

causes a change of air in the room. But when a door or window is opened the descending current ceases, while the hot air continues to ascend. This method of admitting cold air exposes pupils to draughts and cold feet, as in the case of admission by the windows, and there is a great loss of heat.....

REMARK 3.—Recent improvements in hot-air furnaces have satisfactorily solved the three problems already referred to as involved in a system of ventilation. But hot-air furnaces are too costly for use in any considerable number of Schools. It is, however, within the reach of every country district erecting a new School house, or effecting alterations in an existing one, to secure an inexpensive system of heating and ventilation, which possesses all the excellences of the costly apparatus mentioned.

Then follows a detailed description of the simple and effective method prescribed by the Board of Education for securing the admission and circulation of pure air, and the escape of impure air.

We presume the signers of the petition referred to would feel indignant if they were informed that 'they know not what they do.' But such is the fact. It would have been quite as rational a proceeding if they had met in solemn assembly and "unanimously agreed" that windows are not needed in the School-house. Besides, more money would have been saved, for windows cost more than "a ventilator." That the residents of one of the wealthiest and, presumably, one of the most intelligent districts of a county should exert themselves to prevent suitable provision being made in the School-house for furnishing, in a safe way, a constant and abundant supply of pure air to the pupils, almost passes belief, and discloses a lamentable want of knowledge of the simplest laws of health. We have striven to stimulate teachers to qualify themselves for the communication of elementary lessons in hygiene to all their pupils, and it will be our duty to grapple henceforth more vigorously with this subject.

The importance of air space rests upon the absolute necessity of pure air for healthy respiration ; but the amount of space required depends upon a variety of circumstances. Hospital conditions, for example, require the largest amount of space, and modern experience has shewn that, other things being equal, *no* inclosed space equals plenary exposure. But, for various practical purposes, the limits of space vary from 300 to 4,000 cubic feet,—the smallest proportion being the exaction for lodging-house dormitories, and the largest for hospitals. *And no deviation should be made on account of children*, whether in regard to the different members of a family or of a school. With regard to this point, the Medical Officer of the English Privy Council observes :—"It is to be desired that laws and regulations should not proceed on the assumption that children (to any measurable extent) require less breathing space than adults. Against any such assumption, two facts have been considered—first, that even healthy children, in proportion to their respective bodily weights, are about twice as powerful as adults in deteriorating the air which they breathe ; secondly, that children will almost invariably have certain eruptive and other febrile disorders to pass through, from which adult life is comparatively exempt, and in which the requirement of space is greatly increased. And having regard to these two considerations, I think it best that children and adults should be deemed to require equal allowances of air and ventilation."