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SCHOOL HYGIENE.

Written for the SANITARY JOURNAL by LIFE PRESERVER.

It might prove an interesting and important question for a Court to decide upon, whether or not parents should or could be compelled under the present law of Ontario, to send their children to school in some of our badly constructed, ill-ventilated, disease producing school-houses. Supposing a parent should refuse to have his children exposed to the dangers here referred to,—refuse to send his children to school for the reasons here indicated; and should be fined for thus refusing. Supposing he should refuse to pay the fine, and appeal to the higher courts. Would a learned judge or an intelligent jury sustain a magistrate in fining a man for refusing on such grounds, to comply with the law? Probably the magistrate would be thus sustained. But would it not be a very hard case? Would it not be very hard and very unjust to fine a man because he refused to endanger the health and life of his children? Whether or not there is danger to the health and life of children in many of the public and even high school-houses of this Province, is hardly an open question. They can be no doubt about it. There is not, probably, an intelligent man in the Province but believes the present construction of school buildings very defective, knows very well there is danger to the health, and consequently to the life of the children confined within their walls.

The system of teaching, and general school government, &c., in Ontario, is hardly second to any in the world, and it is to be very much lamented that so little attention has been paid to the locality and structure of school-houses and offices.