



THE CANADIAN MUTE.

Four six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb,
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

OUR MISSION.

First.—That a number of our pupils may learn typesetting, and from the knowledge obtained be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

Second.—To furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf mute subscribers.

Third.—To be a medium of communication between the school and parents, and friends of pupils, now in the institution, the hundreds who were pupils at one time or other in the past, and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf of our land.

SUBSCRIPTION.

Fifty (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance.

ADVERTISING.

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

J. V. SOMERVILLE, 106 Nassau Building, New York, is our agent for limited space advertising.

Address all communications and subscriptions to:
THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1903.

THE ALLEN KELLY LIBRARY

A few years ago, Mr. Allen Kelly, of the township of Ancaster, county of Wentworth, in his will bequeathed the sum of \$818.33 for the use of this Institution, and at his death his executors handed the money over to the Government. Instead of allowing the amount to go with the general funds, on the recommendation of the Superintendent, endorsed by the Honorable the Provincial Secretary and the Inspector, it was invested in a safe Banking and Loan Company from which \$42.50 will be realized each year as interest on the principal sum. This annual interest will be devoted to the purchase of books for replenishing and adding to the pupils' library of the Institution, which will hereafter be called "The Allen Kelly Library." Heretofore a small amount has been devoted to library purposes, and with the Kelly fund added thereto in making additions, a very respectable library will in a few years be the result. We think this is a wise disposition of the money left to the Institution by the late Mr. Kelly, whose name will thus be perpetuated for all time to come, while the Institution lasts, and his liberality and thoughtfulness fittingly appreciated.

P. S.—We could suggest several other worthy objects that would be of benefit to the deaf, if there are any other benevolently inclined persons among our readers who wish their names to live after they are gone.

Do deaf-mutes make unnecessary noise when walking, eating, or doing anything else? Prof. Gordon, of the National College, says he has attended a banquet of the Grand Army of the Republic, at which six hundred persons sat at the table. This army of diners did not make half as much noise with knives and forks as fifty deaf mutes do. Teachers of the deaf should constantly remind their pupils of this habit, and try to correct it, if possible.

PREVENTABLE DEAFNESS.

There is no doubt some force in the assertion by medical men that, owing to widespread ignorance of simple medical facts, positive harm is often done in the treatment of cases of disease, or physical suffering. This is especially true with reference to diseases of the ear in early childhood. Many children, blessed with perfect hearing and consequent speech for the first two, three, or four years of their lives, in consequence of improper or no attention to their ears during an attack of measles, scarlet fever, or diphtheria, have totally lost all sense of hearing; and, as a consequence, their ability to speak has gradually diminished and disappeared also. These are what the physicians call "preventable" cases of deafness. In a recent number of the *Popular Science Monthly*, Dr. A. M. Fanning, of New York, had an interesting article dealing with this subject. He forcibly condemned the prevailing habit among people, ignorant of cause and effect, by which children were subjected to treatment of the ears that resulted in lasting injury, perhaps total deafness. Being an eminent specialist with much experience in the treatment of diseases of the ear, what he says should have some weight with the general public. He asserts that few people have perfect hearing, and that scientific tests will show some defect, even when not suspected. This general defect is chiefly due to affections of nose and throat, the result of extreme variations of temperature and climate in this part of the continent of North America. It is quite common to meet children on the public streets who are what physicians call "mouth-breathers." An enlarged condition of the inside of the nose and throat, caused by catarrhal affection, renders proper respiration impossible. The climate of New York and Brooklyn is, he says, very injurious in the creation and aggravation of catarrhal diseases; and we know from experience that other localities in the same, or nearly the same, latitude are not much more favorable to health. Dr. Fanning warns parents and others having the care of children, with reference to a very common remedy for "colds in the head." This remedy is snuffing a solution of salt and water through the nostrils. If persisted in, he says, the condition of the organs will surely be aggravated. A much better solution, not only for the nose, but also as a gargle for acute sore throat, is made with a teaspoonful of common baking soda (bicarbonate of soda) in a cup of warm water. This solution is also recommended for the removal of impacted wax from the ear, when an accumulation is suspected. But, with rare exceptions, deafness is not due to wax alone. In the majority of cases it is really due to obstruction, but this is much further in the head than any patient can reach, and often of too dense a nature and too long duration for even the specialist in otology to successfully eradicate. In an effort to remove suspected obstructions, matches, tooth-picks, hair-pins, &c., are used in the ears. This is a dangerous operation, and often results in lasting injury to the organs of hearing. Many are the ears that have been incurably injured by such instruments. There is more wisdom than humor in the old saying that we ought to put nothing in our ear but our elbows. At any rate, let no one put anything into the auditory canal but the end of the little finger wrapped with a handkerchief or towel. If deafness is of sudden occurrence there is no means of positively determining the cause, except by having the ear carefully examined by some competent observer. No other syringe for the ear should be used than the fountain douche,

Many of the ear-scoops and ear-sponges for sale in drug stores are declared to be worse than useless—often positively dangerous. The earliest symptoms of beginning deafness, in many cases, is a ringing sound in the ears. For this there is nothing to be done by the patient himself. Advice from a physician should be obtained as soon as diminution of hearing is suspected. Much can be accomplished, however, by the patient toward preventing the deafness becoming worse. Careful attention should be devoted to the general health, to keep the nose and throat in as healthy condition as possible—to prevent "taking cold," especially colds in the head. Exposure to changes of weather should be avoided, the feet never being allowed to become wet, or, if they do become wet, the shoes and stockings should be changed for dry ones as soon as possible. Almost every conceivable thing has been used for earache, by the parents of high and low degree. With the exception of the baking soda solution referred to, nothing should ever be dropped into the ear except hot water. If the patient is beyond the reach of a physician and the hot water douche fails to relieve, leeching should be employed, remembering to apply the leech upon the little projection just in front of the ear, called the *tragus*. Do not ever put a poultice over the ear. Simply tenderness in front of the external ear or in the canal, means either a pimple or a boil in the canal. In this condition also hot douching and hot-water applications are the only safe remedies to employ at home. Medical advice must be sought early, to open the little abscess and allow the matter to escape. Violent throbbing, deep-seated earache means an abscess within the drum cavity of the ear, and this is a serious disease—often ruinous to the hearing, and even dangerous to life. The advice of a physician,—preferably a specialist, is indispensable, and these hints are not at all intended to supply his place, but merely to anticipate his arrival.

We have given as complete a synopsis of Dr. Fanning's article as our space permits. His general conclusions are that many cases of deafness in young and old persons were "preventable," if proper care and medical skill had been employed in time to prevent injurious results.

DR. ISAAC LEWIS PEET

The announcement is made that Dr. Isaac Lewis Peet the venerable and celebrated teacher of the deaf, has retired from the active principalship of the New York Institution, after more than forty seven years service. He has been made principal *emeritus*, and is succeeded by Mr. F. H. Carrier, who has been associated with him for twenty years. Dr. Peet occupies an honorable position among the instructors of the deaf on this continent, and many people will wish him a tranquil and happy life during the remainder of his sojourn here. It is gratifying to know that his long and faithful services have been suitably rewarded, and that he need have no anxiety about the future. We hope he may live many years to aid the cause he has so long and so ably served with his counsel and example.

Prof. F. B. Yates, who succeeds Prof. Clark as Superintendent of the Arkansas School, also succeeds him as editor of the *Optic*. His salutatory has an optimistic ring that promises to keep the *Optic* up to its present high state of excellence. He does not intend to pose as a critic, but will welcome healthy, friendly discussion of subjects of interest to the profession.

ABOUT POETRY.

The *Institute Herald*, published at the Florida School, asks us to "consider the poetical lines that appear on the first page of this issue, entitled: "A Name in the Sand." We do not know what kind of a "consideration" our southern friends arks for. If the literary merit of the lines referred to, we assure the *Herald* that, in our estimation the poem ranks among the best of its kind in the English language. It has been a primo favorite of ours for many years, and has had a place of honor in our "poetical selections" since we recited it at school. Mr. Gould was the author of the poem, and not Geo. D. Prentice. Elsewhere we publish one of Prentice's poems,—a gem of rare brilliancy, worthy of the genius of that American author, whose light went out so early in his literary career. It is entitled—"My Mother's Grave." What does the *Herald* think of it?

A. M. BELL SOUVENIR.

We have received from the Volta Bureau of Washington, D. C., several books, pamphlets, &c., of much value and interest, most of which are works of Prof. Alexander Melville Bell, father of Dr. A. G. Bell. The whole series, treating of questions of vital importance in the education of the deaf, forms an important addition to any Institution library, and must be highly prized by teachers and others interested in the matter. We will publish in *THE CANADIAN MUTE* a biographical sketch of the venerable A. Melville Bell, an excellent likeness of whom accompanies the collection, and who was a well-known and popular resident of Bradford, in this province, some years ago, but is now a citizen of Washington, D. C.

A CHRISTMAS BOX.

We got it from *The Optic*, and most sincerely thank Prof. Yates, the new editor of that most excellent paper, for the kind words expressed below:

To the exchange editor of the *Buff and Blue* we would say, make friends with the *CANADIAN MUTE*. You will not regret it. Speaking for yourself, there is not in our paper fraternity a single member we feel prouder to claim as a friend and visitor than the *CANADIAN MUTE*. No charge, brother. This deserved compliment we freely donate as a Christmas present.

The Optic, under the able management of Supt. Clarke, was one of the most valuable papers that came to our office. It is just as valuable under the present editorial management. This opinion was expressed in an item that appears elsewhere before the Christmas present above noted had been received. Thanks, again, with the compliments of the season. *Buff and Blue* is with us. We like our company.

We doubted the truth of the reports recently circulated through the papers relative to the mental collapse of Helen Keller, the phenomenal deaf, dumb, and blind girl. Mr. Anagnos, of the Perkins Institute for the blind, has been questioned about the alarming reports published, and pronounced them greatly exaggerated. Helen is now engaged in writing a lengthy article for publication, a fact that does not indicate mental decadence. Those writers who essayed to criticize the teachers of the girl were somewhat premature in their remarks, and will have an opportunity to reconcile fact with fancy. We trust the wonderful progress made by this severely afflicted child, through the patient and skillful work of her teachers, will continue to excite the surprise and admiration of mankind, and that her physical and mental capacities may expand and develop harmoniously.