to which reference has been made. To the popular literature of the day must we turn for an answer to our enquiry; and occupying the principal position (measuring importance by extent of diffusion),