

## H.M.S. ST. VINCENT.

Nothing is yet known as to the Admiralty plans with regard to the training ship St. Vincent, the insanitary condition of which is under the consideration of the authorities. It is generally believed on board that the vessel will be removed from her present moorings shortly, and that the place will be thoroughly dredged, with the object of removing all the impure matter which has mixed with the mud. Opinion differs, however, as to the disposal of the boys while the dredging work is in progress. Possibly they may be transferred to the Achilles, or the St. Vincent may be moored off Hardway and the lads kept on board as usual. The former plan is undoubtedly the better, for the training ship would be none the worse for a thorough overhaul, while the removal of certain parts of her woodwork sodden with sewage would also appear to be advisable. In order to carry out this work it would be necessary to place the vessel in dry dock. On Monday three mild cases of influenza were admitted to Haslar Hospital from the ship. Another sailor lad was suffering from cerebral spinal fever.

[To THE EDITOR OF THE "HANTS TELEGRAPH."]

SIR.—The Admiralty seem to be trifling with a very serious matter. Influenza has prevailed now for two months in the training-ship; it has killed the Chaplain and at least four boys; and it is said that one-fifth of the boys were down with it at one time. How has the Admiralty dealt with this state of things? After five weeks or more, the Inspector-General is sent down to inspect. He reports, we are told, that both the ship herself and her position are insanitary. Another fortnight, with another death, elapses; and last night it was announced that the mud beneath the ship is to be dredged and the ship floated! One knows what would have been done in similar circumstances in any public school or even any elementary day-school. Surely, Sir, there is urgent need that the boys should be removed immediately to a healthy ship, and that their ship should be moored in a healthy part of the harbour, not off the malarious mud of Haslar Creek. If, after a time, the old "Saint" can be made wholesome and be used again, so much the better.

I am, Sir, &c.,

G. H. TREMURRER.

St. Agatha's Parsonage, Clarence-street,  
London, 7th April, 1889.