

APPENDIX.

I have seized every occasion to bring under public attention the great evils which result from consanguineous intermarriages, frequently at the risk of giving offence; but I am rejoiced to know that my warnings have been the means of preventing these marriages, and have received the thanks of persons who have been saved from untold evils which might have resulted from connections which they contemplated forming. I give one case out of seven, numbering 10 mutes, at present in my school, to show the deep affliction resulting from intermarriage of cousins—it is that of a family having five deaf-mute children, the parents of whom are first and second cousins, and their two maternal aunts and a paternal uncle deaf and dumb, these also the children of cousins. This good and respectable family were in complete ignorance of the evils produced by such a union. The introduction of Physiology into our Common Schools, will in the hands of a good teacher, throw light upon this very important subject.

The following from the Report of the able and benevolent Principal Mr. J. S. Hutton, of the Halifax Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, is of immense importance to the public :

CONSANGUINEOUS INTERMARRIAGES AS A CAUSE OF DEAF-DUMBNESS.

In my paper on the statistics of the Deaf and Dumb in the Lower Provinces of B. N. America, published as an appendix to last Annual Report, special reference was made to the melancholy fact that deaf-dumbness appears to be more prevalent in the Colonies, and especially in Nova Scotia, than in Great Britain or the United States; and the opinion then expressed as to the *chief* cause of this disparity has been confirmed by subsequent investigation. The following facts, elicited by special inquiries, and recorded in the register of the Institution, serve to show that this calamity is, to a striking extent, the immediate result either of hereditary predisposition, or of the intermarriage of blood relations.

Out of one hundred and three deaf-mutes, belonging to sixty-two families, connected with the Halifax school, since its commencement, thirty-eight are known to be the offspring of parents related in various degrees of consanguinity,—38 others belong to families *not* so related, while in three cases out of these, deaf-mutes exist in collateral branches of the family; in 2 other cases the offspring are cousins, and there

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