

## INSTITUTION FOR THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

During the year which closed on the 30th September, there were no particularly striking events to comment upon, but very shortly after the year ended, a case of diphtheria appeared in the Institution, to be followed within a few days by three more cases. All those attacked by this much dreaded disease were boys. I regret to have to report that the pupil first attacked died on the 10th October, being the first death which had occurred in the Institution for nearly six years; happily the other pupils made good recoveries. So soon as I received the Principal's telegram, reporting that diphtheria had appeared amongst the pupils, I went to Brantford with Dr. Bryce, the Secretary of the Provincial Board of Health. Aided by the Principal we made a very careful examination of the building and its drainage system, and although we found that the ventilation of the sewers, good as it was, might be improved and systematized, still we could not trace any local cause for the outbreak of the disease. At the time of writing, the outbreak has been confined to the four cases above mentioned and I trust that there will be no further spread. A scheme for the complete ventilation of the drainage system is being prepared and will be put in force as soon as practicable, so as to ensure that there shall be no danger to health through imperfectly ventilated drains.

The Principal, in his supplementary report upon this matter, refers to the desirability of providing the Institution with an hospital ward for the female pupils. The isolated hospital ward on the male side was of the greatest value at the time of this outbreak, and I would be extremely glad if a similar ward could be provided for female pupils, for in the event of an epidemic amongst them, great difficulty would be experienced in isolating the sick from the healthy.

The expectation expressed in the report of last year that the average attendance of pupils would be about 130 was realized, the average being exactly 132. The Principal is of opinion that during the session now in progress, the average attendance will be 140.

Other matters of minor interest are dealt with in my inspection reports, and also in the annual reports of the Principal and Surgeon. The reports upon the Literary and Musical Departments are also annexed. Perusal of these will shew that good progress is being made by the pupils and that the efficiency of the teaching staff is being maintained; nor is the Industrial Department neglected, as the statements of the Principal and Trades Instructor will shew.

### INSPECTIONS.

Copies of my minutes are appended:—

"My first inspection of the Institution for the Blind, Brantford, for the official year, was made on the 19th January.

"On that date there were 134 pupils in attendance (74 males and 60 females), a slight increase as compared with the average attendance during the previous year. The health of all the pupils was found to be excellent, there being no case of illness among them, and they were reported to be making steady and satisfactory progress in their literary and industrial work. A number