

The Chairman of our Board of Health for the District visited with me. Parents expressed great pleasure at having the opportunity of removing obstacles to their children's progress.

I have received reports from *eleven* schools—of which the teachers report *fifty-one* cases of defective vision. The other schools will report later on. This makes a very high percentage. I shall be pleased to furnish the names of schools if you wish.

Re "Levitation of Dust."

This is a much more serious matter as regards health than one would think. The floor oil has been used—(see April Journal, 1917, Page 141), to the great satisfaction of the teachers, and the comfort of the scholars and sanitary effect produced, has been marked. The reduction of "coryzas" has been marked. Many children suffer from "colds in the head," due to nature trying to relieve the mucous membranes from the dust gathered during respiration in the school rooms. The teachers also suffer from the catarrhal conditions induced by the dust and dirt abstracting the moisture from the air. Parents today are recognizing the necessity of education, the effect of ill health, and in many cases are insisting upon their children having sanitary surroundings. The matter of health in many instances is taught to the parents by the school.

While "visiting the schools" my attention was repeatedly drawn to the "hideous combinations of colors" used in decorating our school rooms. I feel that if instructions were issued to our trustees, *re* "Colors", by the Education Department, the information would be thankfully received.

In conclusion I beg to draw to your attention the necessity for some type of Medical Inspection of our Rural Schools—at least along the lines suggested. If the "Chart for Vision Testing" is used a few minutes instruction at the Normal College would make the teachers quite efficient. In the matter of "levitation of dust", until something better is devised, I believe that our trustees should be compelled to use floor oil."

The Chart which is 27 inches long by 10½ wide, contains seven lines of different sizes of testing letters, and the following instructions.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EXAMINATION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN'S EYES AND EARS, ETC., FOR USE OF PRINCIPALS, TEACHERS, ETC.

Do not expose the card except when in use, as familiarity with its face leads children to learn the letters "by heart."

First grade children need not be examined.

The examinations should be made privately and singly.

Children already wearing glasses should be tested with such glasses properly adjusted on the face.

Place the "Vision Chart for Schools" (Snellen's) on the wall in a good light; do not allow the face of the card to be covered with glass.

The line marked 20 should be seen at twenty feet, therefore place the pupil twenty feet from the card.

Each eye should be examined separately.

Hold a card over one eye while the other is being examined. Do not press upon the covered eye, as the pressure might induce an incorrect examination.