



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 of our land.

SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps, 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 date when the subscription runs out. Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in 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 to

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1896.

The New Pupils.

The officers and teachers have been very much gratified with the quickness and readiness with which the new pupils have this session adapted themselves to their new and strange environments. It is no small matter, no easy task, for a young child to leave its home and the loving care of its friends there, and feel happy and contented in a place where it is at first surrounded only by strange faces and placed under unaccustomed restraints; but this term the new pupils, with but one or two exceptions, have passed through the ordeal with admirable courage and submissiveness. The majority of these boys and girls have heretofore always lived a free and almost untrammelled existence, and the restraints of the school room must needs be somewhat irksome at first, and willing submission not always easy to the necessary rules of conduct and employment, and the strict but wholesome—though not always agreeable—regularity in the hours of retiring and getting up, the taking of meals and other routine of school life. But after the first few days all of them, with but one exception, became accustomed to these regulations, and now seem quite as happy and contented as the older pupils.

It is, of course, quite natural and right that the parents of these new pupils should be very solicitous for their comfort and welfare; and in a number of cases the fear has been expressed that the children would find it very wearisome to be confined for two or three hours at a time to their desks without any break in the monotony. And so it perhaps would be if this were done; but it is the practice here to show every possible consideration to the new pupils. They are allowed to leave the class

room, while inside the rooms every effort is made by the use of pictures, calisthenic exercises and various other devices, to cause the time to pass quickly and pleasantly. Moreover, after the first few days, when they have once got a start in the acquirement of ideas and language, if the parents could see the genuine enjoyment that most of their children get out of their work, they would no longer worry over what they conceive to be irksome, unpleasant and monotonous toil. Why, a new world is being explored by these children, a world full of unimagined delights, and those who have once seen these boys and girls in the class room all afire with enthusiasm, their eyes glistering and their frames quivering with eager interest, have never again felt any fear that the time spent there would be irksome or that it could drag heavily on their hands.

Outside the class room, likewise, every effort is made to render the pupils happy and contented, special consideration being always shown the new ones by the officers and attendants. The older pupils, also, have admirably seconded these efforts, very many of them having especially devoted themselves during the first few weeks of the session to the endeavor to assist the newcomers and to make them feel at home here; and it often was very touching, when any of the new pupils owned any discontent or homesickness, to witness the efforts of some of the other children to put and cross them, or in some way to divert their minds from their loneliness, and it was seldom their efforts failed of success. Parents may, therefore, dismiss from their minds all fear as to the welfare and happiness of their children here, and rest assured that every reasonable consideration is shown them and every means possible employed to promote their pleasure and happiness while in the Institution.

The Reason Why.

The *National Exponent*, which was published in Chicago, is no more. The cause assigned was simply the lack of adequate support and the financial loss resulting therefrom. Mr. Henry C. White, who is familiar with the history of papers for the deaf, says that "it is true that every attempt to publish an independent newspaper has failed in all these years since the education of the deaf began." The reason is very evident. The deaf can obtain their general knowledge of passing events from the same sources as hearing people do—the daily papers. Their principal object in taking a paper devoted especially to the deaf is to keep themselves acquainted with the doings of their deaf friends. A large majority of the deaf are acquainted with only such other deaf people as live in their own vicinity, or at the most in their own State or Province. A paper that assumed to record the doings of the deaf all over the States and Canada could find space to notice only the most important events, and must perforce pass the minor events and individuals by. But the average deaf person—as is the case with his hearing neighbor—would rather read about some personal friend building a new hen house or being blessed with a new baby than to read about some much more important events connected with some other deaf mute with whom he has no personal acquaintance. Thus it is that the deaf prefer those papers which give in detail the news of the small district throughout which they are personally acquainted, and as the number of the deaf in any such local district is not sufficient to support a paper established simply as a business venture, such papers invariably go to the wall.

The Rev. Canon Burke has been ministering to the pupils of the English Church here for many years, and for the last seventeen years at least, during the incumbency of Superintendent Mathison, has never failed to keep his appointment on the day set apart for his coming, or sent a note saying that his meeting with the children would be put off. We always know when to expect him and if he did not come we were apprised of the reason beforehand why he could not keep the appointment. After over seventeen years of faithful self-imposed duty he has been caught napping at last. He was to have been out to see the English Church children on Tuesday afternoon, the 6th, but he did not come, neither did he send any explanation as to his non-attendance. We consider this a very good record, and it just affords us an opportunity of saying how we appreciate his sincerity and devotedness to the children under his charge in spiritual matters. His record is unique in the history of the Institution, and we trust that such an omission will not occur again during the next seventeen years.

Since the schools closed last June a considerable number of changes has been made in the heads of the various Institutions in the States. Mr. J. N. Tate, of Missouri, has gone to Minnesota, while Mr. N. B. McKee, of Indiana, has assumed charge of the Missouri school, Mr. E. S. Tillinghast, of Washington State School, succeeds his brother, Mr. J. A. Tillinghast, as superintendent of the Montana School. Mr. S. P. Knight is superintendent of the Oregon School in place of Mr. Early, and Mr. E. R. Carroll, of California, has been made superintendent of the Cleveland Day Schools. Mr. W. H. Bowles is superintendent of the Virginia school, and Miss Mary McCowen becomes Supervising Principal of the Chicago Day Schools for the Deaf. Owing to certain charges made against him, Mr. H. C. Ruler has resigned the superintendency of the Malone, N. Y., School, while Mr. Ray, of Kentucky, and Mr. Place, of New York, have both been reported as having been appointed superintendent of the Raleigh, N. C., school. Mr. J. A. Tillinghast has assumed charge of the Belfast, Ireland, School.

A suggestive little pamphlet, presented with the author's compliments, is "Two Deaf Girls," consisting of extracts from the diary of Miss Julia A. Foley, a teacher in the Mt. Airy Institution. Miss Foley has for many years kept a careful and detailed psychological record of each pupil in her class, showing their natural aptitudes and the nature and extent of their mental growth. The two girls referred to in this little book both entered school together. One of them was what Miss Foley regarded as a "psychological curiosity," while the other was perhaps abnormally stupid and indolent. The record of their development is very interesting and suggestive. Miss Foley's plan of recording her observations relative to each pupil is a good one and might be made an invaluable aid by all teachers.

The *Michigan Mirror* says that the bicycle fever is very prevalent in that Institution and nearly all the teachers now ride. Even the matron owns a wheel. We are not quite that bad here, but a considerable number of our officers and teachers have wheels, and ride them well too. Our superintendent is one of our most enthusiastic cyclists, but our matron still eyes the posky thing askance, though we doubt not that in her inmost heart she longs for a wheel and will some day satisfy her desire in this regard.

Messrs. Jones and Patterson, superintendent and principal of the Institution, have prepared and issued an elaborate and detailed "Course of Instruction" for the class rooms and shops. The curriculum for each grade is minutely set forth, also a suggested program for each day's work and list of the requisite supplies for the class. A manual of rules and duties for each officer and teacher is also appended. The whole makes a book of some 110 pages, neatly bound in leather and seems to be excellently adapted for the purpose intended.

The *Chicago Canadian-American* has changed hands as well as editorial management. The new editor is Mr. Robert Matheson, a newspaper man of experience and ability. The *Canadian-American* has always been an excellent and influential paper and has done its utmost to promote friendly relations between Canada and the States, and to give its readers a true conception of Canadian affairs; and we doubt not that under the new management it will be even more successful and popular than in the past.

CLINTON ITEMS.

From our own Correspondent.

This is the first time I appear in the *Mute*, about Clinton Items. I cannot gather much news about the deaf mutes around here, but I will do the best I can.

Miss Hayward, of Lonsdaleborough, was her usual guest for a month in Brith and she returns home in excellent health.

Mrs. Hayward, mother of Miss Hayward, a former pupil, met with what might have been a serious accident the other night. While she was going down cellar with a lamp, she tripped on the stairs and fell down, breaking the lamp and spilling the oil all over herself. She would have been burnt to death, had not she knocked the glass off, and that put out the light.

I had the pleasure of seeing Miss Annie Cook the other day, a former pupil. She left school some time ago and only went about two years. She had to leave school on account of ill health.

Minnie Hayward was laid up with a bad cold, but is able to be around again. She was sorry she was unable to attend the Convention at Brantford.

We are sorry to announce the death at his mother's residence in Clinton of Mr. James Houlden. He had been sick with typhoid fever and died on the 17th of July. His remains were taken for interment to Bayfield. He was a cousin of Mrs. D. Sours, a former pupil of Northfield Centre.

There is a deaf mute child in Lonsdaleborough, 6 miles from Clinton. Her name is Clara Young. I expect she will be sent to school in two or three years.

There is a House of Refuge near Clinton and among the inmates are three deaf-mutes. (I don't know where from). We are sorry to say that they are uneducated. They are too old to go to school. Their aunt died in Toronto and left them a small fortune.

I think I have told you enough for this time. I will try and gather more news the next time. I wish you all every success.

October 7th 1896.

A Mouthful for Miss N.

Mrs. Blank, of Ohio, gave a luncheon a week ago, says the *Washington Post* to some Ohio delegates to the Christian Endeavor convention. There was no cream for dessert, and the hostess noticed that one of her guests had eaten all her portion. "Dear Miss N.," said she, "do let me give you some more cream." "Well," replied Miss N. diffidently, "just a mouthful, if you please." "Mary," said the hostess to the maid, "fill Miss N.'s plate." And she doesn't know to this day why a woman across the table choked over her chocolate.

Every man should remember that other people are setting their watches by his clock.