

A greater amount than 1,000 cubic feet per head is seldom likely to be provided, but, if it were, a diminution in the sectional area might be admitted, but not in the same proportion; for instance, 25 square inches would probably be enough for 2,000 cubic feet, but it would not be advisable to go much below this, however great the cubic space might be—both because the friction would be much increased, and because the risk of stoppage at any moment would be greater.

“A further limit requires to be put to the question of cubic space, and that is, that the space laterally must bear a due proportion to height. It has been an error, not uncommon, to suppose that, by raising the roof of an air space, and so giving nominally the proper amount of cubic space, the want of room laterally was compensated for, and that the inmates might in this way be crowded together to any extent. Nothing could be more erroneous, and its absurdity becomes at once manifest if we suppose a man put at the bottom of a deep well or pit; the space above is illimitable, but he has a strong chance of perishing for want of air. So also cases have been known of persons being suffocated in a crowd in the open air where there was nothing between the tops of their heads, and the outer limits of the homogeneous atmosphere. It is therefore necessary to lay some limiting rule, and I think we may safely say that nothing over 12 feet in height ought to be reckoned in estimating cubic space for ventilating purposes. This, with a total of 1,000 cubic feet, would give about 84 square feet of floor-space, or 12 feet by 7. When the cubic space is much diminished below 1,000, the lateral space ought, if possible to bear a greater proportion, so that the limit of height might with propriety be placed at 10 feet for spaces of 500 cubic feet and under.”

In measuring cubic space, solid masses of furniture, as cupboards, wardrobes, etc., should be taken into account. In hospitals, ten cubic feet are allowed for a bed—mattress, pillow, bedding, etc. The bodies of persons on an average each take the place of about three cubic feet of air.

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## SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BETTER CONSTRUCTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES.

By GEORGE ROSS, M.D., Medical Officer of Health for St. 'Giles' District.

THE subsoil of every area, intended for the erection of dwelling-houses thereon, should be properly drained before the buildings are begun.

If the soil be clay, it should be burnt, and a layer laid down to improve the drainage and purify foul waters.