

Without doubt much of the pressure brought to bear on School Boards, a few years ago, to introduce Physiology, was from the Temperance Unions and other bodies of philanthropists, whose hope was that Hygienic teaching would inculcate abstinence from intoxicating beverages, and thus educate the young in the principles of real temperance.

It has been urged that Physiology and Hygiene, being based on Anatomy, Chemistry, and Physics, cannot be taught intelligibly to young children. The compilers of the numerous text-books which have been issued, to meet the demand which the introduction has caused, have felt the difficulty, and hence in most of these books we find Anatomy, and dogmatic statements about stimulants and narcotics, occupying the bulk of the work. The latter of course to meet the expectations of the introducers.

Of the extreme Hygienic importance of abstinence from alcohol and tobacco, by the young at least, all sanitarians are agreed, but the attempt to argue this, on principles of Physiology and Pathology, with children, is generally unsatisfactory; and indeed less satisfactory than the simple dogmatic statements of a conscientious and enlightened teacher.

As to the extent then of the subject, my idea is that only the merest elements of Physiology and Hygiene should be attempted. The teaching, except in the advanced classes, should be oral, the teachers themselves having been well taught by competent lecturers, generally members of the Medical Profession.

The subject having been tried now for a few years, in some sections the text-books have been withdrawn, misconceptions by the children, as shown by the answers, having made it appear that the subject was not as yet, satisfactorily dealt with.

The information has been given that the Digestive organs "consist of the Liver, the Lights, and the Utensils." The purpose of Respiration has been said to be "to putrefy the blood." In the case of a School-room, with a temperature of 75° F. the comment was made, "the Thermometer was too high and should be subjected to some process of cooling."

The humorous element however is not confined to schools, for we know that in Medical Colleges, the Examination papers are not without their humour.

As to the examination papers themselves some objection may be made. In a paper before me, given to the Second Intermediate class, of our Common schools, the first question is "Give a reason, in each case, for saying that alcohol is injurious to the heart, to the lungs, and to the stomach. Such