

## EDUCATION AND THE MEDICAL PRACTICE OF THE FUTURE.

A SECOND edition of Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa's excellent book, "A Doctor's Suggestions to the Community," has been published. One of the papers in it, "The Coming Medical Man," is full of suggestions, to both the profession and the public. The following are brief extracts from it:

There are several relations which, I may, perhaps, classify under three heads, in which the coming medical man will occupy an advanced and enlarged position from the one of to-day. One is in relation to matters pertaining to education.

By matters pertaining to education, I mean not only the education of the child, but also that of the man, or education in its largest sense. In his relation to the present system of educating children and youth, the physician is in a position that often becomes embarrassing, and which is sometimes wrong. He stands powerless in the midst of abuses that he cannot correct, and he seems to aid and abet them. We have practically nothing to do with the education of young children. On every hand in this city (and I fear the state of things is worse in other places) we see puny children going to and from school with books tied in their straps, or in their satchels, almost numerous enough to form a small private library. . . . We see their little forms wasting, their soft bones bending, their eye-balls lengthening and thus producing short sightedness from too continuous employment in the school-room, and over the study-table at home, but our advice is not asked until the deplorable consequences are painfully evident. Even then the great anxiety of parent and teacher, an anxiety often yielded to by the physician, seems to be, not to get and keep the child in a physiological condition, but to enable him to go on, without any interruption of his very important study of books—the incorrect notion being held that education consists wholly in the study of printed words. We are sent for when the defective sewerage, the leak in the waste-pipe, the over-crowding and insufficient ventilation and lighting of the school-room, the want of physical exercise and food, the excessive employ-

ment of the brain, have done their work, and we have to deal with a febrile, short-sighted, catarrhal, and puny patient. We are expected to cure the fever, to put glasses upon the eyes, and set the poor machine at work again, without a remonstrance against the system that has produced all this misery. We have not until very lately, been asked to look after the public and private school-houses, to see how the seats are constructed, or the rooms lighted and aired, to examine into the drainage of the college grounds, to prescribe the diet and the proportionate hours of study and exercise. Perhaps we should not all know how to perform these duties well, were they required of us, but they will certainly be among the functions of the coming medical man.

Some of the most horrifying reading of the day is contained in the annual reports of the New York Prison Association. In them are found detailed accounts of the condition of the Tombs Prison and other county jails throughout the state. The dampness, filth, and overcrowding of some of these places are set forth in a manner so graphic that a report of facts becomes highly sensational. If a committee were appointed to go up and down the land, visiting our colleges, public schools, academies and seminaries for young women; and if this commission should be brave enough to tell the whole truth about insufficient drainage of grounds, imperfect ventilation, and lighting of rooms; if they were to tell how many hours were devoted to study, sleep and exercise respectively; what was the quality of the food; how many recitations occurred when the stomach was entirely empty, or containing only stimulating but slightly nutritious liquids; if they told also how many young women were violating ordinary physiological precautions—we should have some more of the same kind of literature as that furnished by the Prison Association, except that it would deal with a much pleasanter class of subjects. If an investigation were made as to the quantity of air in the lecture rooms of our medical colleges, where, among other things, lectures on hygiene are delivered, I think this commission