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Table listing various articles and their page numbers, including 'Air in schools and factories', 'Practical results of the eight hour plan', and 'Foul air signal'.

POISONOUS AIR IN SCHOOLS AND FACTORIES.

The City Sanitary Inspector of New York has recently published a report relative to the bad ventilating arrangements of numerous public schools and manufactories within the corporate limits.

We find it stated that the analysis of samples of air from two factories gave 0.14 to 0.16 of 1 per cent of carbonic acid. In the public schools, the quantity of the deleterious gas varied from 0.09 to 0.35.

Although the above details indicate the deleterious nature of the atmosphere of a crowded and ill ventilated school room to no small extent, they exhibit but a portion of its noxious properties. Not only is the air vitiated by carbonic acid, but by effete organic matter, to which is due the close smell of such apartments.

The subject of proper ventilation has been so thoroughly discussed of late that it would be useless repetition to again urge its importance. Workmen in badly ventilated factories should take the matter in their own hands and decline to labor in buildings where no means are provided for changing the foul and noxious air.

PRACTICAL RESULTS OF THE EIGHT HOUR PLAN IN NEW YORK.

The evil results of the eight hour movement of last summer, which for nearly eleven weeks paralyzed the industries of this city, have during the present winter been severely felt. The exhibit of our Commissioners of Charities and Corrections shows that the number of industrious and unemployed poor craving the benefit of public charities has been unusually large.

It will be remembered that among the builders the strike first began, and that although a certain proportion of the employers having unfulfilled contracts on hand were coerced into acquiescence with the demands of their operatives, many preferred to incur the penalties of their agreements rather than yield.

It cannot be urged that the year would have been a dull one in any event for the trade, as the spring opened with an excellent prospect for a busy fall. During September (the principal month for making contracts), 1871, 108 first class structures were begun.

We find it stated that at the present time there is but one fifth the amount, of first class work in this city to be carried over into spring, of that done last year, and that to employ the same number of men and they to average the same quantity of labor as they did in 1872, there is not 4 1/2 hours work per day this season.

Let us add that we notice that recent daily journals chronicle the fact that the International Society has made its headquarters in New York, and is seeking to instil into the minds of our workmen the baleful and communistic principles of its organization.

FOUL AIR SIGNAL.

We abound in inventions to warn us of fire and to alarm the household of the approach of a burglar; but there is an insidious foe who enters everywhere, in every apartment of private houses, and riots unmolested in all public places, of whose presence we are not warned in time to make good our escape.

The invention is found to work admirably for carbonic oxide gas, and the next thing is to devise a plan for disclosing the presence of carbonic acid gas. It is possible that this could be done by putting in a carefully counterpoised balance some caustic baryta or lime which, by the absorption of the carbonic acid of the air, would sink and cause the current to be closed in a battery and the bell to be rung.

IN VERTEBRATE MEN.

When a young man, more than ordinarily useless to himself and friends, had no other occupation, he used to sit down and write a letter to Horace Greeley, pretending that he wanted work, would do anything to get it, and that, if society in general had not turned against him, he would be able to prove himself capable of great things.

This jeremiad against a useless class of non-producers is brought out by the result of three or four months advertising at various periods for a young man to fill a certain post requiring an ordinarily facile pen, a knowledge of simple commercial forms of expression, and familiarity with business routine.

The question presents itself to every thinking man: Where do all these young men come from? In what school have they acquired their aimless, uncertain, vague ideas of duty, of work, of application, of achievement?

It is a sad and solemn question, not to be lightly dismissed on a moment's reflection, a question reaching further than mere technical or professional education. Schools may abound in the land and colleges shoulder each other in a line across the continent; but the aimless, uncertain, purposeless man will still exist unless, from his youth up, his parents exhort him to stand on his own feet.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH.

The ancients had no knowledge of the sciences which at present form the domain of the most important and influential of all human pursuits, namely, the investigation of Nature, the explanation of its phenomena, and the application of the wisdom thus obtained for educational training and practical useful purposes.