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THE SCHOOL JANITOR

Pennsylvania State Department of Health.

QUESTIONS.

1. What is the high limit of temperature for a schoolroom?
2. Why should window shades be open out of school hours?
3. What is the objection to the feather duster?

The Janitor of the Sampleville schools had a question. "That is the reason he was Janitor; that and because he was brother-in-law to the Secretary of the School Board."

Sampleville was a fourth-class school district, which means its population was something less than five thousand. Mr. Carter, the new Principal, soon discovered the Janitor was not qualified, either by experience or understanding, to properly perform the duties of his position, and asked for his removal; the wooden leg, was of course, no disqualification, but he insisted that the selection of such an important school functionary should be made for a reason and not on account of an excuse. The School Board refused to make the change, and Mr. Carter, being a Philosopher, undertook the next best thing—the instruction of the Janitor. He asked in turn each of his teachers to do this, but they were all as ignorant of Health matters as was the Janitor.

Mr. Carter, who was somewhat of a diplomat, called a conference of his teachers, including the Janitor, and told them as they, with him, were accountable for the health of the children in their charge, he assembled them for the purpose of discussing and putting into effect every possible means to promote School Health. He called attention to the heating plant, a good one—dry air—the cold air brought through a tight shaft from the outside to the heating chamber.

The air did not pass through a sheet of water, according to the most approved system, before entering the furnace, but the outside intake was above the surface of the ground and covered with several layers of cheesecloth to keep out the dust.

"Everyone knows the danger from dust," he said. "When breathed into the lungs, it not only acts as an irritant to the air passages, but often carries dangerous disease germs. The Janitor stands on the front line of our defense. We want him to keep the outside opening of the air intake covered, to change the cheesecloth when necessary and to look out for breaks and loose joints in the pipe. The school code requires a thermometer in every room, but a thermometer is valueless unless used. Each teacher must appoint a Monitor to record the temperature every hour. These records must be sent to the office of the Principal at the end of each day. The temperature must never be higher than seventy (70) degrees."

The matter of lighting and seating was passed over, but Mr. Carter spoke of the germ destroying property of air and light and directed that at the close of each school day windows should be thrown open and the school house thoroughly aired, and that at all times out of school hours, which include Saturdays and Sundays, all blinds should be wide open.

The Janitor, interrupting, apologized for going back to the subject of dust, but suggested, as mud carried into the school room on the children's feet afterwards becomes dust, it might be well to have a mud scraper on the outside step. "Last week I wore out two brooms in sweeping," he said.

"Good," said Mr. Carter. "We will have the scraper; we will also put the brooms in the discard." "The Janitor shook his head. "How can we sweep without brooms?" "Use a soft bristled brush." "It won't take up the dirt, especially where the floor is rough."

"We will all the floor before sweeping and sprinkle it with dust down. If we can't get that we will sprinkle with dampened sawdust, which is always available."

"I suppose I might as well throw away my feather duster, then," answered the Janitor, "as there won't be any dust." "Oh yes, there will be some dust, but you may throw away your feather duster just the same." Mr. Carter then explained that the feather duster does not remove dust, but merely alters its position.

The ideal duster is a slightly dampened cloth, which removes as well as cleans.

"We will continue the discussion at another meeting," said Mr. Carter, "at which time we will take other subjects. For the present we will put into practice the two principal topics discussed—the keeping down of dust and the keeping down of temperature. From now forward let our slogan be 'No dust and the room temperature never over seventy.'"

POSTCARD TEN YEARS LATE
Mailed in 1911, Just Reached Destination Fourteen Miles Away.

PENNSBURG, Pa.—A post card was received at the East Greenville post office Thursday, addressed to Fred O. Young, and the postmark showed that it had been mailed at Schaeckville April 19, 1911. Young was in the grocery business here at that time, but retired six years ago and removed to Parkside. The distance from Schaeckville to East Greenville is 14 miles, and it required nearly 10 years for this piece of mail to reach its destination. It is alleged that Osceola has 11 stills within the borough limits, making "White Mule," and various acceptable drinks in time of a drought, while there are several "Bootleggers" who supply a higher order of goods to the American customers.—Clearfield Journal.

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