

our Dominion. In an address before the State Medical Society of New York, Doctor Agnew draws attention to the increasing prevalence of asthenopic, refractive and neurotic difficulties among scholars at the present day. These diseases he considers are growing rapidly in schools, colleges and other centres of civilization. In both England and Germany we have ample evidence of the same. The question arises, how are such diseases to be most judiciously guarded against? By careful scientific inspection and the rigid enforcement of personal and local sanitation. Defective school architecture has much to do with bringing about defects of vision through unequal expansion and contraction of the pupils. Hence the importance of the proper adjustment of light in the school-room. To correct such difficulties we are fortunate in having a city medical inspector, and the importance of such inspection cannot be over-estimated in carrying out efficiently the best working of our educational institutions. Doctor Cohan, of Breslau, examined the eyes of 10,000 school children and found that in various degrees there was a rapidly-increasing near-sightedness, and in some of the highest classes the near-sighted students were nearly sixty per cent. of the scholars. From these facts it is quite evident medical men have an important duty to perform outside the privilege of curing disease, if possible, once it has been developed. Thus we observe the absolute necessity of proper sanitary inspection, to stay the evils now on the increase, chiefly through an over-taxation of nerve tissue and nerve power, not in keeping with the physiological principles inculcated at the present day. From various sources, it is quite evident that within a few years lung diseases are on the increase in school children, and, in many instances, may be attributed to overcrowding and long and exhausting confinement in a vitiated atmosphere. The lofty ceilings of our new school houses are evidence of progress, but proper ventilation must be carried to such ceilings, otherwise they will become receptacles for foul air, to vitiate the entire atmosphere of the room. Fresh air is about the most important food of the system, and no where more than during school life, should there be a proper and well regulated supply. It is a well known fact that every individual poisons fifteen cubic feet of air every hour, in consequence of which thirty cubic feet should be supplied