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Do you spit up phlegm?
Does your head ache?
Is your appetite bad?
Are your lungs delicate?
Are you losing flesh?
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LIVELIHOODS

FOR THE BLIND

Sightless Men Who Have Had Success in Music.

Handicap of the Blind in Manual Occupation—New York System of Training and Its Results.

The recent death of a blind organist in the town of Highlands recalled to his old friends at the New York Institute for the Blind the fact that he won his employment fifteen or twenty years ago in competition with several seeing applicants. The church had a rector who intoned the service, and the organist was required to strike the pitch of the intoning voice. The blind man proved to be the only one who could do it.

Various other graduates of the institution at the corner of Thirty-fourth street and Ninth avenue have done well in a musical way. One started as a tuner in a piano establishment of this city. In time he became the head of the outside tuning department, with four or five seeing men under him. In going about his work across people who wanted to buy pianos, sold them instruments, and eventually became the company's agent for a large eastern territory, which place he now holds.

Two others are now tuners for one of the largest piano concerns in New York. One of them has composed music which has been sung by one of the prominent choral societies of the city. Another blind composer is an organist at Corinth, Miss., where he has also charge of the music in the high school. He gives five or six recitals a year, at which he plays not only his own music, but also the highest type of classical music.

Another blind man is an organist at Glen's Falls, and has charge of the music in a convent school there. Another has been in a Presbyterian Church at Inwood for more than twenty-five years, and another was organist for many years at a church on Fourth avenue. A number of blind girls have gone out into the world to teach music successfully.

The most curious combination of faculties ever found in a pupil of the school was in a little boy who was not only blind, but deaf to the speaking voice, keep ear for the music alone. In the singing class he could not hear the words of the songs, but he could hear the air upon the piano perfectly.

He was taught piano tuning. The first time he was sent to tune a piano, he responded to the request of a friend of the school who was about to give a musicale and wanted two pianos tuned immediately. She wrote the superintendent afterward that her piano had never been so beautifully tuned before.

However, once outside the school, his deafness to the speaking voice proved his undoing. Patrons could not believe, when they found he could not hear them speak, that he could tune a piano. So he opened a street news stand, and ran it so successfully that he now has a prosperous store of his own.

Curiously enough, the handling of newspapers seems a favorite and successful business with the blind. Former pupils of the school have news stands scattered all over the city. One of them formerly owned all the news stands in the Brooklyn ferryhouses, and he has a partner to assist him. When without an assistant, they invariably have their piles of papers arranged in the same order, and usually succeed in making a comfortable living.

It is a popular fallacy that the blind have some mysterious development of the other senses which compensates for the absence of sight. They are handicapped in any trade or occupation; but if they have sufficient mental resources to make up this handicap in some other direction, they can get along.

The policy of the New York Institute for years has been to give the blind the best possible general education, since there is no reason why the blind should not excel mentally, while there is the best reason why they should not excel in manual work. During an investigation made by the institute it was found that among the blind men in the almshouses of the state thirty-two skilled trades were represented, covering about the whole gamut of manual industry.

All had become blind in adult life, and had nothing to fall back upon except their trades, for which they had become incapacitated. The blind man is at a deadly disadvantage in anything which has to do with the handling of material. Most of the blind men's old trades are now carried on by machinery, and in those to which he still clings he must compete with seeing workmen.

For instance, the making of seats for carriages and the making of chairs, which a blind man's trade, is done by the children of peasant families in Germany, and the blind child will make two or three while the blind man in New York makes one. There are a number of blind men in New York who make a living at such work, but it is because they have contracts with big firms and employ seeing artisans to do the work for them. Their success is due to business ability rather than manual skill.

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The treatment consists of a combination of drugs, which removes all traces of the disease, while in Varicocele it equalizes circulation, thereby removing the parts of the natural condition and at the same time strengthens the organs, stops nervousness, and removes all sensations and unnatural discharges.

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