

especially that proper attention shall be paid to the heating and ventilation of the rooms, and that they shall aid the trustees in these matters. The teacher also is expected to see that these sanitary regulations are obeyed as far as he can exercise his authority and influence.

In issuing sanitary regulations and information to school authorities throughout the Province, the Education Department has evidently not been remiss in its duty. When we consider, however, that the Public Health Act places a certain degree of responsibility in regard to the sanitary condition of our schools upon the Public Health authorities and Medical Health Officers, it is proper for us to consider whether these duties are fulfilled on our part.

The reports of the sanitary condition of schools gathered from various sources lead us to conclude that although there has been considerable improvement in several localities during the past three years, still we must admit that very much remains to be done. The report of 1885 as presented to the Provincial Board of Health informs us that about 5 per cent. report over 600 cubic feet of air space allowed to each pupil; about 3 per cent. report over 700 cubic feet; about 2 per cent. report over 800 cubic feet, and two in every 300 schools report between 900 and 1,000 cubic feet of air space for each pupil. Less than 300 cubic feet is most commonly reported as the allotted air space for each; about 40 per cent. report an air space of less than 200 cubic feet.

There are some cases in which scholars are confined in an air space of less than 100 cubic feet, while the least space given to each pupil is 40 cubic feet.

For heating purposes wood or coal stoves are mostly used. The stoves are placed most frequently either in

the centre of the room or in the centre passage way, between the scholars' seats, and near the door. Especially in large towns or in cities, furnaces are used and ventilating flues. These flues are not always smooth internally, and are frequently not heated as they should be, in order to create an upward current to convey the impure air from the rooms effectually. In some small school-rooms ventilating flues are placed in the ceiling, a plan certainly not to be commended, for the reason that a descending current of cold air creates an injurious draught. For the purposes of ventilation, the windows are in nearly every case made to open at the top and bottom. These are apparently regulated by the teachers as well as can be possibly done. However, in a very large number of instances, pure air thus admitted is reported as coming in with perceptible draughts. The window sashes are not usually hung on pulleys, which renders it all the more difficult to regulate the fresh air supply properly.

School rooms are invariably swept every school day, but the intervals of time for scrubbing vary from three months to seven years, frequently once a year is reported. Light is most frequently admitted from three sides, very seldom indeed is it admitted through windows placed in front of the pupils. In most instances the light supply is regulated by cloth blinds, hung inside and made to roll up in the ordinary way. In the construction of the school buildings there has been apparently no care exercised in placing the windows so as to admit or distribute the light to the best advantage.

With regard to contagious diseases, teachers report very favourably regarding the precautions exercised by them to prevent the spread of these diseases. With very rare exceptions, the practice adopted is to instruct the