

### OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

#### The Condition of Our Schools as Seen by Miss Alice Tiffany, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Women's Civic League.

Resume of Report Presented to School Board in May, 1914. Eleven Buildings  
Found Entirely Unsuitable for School Purposes.

To the Honorable

The Board of School Commissioners and  
The Board of Superintendents of Baltimore City:

Gentlemen—Last year, on June 10th, as chairman of the Education Committee of the Women's Civic League, I sent to the Board a report of an investigation of the physical condition of certain of the school buildings of this city. This committee has this year revisited these schools. We have found in some instances that a few of the most flagrant defects have been improved, though in most cases the conditions remain as intolerable as last year, if not worse.

Does the Board realize that in nine schools there is no drinking water for the children in the building? In several of these cases the hydrants in the yards freeze in winter. These are Nos. 38, 43, 93, 12, 28, 107, 108, 115 and 116, whereas in 18 schools the drinking water is entirely inadequate—Nos. 3, 24, 38, 9, 80, 16, 33, 34, 36, 11, 39, 65, 4, 33, 92, 106, 101 and 110.

In six schools teachers' toilets are needed—24, 38, 9, 45, 55 and 15. In six the children's toilets are inadequate or insanitary—Nos. 57, branch of 81 and 92 (insanitary) and 108, 116 and 115 (insufficient and insanitary).

In 19 there is a crying need of paint, the absence of which makes it impossible for the rooms to be kept in a presentable condition—Nos. 3, 24, 38, 42, 25, 95, 43, 93, 45, 52, 12, 28, 92, 76, 105, 103, 107, 105 and 110.

Paving in yard or cellar is badly needed in eight schools—No. 3 (cellar), 24, 43, 57, 55, 78, 75 and 45.

The following 11 buildings are, in our opinion, entirely unsuitable for school purposes, and we trust that in the near future they will be replaced by new ones: Nos. 12, 93, 76, 40, 107, 105, 108, 101, 111, 115 and 116.

The committee would like to know upon what basis the wages of janitors and janitresses are founded? We find that in many cases the service is entirely inadequate to the size of the buildings.

We would like to make a special plea for the extension and improvement of kindergartens. In view of the size of Baltimore, the number seems surprisingly low, and we feel sure that in many neighborhoods where they are particularly needed there are none. In St. Louis, for instance, there are 155, and in Washington 72. From an ethical point of view the early training of the kindergarten is of the utmost importance, and is often a strong influence in the homes of the children. It has been stated by an authority in educational matters that statistics show that no person trained in a kindergarten has ever been in jail. Children under six should be allowed to enter the kindergarten. Are the assistant kindergarten teachers examined by a trained kindergarten teacher? We find in some cases that they are not competent to do the work essential to be done. The kindergarten teachers are much in need of a supervisor, who would be able to suggest improvements and would, we feel sure, prove of great value in the school force.

Following this is appended a more detailed report of these schools.

Very truly yours,

ALICE TIFFANY,  
Chairman Education Committee.

School No. 3, Eastern and Montford avenues—Drinking facilities inadequate, as reported last year; four faucets. Increase of about 100 pupils, now 823, makes this more marked. Paving in cellar needed.

School No. 24, southeast corner Fait avenue and Patuxent street—Drinking water inadequate. Teachers' toilet needed; also paint. Overcrowding. Four faucets for 778 pupils.

School No. 38, southeast corner Chesapeake and Hudson streets—Drinking water inadequate; one hydrant and one faucet in teachers' room. Paint needed.

School No. 47, Eastern avenue from Patuxent to Streeper street—Overcrowded. Needs new addition.

School No. 42, southwest corner Broadway and Bank street—Needs paint badly inside and out. Needs bubble fountains. Heating unsatisfactory. Boys' yard needs paving.

School No. 25, Bond street near Canton avenue—Needs paint. Roof leaks since it was repaired. Plaster fallen in loft.

School No. 108 (colored), South Caroline street near Bank street—Building, as last year, entirely unfit for school purposes. If it must be continued, could it not have single instead of double desks? Paper on windows needed between rooms. No water in building; only hydrant in

yard. More toilets needed for girls; only six for 100 girls; should have at least 15.

School No. 1, northeast corner Fayette and Greene streets—Needs paint.

School No. 9, southwest corner Fayette and Greene streets—Drinking water inadequate; very scarce. Teachers' toilet needed. Odors bad in basement.

School No. 95, Lexington street near Fremont—Needs paint.

School No. 110 (colored), Waesche street near Fremont—Drinking water entirely inadequate and situated in cellar in toilets. Hydrants needed. New furnace did not heat rooms last winter. Rest room very much needed. No comfortable chairs or place for teacher or child in case of sickness. Paint needed.

School No. 40, southeast corner Aisquith and Orleans streets—Same condition as last year. Most serious feature is disorderly house in immediate neighborhood. Children can look in windows.

School No. 101, Jefferson street near Caroline—Building entirely unsuitable. Hope new one will be begun at once.

Branch 111—Also unsuitable. Overcrowded.

School No. 105, Rogers avenue near Lexington street—Very defective building; if used should have paint.

School No. 43, High street near Fayette—Drinking water needed in building; only two hydrants, one for 540 girls and one for 700 boys. Paint needed; has had one green wash in 20 years. Door at top of rear stairs should be removed; frame makes narrow space. Teachers' room on first floor darkened by hood. Could it not be removed? More yard space needed, fence removed and slight grading to make it available. Also back building of annex darkens rooms; should be removed.

School No. 93, Baltimore street near Aisquith—Drinking water inadequate. None in building. Paint essential. Understood that appropriation has been made for new building.

School No. 50, Gorsuch avenue near Tyler street—Glad to hear new building is to be erected.

School No. 20, northwest corner Preston and Eden streets—Special desks needed for crippled children. Vestibule needed to room 2, leading to girls' yard; also enlarged exit at rear end of hall leading into boys' yard.

School No. 80, northeast corner Eden and Federal streets—Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 16, Harford and Ashland avenues—Drinking water in building badly needed. Floors in hall need repairing; splinters.

School No. 45, southwest corner Greenmount avenue and Eager street—Paint inside needed. Green shades needed for windows on south side. Repairs needed on boys' toilet. Plaster in boys' hall needed. Teachers' toilet needed on second floor. Entrance to girls' toilet should be drained.

Teachers' Training School, Park avenue and Hoffman street—Building entirely unsuited for the purpose.

School No. 116, Druid Hill avenue near Biddle street—Inadequate and bad toilets. No water in building. Building entirely unsuitable for school purposes.

School No. 52, southeast corner Oak and Twenty-fourth streets—Walls need paint.

School No. 53, St. Paul and Twenty-fifth streets and Hargrove alley—Toilet needed on third floor; kindergarten children have to go to cellar. Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 54, Twenty-fifth street near St. Paul street—Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 115, Merryman's lane near York road—Totally unfit building; no change in conditions since last year.

School No. 55, Chestnut avenue and Thirty-seventh street—Drainings and grading needed in yard. Toilet needed upstairs for teachers. Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 57, Church avenue near Merryman's lane—Open waste pipes from neighborhood in front of entrance to school. Muddy gutters should be paved. Boys' toilet insanitary.

Branch of 81, Pennhurst avenue—Toilets entirely unfit. New building needed.

School No. 11, northwest corner Gilmor and Mosher streets—Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 39, southwest corner Riggs and Carrollton avenues—Bubble fountains needed.

School No. 78, Harlem avenue and Monroe street—Yard not suitably paved.

School No. 65, Bloomingdale road, Calverton—Bubble fountain needed for boys.

School No. 107 (colored), Biddle street near Pennsylvania avenue—

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