

thetized by foul air are not alert to catch ideas. He finds that all his modern methods of presentation do not lead his flock to more rapid acquisition of knowledge than was found in the old log school-house, and he asks: Why? The medical man of to-day stands ready to answer him. The pure air of the old log house with its clay chinked walls was a perfect offset to all the new methods of instruction given in well-built but unventilated houses.

If any of you have never visited the schools of your community, let me urge you to do so; not the High School which is less apt to be overcrowded, but, by preference, a room where the children average 10 to 12 years of age. Go on a chilly morning, preferably a damp day and not before eleven o'clock, and question of your nose what are the conditions under which study is done, and query whether you have not some special relation to the school by virtue of your knowledge of the evils you perceive and of the means for their relief.

There are three lines along which our professional training may be helpful—the sanitary, which deals with the school buildings and their equipment of desks, etc.; the matter of personal hygiene, which includes the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases and the investigation of physical defects such as poor sight or hearing, to the child's school work; and the psychological which considers the relation of the teacher to the child so far as methods of instruction or discipline affect its health, as by the imposition of unreasonable tasks or the infliction of unreasonable and extreme punishments.

The two former of these have already interested many of our number. The last has only begun to attract the attention of those com-

petent to discuss it, though we less frequently hear the statement that the evil results of school life are due to overwork and oftener find an appreciation of the fact that truly hygienic surroundings would generally enable the child to do the work required without harm even though handicapped by a poor physique, in fact, that bad air, bad light and bad seating are more often the cause of that failure of nerve power which has been attributed, without investigation, to the assignment of extreme tasks. We are beginning to realize that one great reason for the need of home study by most of the pupils below the grammar grade is that the schoolroom conditions are so unhygienic that the children cannot do the amount of work they might during school hours. It becomes the duty of the physician, then, to educate the community to demand the proper conditions in school life and then to select carefully and advise as to the very few pupils who will be found so defective in stamina that they cannot do full work even under favoring conditions.

It is true we have many teachers entirely untrained in psychology who need to be shown how their methods transgress every law of mind. Many will prove unteachable and we may help (in a most thankless way, perhaps,) to benefit the coming generations by acquainting parents with the lack and by assisting in the development of a sentiment which will demand the employment of teachers who have studied how to teach.

For the present, however, we can make more apparent progress along the other lines of work, where we are already acknowledged by many communities to have special and valuable knowledge. It is possible in most places where new school