

FULL OF BAD AIR. I

Omaha View School's Ventilation So Defective That Children Are Being Taken Away by Parents.

The patrons of the Omaha View school are complaining bitterly against the action of the school board in failing to place that ten-room brick school building in a sanitary condition.

The present condition of the closets in the basement of the building is such that pure, fresh air is at a premium, and the health of the teachers and pupils is endangered from breathing the foul, filthy air rising into the above rooms. The closets have no fresh air vent except through an opening made in the basement wall communicating with the outside and the result is that the foul air permeates every portion of the building from either the outside or inside.

It has frequently been found necessary in inclement weather for the teachers to throw open the windows and doors leading to the school rooms, to admit fresh air, thus endangering the health of the pupils.

A number of parents have withdrawn their children from the school, and others have been compelled to keep their young people at home on account of sickness attributed to the impure air breathed in the school rooms.

The board of education has been aware of this condition of affairs for some time, but has not remedied it. The only strong reason that can be assigned for this neglect is similar to that given by the Arkansas farmer whose house needed a new roof—during the school term it would inconvenience the school work; and in vacation it is not necessary, for nobody occupies the school.

The janitor of the building, H. C. Cahon, is blamed in some quarters for not doing more to temporarily remedy the defects.

Bids have been received by the school board for placing the dry closet system into the Walnut Hill school building, and will likely be opened in a week or so. Several months ago Smead and others were invited to make offers on this building. It is said that this dry closet system is the most expensive of all systems in use in the schools.

A member of the school board stated last evening that the board proposed a reform in janitor service at Omaha View school right away and an overhauling of the system of heating and ventilation during vacation. The new board, he said, was bound to better the building and had been trying to get at it for some time.