

the origin of those little creatures that dance in the woods and meadows. The elves are divided in two classes, the light and the dark. They are represented as of very various characteristics and propensities. Their appearance and power is sometimes propitious, at other times baleful. In connection with their fabled abode underground, it is to be noted that Chaucer makes Pluto and Prosperine king and queen of the fairies.

The character of fairies as portrayed in literature may best be understood by mentioning such typical examples as Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream," Spenser's "Faerie Queen," Milton's earlier poems; Grimm's "Marchen" and the fairy lore of the Irish tales.—Ex.

OPEN AIR SCHOOLS

SHOW WONDERFUL INCREASE IN NUMBERS

With the opening of the fall school term, 200 open air schools and fresh air classes for tuberculous, and anaemic children, and also for all children in certain rooms and grades, will be in operation in various parts of the United States, according to a statement published to-day by The National Association for the Study and Prevention of Tuberculosis.

All of these schools, the association says, have been established since January, 1907, when the first institution of this character was opened in Providence, R. I. On January 1st, 1910, there were only 13 open air schools in this country and a year later the number had increased only to 29. Thus, the real growth in this movement has been with the last two years.

Massachusetts now leads the states with 86 fresh air schools and classes for tuberculous, anaemic and other school children, Boston alone having over eighty. New York comes next with 29, and Ohio is third with 21. Open air schools have now been established in nearly 50 cities in 19 different states.

Based on figures of population and mortality furnished by the United States Bureau of the Census, it is estimated that not less than 100,000 children now in school in the United States will die of tuberculosis before they are eighteen years of age, or that about 7000 of these children die annually from this one disease. Estimating that on an average each child who dies from tuberculosis has had six years of schooling, the aggregate loss to this country in wasted education each year amounts to well over \$1,000,000.

This loss and much of the incident suffering could be materially decreased if open air schools or classes for these children and those who are sickly and anaemic were provided. The National Association estimates that there should be one such school for every 25,000 population, especially in cities.