

It is to be observed that the mere space allowance should in no case detract from the absolute necessity of means for renewal, and the smaller the space so much the more certain should be this provision. The petitioners to whom we have referred probably imagine that since the number of pupils in the district is small the amount of air enclosed in the school-room is all sufficient. This is a fatal mistake. To neutralize the deleterious properties of respired air and to replenish it, every person requires 2,000 cubic feet of fresh air hourly, and with less provision than this contamination is sure to follow. The *minimum* space allowed by the Board of Education is 150 cubic feet of air for each pupil, with adequate provision for *the changing of all the air of the room every ten minutes.*

The poisonous effluvia which pervades the atmosphere of close and un-ventilated rooms is not only re-breathed, but it adheres to all the surroundings; it sticks to the walls and furniture, settles into the drinking vessels, permeates the clothing, and attaches to the person. It creates a nidus, which is not only in itself poisonous, perpetually lessening the vital force of all who inhabit it, and predisposing to blood poisons of every kind, but it also becomes a hotbed for the planting and propagation of specific poisons, such as scarlet fever, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, small-pox, and the whole category of epidemic diseases.

Besides the danger from active and fatal disease from exposure to the conditions which we have now described, all physiologists recognize the influence of depressing agents on the human organization (especially in childhood) in blunting the sensibilities, obtunding the intellect, promoting stupidity, idiocy, and physical deformity.

It is altogether idle for the Trustees and Ratepayers of any district to imagine that a unanimous resolution affirming the needlessness of school-room ventilation, can render it needless. The facts remain,—children have lungs, they must breathe. If pure air is not about their nostrils, they will breathe impure air, and suffer its penalties. This is not of the Board of Education's ordering.

Trustees, if you desire to have a SCHOOL, the first condition on which you can have it is to provide a thoroughly ventilated room. Your children are rosy and hearty: *keep them so.* If you want them to study, give them first of all pure air to breathe; but if you prefer listless, peevish, sallow pupils, with a snappish, irrepressible teacher, diligent in the whipping and scolding business, you ought not to expect the assistance of the Board of Education in the working out of your preferences. Impure, de-vitalized air, is the chief cause of school demoralization.