

In other countries on the continent there have long been schools for the Deaf and Dumb—in some instances for more than a century. There are three in Holland, twenty-five in Prussia, ten in Austria, ten in Bavaria, one or more in each of the minor States of Germany, and twelve in Switzerland—all more or less supported by the State.

In Great Britain, the first formal attempt to instruct the Deaf and Dumb seems to have been made by Mr. Thomas Braidwood, senr., who, in 1760, established a school in Edinburgh for the education of Deaf-mutes. He was earnest, zealous and persevering in his noble work, an accomplished teacher, and attracted to his undertaking the attention of benevolent and scientific men. In 1783 he removed his school to Hackney, near London, and continued it until his death, in 1806. He is justly considered the father of British instructors of the Deaf and Dumb. A nephew, Dr. Joseph Watson, was the first, and for 37 years the master of the London Institution, established in 1792; one grandson, John Braidwood, had the care of another school for the Deaf and Dumb, opened in Edinburgh in 1810; and another grandson took charge of a school opened at Birmingham in 1814 for the same purpose.

Of the establishment of institutions for the education of "Indigent Deaf and Dumb children," the following account is given in the Report, 1866, of the Society "for the support and education of Indigent Deaf and Dumb children, situated in Kent Road, Surrey, and at Margate, Kent, established in 1792, and incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1862:"

"The discovery of methods for instructing the Deaf and Dumb in the use of spoken and written language is comparatively of recent date—a fact which indicates how little their affliction was heeded in former times, and which awakens the melancholy reflection, that hundreds of these unfortunate beings must have passed to their graves ignorant of their God and Saviour, and uncheered by the consolations to be derived from his Holy Word. This lamentable neglect of the mental and spiritual interests of the Deaf and Dumb arose, most probably, from their case being considered hopeless. However, the time arrived when their condition was to be ameliorated, and they were to enjoy the blessings of religious, moral and intellectual culture. But the rich only, among this afflicted class, obtained at first the benefits of the discovery, that the Deaf and Dumb would be taught to read and write, to think on words, and to convey their sentiments in language either written or spoken. And it may be recorded, to the honor of this country, that no sooner had this important truth been established by the successful education given to a few of these unfortunates in the upper classes of society, than an effort was made to form a school for the education of the poor. This benevolent attempt was commenced by two worthy men, who simultaneously strove to outvie each other in obtaining support to their novel and truly charitable undertaking. These individuals were the Rev. John Townsend, and the Rev. Henry Cox Mason, M.A., Rector of Bermondsey, Surrey, in which parish the first public school for the gratuitous education of the Deaf and Dumb in Great Britain was opened in the year 1792. A committee was formed, and a competent master obtained in the late Dr. Watson. Six pupils were admitted during the first year, and as the institution, through the exertions of the committee and other friends and supporters, became more widely known, the number of candidates for admission rapidly increased."