

EXAMINER'S REPORT.

To ROBERT CHRISTIE, ESQ.,
Inspector of Public Institutions, etc.

SIR,—In obedience to your instructions we examined the literary classes in the Ontario Institution for the Blind, situated at Brantford, and have the honour to submit herewith the results :

There is nothing of a novel or a special nature to report, except the fact that a successful attempt has been made to establish classes in what may be called "Higher Education." These classes are doing very good work, as may be seen by reference to the results of the examination further on in this report. The work of the institution so far as we had opportunities of seeing it, or were connected therewith, seemed to be conducted with skill and the requisite energy, and the order in the classes and corridors was all that could be desired. The grounds have grown very attractive, and the pupils rambling through them or seated on forms in the shade of the trees, show a hearty enjoyment of their privileges. It is surely a priceless boon to the blind children of this province, and their parents, to have provided for them free, such an institution and such advantages.

As heretofore we group the classes under the names of the several teachers in charge.

I. *Mr. Wickens' Classes.*

Class B. (a) *Arithmetic.* 19 pupils in this class. Limit, compound rules and fractions. A very satisfactory knowledge of the subject was evinced. The theory had evidently been taught with some care, and they were able to solve practical problems with considerable readiness.

(b) *Reading.* Class A. 15 members. Nearly all the pupils read fluently and with good emphasis and expression ; they also understand what they read.

(c) *English Grammar.* Class B. This class was examined in the fundamental principles of grammar, and answered very well ; has acquired a fair knowledge of parsing and analysis. The examination consisted of questions intended to test knowledge of the construction of sentences and ability to correct common errors in English. Did well as a class.

(d) *Writing.* Class A. As a test of penmanship the class was asked to write in proper form a bill of goods, the items of which were given them ; to write a letter to a wholesale house, ordering a quantity of carpet of a certain description, and to draw a negotiable note. The form of each was, on the whole, good, and the note (by most) correctly drawn. The writing is quite up to that of former years.

(e) *Physiology and Hygiene.* 10 boys in the class. Examined on the laws of health and the functions of the different organs of the body. The answering was generally very good. The various bones of the skeleton when handed to the pupils were distinguished and accurately described. The average attainments of the class creditable to the teacher.

(f) *Geography.* Class A. The British Empire in all its parts is the limit assigned this class. They were required to name, locate and describe each dependency, until all had been disposed of. They were rather minutely examined regarding the climate, productions, races, form of government, and commerce, of each colony, and in nearly every case gave correct answers. This class has always taken a very high stand. The present class is perhaps a little behind that of last year, but made an average of 74%.

II. *Miss Gillin's Classes.*

(a) Class B. *Geography.* 15 pupils. Examined minutely on the maps of South America and the United States ; the answering was prompt and accurate.