

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I cannot close my report without again acknowledging the kind consideration and friendly attentions extended to our pupils by the clergy of all denominations and citizens of Brantford, generally, during the past year.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT.

ROBERT CHRISTIE, Esq.,

Inspector of Prisons and Public Charities :

SIR,—My report recently forwarded to you deals exclusively with the state of the Institution and matters connected therewith, during the year ending September 30th, 1886. But, during the few days devoted to the compilation of that report, and while it was necessarily still in my hands, circumstances occurred to which I shall be glad to have an opportunity of referring, without waiting for a whole year to elapse before they are noticed. At the commencement of the present month, a state of almost unusual healthiness appeared to pervade the Institution. About the 4th of the month two pupils, both boys, complained of sore throat attended with feverish symptoms. One of these cases was clearly the result of a bad cold, and a day or two's nursing saw the lad again at his studies. The other, a boy of 14, named John Alexander, from East Whitby, became worse, but his case did not excite anxiety until the morning of the 8th, when it developed into diphtheria of a malignant type. He was immediately placed in our excellent male hospital ward in charge of an experienced sick-nurse, and effectually isolated from the rest of the pupils. In a few hours two other boys, one less than eight and the other under seven years of age, both became affected and were also placed with a second nurse in the hospital. The terrible nature of the disease and the rapidity with which a second and even third pupil was attacked, made the outlook for the moment a sufficiently appalling one. Perhaps nowhere could it present more difficulties than in an institution for the blind. In some instance the immediate dispersion of the pupils would seem to be the easiest and safest resort. But blind boys and girls require most careful arrangements, every detail of which must be perfect, before they can be dispersed. Experience has taught us that many days must be allowed for notices to reach parents and parents to be heard from in reply. And until this is done blind pupils cannot start on their way home. Again if diphtheria were really upon us, how could we say who was or who was not already infected, and if to detain the pupils here entailed some risk, to scatter them all over the province, might have been to spread contagion far and wide. Moreover, it was then known and correspondence has since made me more fully conscious of the facts, that diphtheria prevailed in close neighbourhood to many of our pupils' homes, and this would have made their return to the latter objectionable, if not actually dangerous. In face of objections to dispersion, so many and serious, I determined with the concurrence of the medical officer, Dr. Corson, on the intermediate course of advising the whole of the pupils' parents or guardians, of the state of affairs, and giving them the option of removing pupils or not, as they might deem most expedient. As the disease had appeared among the male pupils only, it was decided that all association between male and female pupils in class rooms or at roll call, (the only occasion on which they are together) should cease, class and other work was put on short time, and every opportunity taken for giving the benefit of fresh air and out door exercise to the whole of the pupils. The Institution

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