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ON DR. WILLIAM TOWNSEND PORTER'S INVESTIGATION OF THE GROWTH OF THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF ST. LOUIS.*

DR. PORTER'S investigations on the growth of the school children of St. Louis claim

particular attention, as the author opens a number of new problems and proposes new methods of inquiry. His conclusions are far-reaching and have a close relation to the method of treatment of a number of questions. It is the importance of these investigations, which are based on very extensive material, which induces me to subject the author's methods to an examination.

Dr. Porter's scheme of measurements is based largely upon that used by Dr. H. P. Bowditch in his investigations in Boston, and on the one which I used in the collection of data in Worcester, Mass. To these the measurements of girth of chest and of strength of grasp are added. It must be regretted that Dr. Porter determined the age of the child at its nearest birthday,

*1. The Physical Basis of Precocity and Dullness. (Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, Vol. VI., No. 7, March 23, 1893.)

2. The Relation between the Growth of Children and their Deviation from the Physical Type of their Sex and Age. (Ibid., Vol. VI., No. 10, November 14, 1893.)

3. Untersuchungen der Schulkinder in Bezug auf die physischen Grundlagen ihrer geistigen Entwicklung. (Verh. d. Berliner Gesellschaft für anthropologie, 1893, pp. 337-354.)

4. The Growth of St. Louis Children. (Transactions of the Academy of Science of St. Louis, Vol. VI., No. 12, April 14, 1894, pp. 263-380; republished in Quarterly Publications of the American Statistical Association, N. S., No. 24, Vol. III., December, 1893, pp. 577-587.)

5. The Growth of St. Louis Children. (Ibid., Nos. 25, 26, Vol. IV., March-June, 1894, pp. 28-34.)