

THE STAFF.

There have been no changes in the staff of the literary or industrial departments during the past year. In the musical branch three vacancies have occurred by the retirement of Mr. H. F. Williams and Miss Callaghan, resident teachers, and of Mrs. Dr. Howson, who had for several years given instruction in vocal music. These positions have been respectively filled by Mr. J. Edmund Jacques, who succeeds Mr. Williams, and has special charge of the pipe organ and senior male piano pupils; by Miss Charlotte Sheppard of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, who succeeds Miss Callaghan, and by Mr. E. E. Gubb, who, in place of Mrs. Howson, trains the vocal classes. Both the gentlemen above named bring with them well established reputations for professional efficiency, and I have no doubt the musical interests of the Institution are quite safe in the hands of its present officers, while very conscious of the ability and devotion to their work of those who have recently left us.

For the very marked progress which characterized the work of the past session the teaching staff of the Institution cannot receive too much credit.

THE LITERARY CLASSES.

While firmly adhering to the cautionary remarks in my last report with regard to the comparatively few instances in which literary attainments can be turned by a blind person to account as a means of livelihood, and urging as strongly as ever the importance of practical industrial training, I am equally prepared to maintain that a good literary education is most essential to the blind youth's real success in life. Nay, seeing how limited are his literary resources when he leaves the institution, he is, even more than the sighted student, bound to lay up in his mind an ample store of intellectual treasures during the time he spends at school. Especially does this remark apply to those who look to music as a profession. The musician who aims at any high position must be able to associate with the cultured and educated on equal terms. He can only do this if he, too, is educated and cultured, has encouraged a literary taste, and in his conversation and general knowledge, can hold his own in social intercourse.

In order to assist those pupils whose circumstances may enable them to indulge a desire for the higher literary attainments, or whose tastes lie strongly in that direction, a class embracing some of the leading subjects of the University matriculation course will be maintained.

Our literature class this year will probably direct its attention to rather less diffuse and more analytical methods of instruction. It will take up Shakespeare as an author, with special reference to certain leading plays to which the attention of the pupils will be particularly directed. The influence of Shakespeare on the English language will also be a subject of study.

An arrangement has been made for each of the four reading classes to receive in turn a weekly lesson in elocution. Probably out of material thus developed a new advanced elocution class may ultimately be formed. The senior geography class will use Stanley's African explorations as its text-book for studying the interior of the "Dark Continent," aided by maps specially constructed for their use.

THE MUSIC CLASSES.

Probably in no year in the history of the Institution has more solid work been done by our musical department than during the one under notice. This result was, among many causes traceable to two in particular, first, that the teaching talent was of a high order and aided by considerable experience in the special work of instructing the blind, and, secondly, that a number of pupils had, by long and diligent study attained a position which made the teacher's duty comparatively easy and the studies delightful. Of our female pupils, too, four were occupied for a portion of every day in the duty of teaching juniors under the direction of a highly qualified member of the staff, who for the time