

**REPORT ON THE SANITARY
CONDITION
OF THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF BUFFALO**

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Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Public Schools of Buffalo by Various

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VARIOUS

**REPORT ON THE SANITARY
CONDITION
OF THE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS OF BUFFALO**

THE
BUFFALO SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION.

96201

Report on the
Sanitary Condition of the Public Schools
of Buffalo.

MADE BY THE
VISITING COMMITTEE OF THE ASSOCIATION
MARCH, 1898.

MADE IN



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THE VISITING COMMITTEE of the Buffalo School Association was appointed in June, 1896, as one of the standing committees of the Association. Except as its duties were indicated by its title, the committee was uninstructed and free to choose the direction which its work should take, and, for many reasons, it seemed best that that work should be limited at first to an investigation of the sanitary condition of the public schools. This limitation was especially in place inasmuch as the committee was convinced that the school instruction itself is rapidly improving under the able supervision of Mr. Emerson. A partial report was made last May, when the attention of the Association was called to certain defects which brooked no delay—such as the danger from fire in certain of our schools—and the full report then promised is now laid before you. We believe that the sanitary condition of our public schools, as herein shown, is such as to call for the careful consideration of our citizens.

Similar investigations have been carried on within the past year and a half at Boston, Cleveland, New Haven, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco and its two suburbs, Oakland and Berkeley, and your committee adopted, with some modifications, the blanks, prepared by sanitary experts, which had been used successfully elsewhere. These blanks covered such topics as Site, Building, Sanitaries, Ventilation, Heating, Cleaning, Health,—92 questions, with subdivisions, being answered under these headings, for each school building in the city. In addition, a blank containing 27 questions, 14 of which had subdivisions, was used for individual school rooms, making an approximate total of 32704 questions, answers to which have been tabulated. This is an underestimate, as the subdivisions of the questions are not taken into account. As a rule, the investigation of a school was divided between two persons, 92 in all being engaged in the work. It is practically impossible to have such a mass of data entirely free from error, but every reasonable precaution has been taken in gathering and verifying it, and your committee believes that the statements which it now lays before you will

be found to be well within the facts. It is open to any citizen to verify or challenge them. The full reports upon the various schools, from which this is compiled, are at the Teachers' College, where they may be examined, while the original documents, the school buildings themselves, are also always at hand. The data are here summarized by topics, and the defects of each school are also summarized. Your committee wishes it to be clearly understood that its aim in this report is neither criticism for its own sake nor arraignment, but to lay before the School Association and, through that, before the citizens of Buffalo, a candid and impartial statement of a particular phase of the school problem in our city. Many of the conditions shown in this report continue to exist, notwithstanding recommendations from the Superintendent of Education which ought to have brought about their removal.

Before taking up specific topics, the committee desires to express publicly its appreciation of the services of the co-workers whose intelligent and public-spirited help made this investigation possible. It wishes also to thank the Mayor, the school Superintendent, the school Principals and teachers, for the courtesy and kindly co-operation with which, in almost every instance, the men and women who carried on this work were met.

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STANDARD.

In judging the sanitary condition of the school buildings the Committee has necessarily been guided by a standard. By standard is here meant, not the ideal building with the best modern equipments, but a building that is sufficiently well constructed and equipped, to avoid condemnation in any important respect. Many of the necessities in such a building are evident to any person. Some of them are especially worthy of mention, and are here given.

1. The school site should be at least as high as the surrounding ground and well underdrained. Sufficient space should be allowed to secure a reasonably large playground, and an abundance of light, air, sunshine, and freedom from noise from neigh-