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To the Public.

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Our Public Schools.

A recent writer in the Century under the heading: "The making of thieves in New York," estimates that there are not less than 100,000 children in that city whose education is on the street, for whom there is no room in the public schools. Entering a primary room in one of the schools in the Jews' quarter he found it necessary for the children next the door to rise before he could open it. Commenting upon the overcrowding of the room, the teacher replied that they were refusing children by the score every week. Where then do these children go? he queried. "They are on the street learning to be thieves," was the answer. By patient investigation the writer found this a sample of the whole city.

The city presents the anomaly of truant officers galore for the purpose of arresting children for not being at school, when they had repeatedly been refused admission to schools because of lack of room. A visit to the jails and the institutions for youthful prisoners disclosed the fact that children convicted of the offence of non-attendance at school (where there was no school for them to attend) were in daily contact with young villains of the worst type, youths of 15 to 20 years, who were full fledged graduates in the most heinous crimes. So notorious has this discrimination become that truant officers, making a choice between two evils, prefer to leave children to the chances of street education, rather than arrest them and have them brought in contact with worse influences.

"Yes, but New York is a long way off, and it is a wicked city governed by a Tammany Ring, and what has that to do with us?" I hear some one say. It has much to do with us, for we are on the highway to much the same bad management. There is not one school in any village in this vicinity but requires double the number of teachers which it already possesses. It is not that the schools are not large enough, but that the supply of teachers is inadequate. The law sets the limit at one teacher to every forty pupils, but what do we find? In the primary departments especially, the average is up in the eightys and ninetys in summer, there being some days in which over 100 little ones will be crowded into one room to be drilled and disciplined and kept in order, by one sorely tried girl who finds the fine theories and beautiful methods taught her at Model school practically nullified in the presence of this throng, who must be kept in order but hardly taught.

To teach very young children especially, personal, individual aid from the teacher is necessary; but how is it possible, when so much time and energy must be expended in the sheer effort to keep order? As Dr. McLellan says: "An angel from heaven couldn't do it." We might paraphrase a well known line thus: "Economy, what sins are committed in thy name!" Fiscal, short-sighted economy is the watchword of those who are responsible for this state of things. Men who desire the honor of school trustee are not infrequently voted into office, by ratepayers who are caught by that kind of clap-trap—pledged to economize. Not content with keeping down the teachers' salary to the lowest possible notch that a person can live on, they overcrowd the rooms by not providing enough teachers, thus bringing contempt upon the school system of which we are so justly proud.

The influence of a cultured, trained and gentle girl upon an insubordinate child may be incalculable, if brought to bear upon him daily, but when the number of little children exceeds forty the tendency to discord is increased far beyond the ratio of the increase, and the teacher's desire to influence or pay attention to one child has to be sacrificed to the good of the whole.

Ignorance is the mother of crimes, Does it pay to stint our schools that we build reformatories, jails and penitentiaries? Does it pay to waste the best

training for teaching that the world has yet seen by bringing it into "vile desuetude?" Does it pay to waste the precious years of childhood—those years when impressions for good or evil are most lasting—in a crowded schoolroom, where the whole being of the teacher is taxed to maintain order? I asked a young teacher, who complained that she was too wearied to think by 4 o'clock. "Why don't you take it easy?" "It is not possible to take it easy," said she; "if I relax the strain for one minute it is all the worse for myself."

New York is a long way off, but it is not too far for us to have a good sized imitation of its Tammany, as witness the recent exposure of aldermanic corruption in Toronto; and it is not too far for us to learn a lesson from its false and iniquitous economy. Dor.

A Boon to Horsemen.—One bottle of English Spavin Liment completely removed a curb from my horse. I take pleasure in recommending the remedy, as it acts with mysterious promptness in the removal from horses of hard, soft or calloused lumps, blood spavin, splints, curbs, swellings, stifles and sprains.

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"Over thirty years ago, I remember hearing my father describe the wonderful curative effects of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. During a recent attack of La Grippe, which assumed the form of a starb, soreness of the lungs, accompanied by an aggravating cough, I used various remedies and prescriptions. While some of these medicines partially alleviated the coughing during the day, none of them afforded me any relief from that spasmodic action of the lungs which would seize me the moment I attempted to lie down at night. After ten or twelve such nights, I was

Nearly in Despair,

and had about decided to sit up all night in my easy chair, and procure what sleep I could in that way. It then occurred to me that I had a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. I took a spoonful of this preparation in a little water, and was able to lie down without coughing. In a few moments, I fell asleep, and awoke in the morning greatly refreshed and feeling much better. I took a teaspoonful of the Pectoral every night for a week, then gradually decreased the dose, and in two weeks my cough was cured."

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Prompt to act, sure to cure



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NO SUCH THING AS OLD AGE

To Those Who Use South American Nervine.

A Lady of Eighty Years Permanently Cured by This Wonderful Medicine.

Three Doctors Said "Old Age Was Her Complaint," and Gave Her Up—Three Bottles of Nervine Gave Relief—Twelve Bottles Cured Absolutely.



MRS. JOHN DINWOODY, Flesherton, Ont.

Wordsworth speaks of "An old age serene and bright, and lovely as a Lapland night." And elsewhere this same writer talks of "An old age, beautiful and free." These are conditions that come to the man or woman, though their years may border close on to a century, when in the enjoyment of good health. In fact it is difficult to think of some of the old men and women on the stage of life to-day as old people, there seems to be such a perennial youthfulness about their every movement and act.

Does someone tell us that cases like this must be the exception and not the rule with those who have approached or gone beyond the allotted three score years and ten? Not so, if they have become acquainted with the virtues contained in South American Nervine. Before us in this sketch is the picture of Mrs. John Dinwoody, of Flesherton, Ont., a resident of that town for forty years. No person in the town and country side around is perhaps better known than this lady, and none more highly esteemed. Three years ago it was her sad lot to lose a daughter who had been all the world to her. The shock sustained by this event completely broke up the system of Mrs. Dinwoody. She supposed her end had come. She doctor for one year with three doctors, and they gave her case up, saying that it

was one of old age and no one, nor any medicine could do her good. Made of the kind of stuff that gives beauty to age at any time she did not despair. She was influenced to try Nervine. She took three bottles, and this was sufficient to show her that her end was not yet. From these she obtained relief. She persevered, and in all took twelve bottles of the medicine, with the result that she is to-day completely cured of that breaking up of the system that threatened her three years ago.

There is nothing wonderful in the fact that Mrs. Dinwoody would proclaim to the thousands of old people throughout this broad land, that with old age does not necessarily come decline, decrepitude and disease. Why should we not live into the eighties and nineties, and cross the border of the century?

South American Nervine, whether the person be young or old, gets at the nerve centers, and when they are kept in proper condition the system is well able to withstand disease at eighty as at thirty. With this prospect in view who would not live to an old age and enjoy the pleasures of family, friends and society, and take a part in watching the marvelous progress and developments of these closing days of a wonderful century, which marks as not the least of its wonderful discoveries, the discovery of South American Nervine.

For Sale by Wm. Richardson.