



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four six or eight pages
PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

OUR MISSION

- First. That a number of our pupils may learn type-setting, and from the knowledge obtained be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.
- Second. To furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf mute subscribers.
- Third. To be a medium of communication between the school and parents and friends of pupils now in the institution, the hundreds who were pupils at one time or other in the past and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf and dumb.

SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty cents for the school year payable in advance postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order postal note or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires, unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is received from our friends all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted. If we know it.

ADVERTISING

A very limited amount of advertising subject to approval will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1 1905

The Single and Double-Hand Alphabets.

Elsewhere in this issue we print an interesting letter from Mr W Wade in which, while recognizing the superiority of the single hand alphabet for the deaf, he urges the wisdom of teaching them the double hand alphabet also. We quite approve of Mr Wade's views as to this matter. As he points out, a very considerable number of hearing people are familiar with the double hand alphabet, and a large proportion of the pupils in the hearing schools learn to spell on their fingers from motives of curiosity, or as a safe method of breaking the rules against talking in school. There can be no doubt that the double-hand alphabet is the easier and more convenient for people who only occasionally make use of dactylography, though in speed, grace and practical utility it cannot compare with the single hand alphabet for those who have to make constant use of this method of inter-course. The deaf even under the most favorable conditions, have difficulty enough in making themselves understood by hearing people, and it is not wise for them to neglect any easily acquired system of communication. Our experience is, however, that there is no need of any special instruction in the use of the two-hand alphabet, as, we believe, there is not an advanced pupil in our Institution who is not familiar with it, and most of them can use it with facility. Mr. Wade has remarked that the same is true of many other institutions, and thinks there is some significant psychological cause for it, but to our mind it is the most natural thing in the world that the deaf, after becoming familiar with the one alphabet, should desire to learn the other also, since both can be acquired with very little effort, and both were invented for their special use. This is particularly the case

in this country, for here our native deaf are constantly coming into contact with natives from Great Britain, who, as a general rule, use only the two hand alphabet. No doubt the agitation Mr Wade is making with reference to this matter will do good, but there is another direction in which his energy and ability might do even more good for the deaf, that is, by endeavoring to induce the educational authorities in the various states to have the manual alphabet inserted in one of the text books used in hearing schools, so that every hearing child should have at least an opportunity to learn it. It would be still better if they were required to do so. If this were done, the real utility of the education given the deaf would be increased manifold, since there would then be an easy and always available method of communication between the hearing and the deaf. We believe that in one or two states this is already done, and we have urged the authorities here to adopt the same plan, but so far without success.

In reply to Mr Wade's query we might say that the point of reading and writing in use at the Brantford Institution for the blind is not the Braille but what is known as the New York Point System. The pupils are also taught to read the ordinary Roman letter in raised characters. Until Mr Wade called our attention to the matter we did not know that the instructors of the blind were divided into two opposing camps and carrying on a controversy relative to distinctive systems and methods, as the teachers of the deaf have long been doing. Our little warfare is regrettable enough, but the question at issue between the two opposing parties are very important ones, and of such a character that neither contestant can yield to the other so long as their principles are honestly held since each party believes that the system it advocates is the only one under which the best, or even good results can be attained. As regards the blind, however, the question at issue is as to whether the dots which represent the letters in the point system should be placed horizontally or vertically and this seems to us to be so trivial a matter, and so devoid of material importance, that either party could yield without abandoning any important principle or materially affecting the progress of the pupils.

In passing, we would like to take this opportunity of expressing our warm appreciation of the great interest Mr Wade has always taken in the deaf and the blind, in whose behalf he has spared neither time nor money, and all from entirely disinterested motives. He has accomplished much for them already, and his zeal seems to increase with every passing year.

From a circular we have received from New Brunswick we note that the deaf down there are arranging to form an Association something like our own in Ontario, to be called the New Brunswick Deaf Mute Association. F. J. T. Boal, of Sussex, and E. E. Parcoe, of Fredericton, N. B., are the persons taking the initial steps. Now the circular is out we should naturally look for a meeting to take place this summer, but in their circular the movers allow themselves a wide latitude in fixing the date, it reads: "One day in the summer between 1905 and 1905." The Deaf Mute Association of Ontario has met in convention six times since its formation thirteen years ago and the pleasure and profit received from it cannot be measured. We wish our friends in New Brunswick every success and we feel sure that the officers of our Association will do anything willingly to assist

Help With a Dollar.

The mortgage indebtedness on the Hospital For Sick Children, Toronto, entails an interest expense of \$2,250 each year a heavy drain on the resources of this great Charity. It will be remembered that in a recent issue of this paper the wonderful work of the Hospital was described together with an appeal from the Trustees asking that the people of Ontario pay off \$25,000 of the mortgage this year. They had agreed to retire that portion of the mortgage. A generous response has been made, but there is still \$3,000 needed to complete the fund asked for over \$22,000 has been paid in, some of it came from the readers of this paper. The Charity is provincial and not local Sick children from every nook and corner of the Province are cared for. The Chairman of the Hospital Trust J. Ross Robertson M. P. Toronto writes: "Is there another man in your town will help the helpless children with a dollar?" Mr. Robertson says that every gift to a worthy charity bears interest to the donor. Three thousand single dollars will do the work will you not see one?"

Tommy Stringer

I was in the N. B. that we first heard of the unfortunate but marvellous little boy Tommy Stringer of Pittsburg Penna. who, blind and deaf and dumb had aroused the sympathies of some benevolent people there, and later found a home in the kindergarten for the Blind at Jamaica Plain, Mass. Here, under skilful and intelligent training, his benumbed mental faculties were first awakened and he speedily became a transformed being.

Later we heard of a fund for his education that was being raised by Helen Keller. It has recently come to our notice that the originator of the movement was Mr. George E. Dowling, of Pointe-aux-Lac, Quebec. This again is a good man of this northern country found out. While far from desiring to detract one whit from the loving thoughtfulness displayed by Helen Keller it seems but just that all who took part in the good work should be given their dues, the credit in this instance being given all the more gladly because of the project having originated in the benevolent heart of a fellow-Canadian.

Almost incredible as it may seem, the present term is half gone, and we are now working rapidly towards the end. During the first half term the work in the class room was interfered with a little by the epidemic of mumps, but during the past few weeks we have had an almost clean bill of health. Nearly all the pupils are manifesting a very commendable spirit of industry and application and there is every indication that the total result of the session's work will be satisfactory in every respect. We have yet five full months before examinations, and a very great deal can be accomplished in that time by every pupil who will faithfully apply himself to his duties. Now for a long pull, a strong pull, and a pull all together.

Misfortunes have their heroisms and their glory. Great men are like meteors, which shine and consume themselves to enlighten the earth. God gives the earth a minute, and man must work it, as a holder and man must till it, as a reservoir of force, and man must make connection with it as the rough material out of which order, symmetry, utility, beauty, culture may be wrought, and men entold those higher uses by intelligence, skill, toil and character. -Hamilton W. Mabie.

The Single and Double-Hand Alphabets.

To the Editor of The Canadian Mute

Dear Sir, I have ever since your issue of teaching the deaf blind to read with one hand been much more interested in the double hand and single hand alphabets. As a fact I know that Helen Keller for the deaf blind knows both alphabets and Helen knows every possible or known communication including the alphabets. I have urged that all the deaf blind be taught with one hand more people ought to know each of the two systems in order to give them more books that they read. I come over that when Helen visits home every year since how delighted a girl among the guests at a wedding was able to talk with Helen by the double alphabet and how quickly she caught it was the case at 'L'Antiquaire' a few years ago when girls were delighted to talk with her. I suppose that all instructed deaf blind must be taught by the double alphabet, and I think none of them is not the fact I rather think that this is the case in all the institutions for the deaf in that it has been pointed out by the British and the American Board of Catechists and the hearing school children, while the blind are unknown, and The Michigan Institute some years since that as a matter of fact a majority of deaf pupils in our institutions are taught the double hand alphabet. These facts suggest a curious enquiry and I therefore wish you to enquire without some practical foundation. How do you think for a moment that I am sure the superiority of the double-hand alphabet is not a fact? I am certain that the fact is not and cannot be as convenient to the blind nor could it be used by a person with one arm or one hand, and I distinctly remember Helen was handicapped in reading the double-hand alphabet, it bothered her to get both hands in touch with those of the speller when the other spell was formed. I am sure that the double-hand alphabet is not the best of the deaf at least from the double-hand alphabet. It surely would bring their communication with more persons?

It does not seem to be generally known that for five years or so since both alphabets were commonly published side by side. I know what class of publication they appear in but quite distinct in my recollection of them as appearing side by side, and this was a puzzle. For about five years the single hand alphabet has been the only one commonly published. Webster's Dictionary of 1890 gave me a clue. I think it may be true that more people know the double than the single, and what cause of the peculiar vitality of the double-hand alphabet in your country? I was much interested in your article on the communication of the blind at first, and then you stated that nothing was said as to whether the double-hand alphabet or the single-hand alphabet is the better one. I am sure that the double-hand alphabet is the better one for the blind, and really it would be better if it had not been so exaggerated. The double-hand alphabet is the better one for the blind, and really it would be better if it had not been so exaggerated. The double-hand alphabet is the better one for the blind, and really it would be better if it had not been so exaggerated.

HAMILTON ITEMS.

From our own Correspondent

Some of the mutos in the city have bicyclo fever now.

Mr. James O'Neil went to Hagersville last month, to work for Mr. Crozier.

Mr. Chas. Mortimer left for Milton last week, to work in Winn's shoe factory. The boss will give him a good steady job.

Mr. Willie Bryce has secured a good job and we hope he will be successful in keeping it.

Mr. Charles Grant, who has been away in the country, returned home and looks very well. He will start to work in the saw factory about the middle of February.

A few weeks ago, we were in the Y. M. C. A. building to witness the basket ball match. We were talking about the mutos of your school, that should form a basket ball team, which could be played in a small room.

Mr. E. Hackbush is going to learn tailoring in some place in the city soon.

There are many cases of grip in the city, and the mutos have not escaped.

Mr. Corbett, of von Sound was in Georgetown, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Golds. He is sailing soon now navigation being closed.

There is no real freedom save that which is based upon discipline. The chance to do as one pleases is not liberty as so many people imagine, liberty involves knowledge, self-mastery, capacity for exertion, power of resistance. -Hamilton W. Mabie.