

cost than the renewal of the broken fence and the substantial repair of the standing part would have entailed. The whole of our ornamental grounds are now thrown open to public view without obstruction, and as approached from the city present a very beautiful appearance. This will be heightened by the seeding down with mixed grasses of the lower portions, and planting trees and evergreens at suitable intervals. Our trees were last year subjected to a thorough pruning by which they have decidedly benefited.

The expropriation some time since, of twenty-two acres of land on the northern and western boundary of the Institution estate, chiefly for the purpose of maintaining the isolation of the premises, has made it necessary to consider how this new property may best be utilized. The higher portion on a level with the Institution, and immediately in its rear and broken at its western extremity into ravines and rolling land, is well adapted with very little planting and laying out for the purposes of a public park. The trees already planted in rows and groups, will ultimately form a protection to our rear premises while giving shelter to delightful walks and drives, serving, I trust, not only for a pleasant resort for our own pupils, but also for the citizens of Brantford. The lower and level portion of the new property was seeded down to clover last year, and during the past summer has been fenced and used very profitably as a pasture field for our cattle.

THE FARM AND GARDEN.

The farm and garden this year have been very productive. Although the dryness of the late summer months retarded the developement of our root crops, and has more or less affected the ultimate yield, the quantity obtained has been good, and in some cases even remarkable. The land is gradually becoming cleaner under vigilant cultivation, and the crops would not discredit soils of much greater richness.

IMPROVEMENTS SUGGESTED.

It is not, I presume, necessary for me to repeat arguments used time and again in favour of the three great improvements which, sooner or later, will probably have to be undertaken. A new roof, the extension of the east wing—the last mentioned including more class rooms and dormitories, music and practice rooms, a girls' trunk and play room, and a female hospital ward—and finally, a gymnasium, the value of which I imagine cannot even yet be sufficiently understood or appreciated, or it would have been erected long ago; these are the additions and improvements to which I refer. I had recently, when at the New York Convention, the opportunity of inspecting photographs of the drilled companies of blind youths in the Pennsylvania Institution, where, as well as at New York and Boston, the system of physical training is thoroughly carried out, and I am convinced that in a hygienic not less than a recreative sense, a gymnasium is essential to make our work here complete.

The bakery of the Institution is not what it ought to be in many respects. The oven is of the old fashioned description, and the general arrangements are below the mark altogether. I respectfully advise an appropriation to cover a reform in this department of our domestic economy.

The carpenter's shop has long been condemned as too small, as well as damp and unhealthy. Its removal, as once proposed, to the room in the basement formerly used as a Bursar's store-room, could only partially mend matters. If, too, the carpenter were in a more accessible place, his shop would be an object of interest and resort to some of our male pupils, not a few of whom have quite a little mechanical skill, and enjoy in a simple way, any opportunity afforded them for exercising it. I propose, in order to meet all our needs in this regard, to appropriate a part of the western coal shed which is far larger than necessary for the accommodation of the reduced quantity of small coal we now require. The portion taken can be boarded off, the upper part to be floored and used as the workshop, and the lower part as a cellar for storing lumber. The shop will then be a dry, roomy and airy apartment, easily warmed and accessible from the boys' quarters. The expense will be limited to the cost of the lumber needed.