

NEW YORK.

In New York we spent one day in the New York Institute for the Blind, under the Superintendency of Mr. Van Cleve, the Director of the National Institute for the Prevention of Blindness in the United States. This Institute is one of the oldest in the States, dating from about 1833. The building is very antiquated but the work done appears to be very good indeed. We shall take no time here in referring to it further.

Mr. Van Cleve had very kindly arranged to have Mrs. Hathaway, who has done so much for Conservation of Vision Classes, and who has written such a valuable book, descriptive of this work, accompany me on a visit to the most representative of the Conservation of Vision Classes in New York. It was indeed a rare privilege to visit these schools under the guidance of one who is so competent an authority on this subject.

In the first of these schools visited, Mrs. Hathaway spoke to the children of the entire school, in her own charming and forceful way, on the important matter of preserving their eyes. The address was given in story form and was apparently quite effective. The school referred to is situated in a very poor district of New York, known as "hell's kitchen." In this school 90 per cent. of the children are Italians. The early settlers of this district were almost entirely Irish. These in turn gave place to coloured residents, who were later followed by Jews, who have now been replaced by the present inhabitants. The opening exercises, with the saluting of the flag and the children's united pledge of loyalty to their country, impressed me as a Canadian very forcefully, and reminded me as a teacher, that a little more of this kind of thing might well be done in Toronto, and particularly in the foreign districts of our city.

The classes for sight-saving in New York are not so well equipped by any means as those in Cleveland, nor do I think is the teaching as good. It was, however, the lack of necessary equipment which seemed to be the most evident.