



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.

ROY V. SOMERVILLE, 103 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE,

ONTARIO



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1901.

Looking at the Bright Side.

A writer in the Chicago National Exponent protests against the habit of describing the deaf as "unfortunate." Very few will be inclined to accept his evident contention; that the deaf are fortunate in being deprived of their hearing. There is much more of melody than of discord in the world of sound, and to be deprived of the enjoyment of this is of course a very great misfortune. No more is a man who is blind fortunate because there are many sad spectacles that greet the eyes of those who can see. There is also much more of beauty than of deformity in the world. Nevertheless, shorn of its exaggeration, the writer in question speaks truly when he declares that the deaf have no cause for repining, for it is possible for them to attain happiness, prosperity and even fame and wealth in the world by faithful, persistent effort. We will, however, let the writer speak for himself. He says:—

Time and again I have experienced a feeling of disgust when I see the word "unfortunate" coupled with the deaf. Wherein are the deaf unfortunate? In their lack of hearing and the resultant loss of such pleasures that seduce the ear and help pass the time? Do the people not know that the various knockknacks of musical instruments that are affected by those who wish to be "in the swim" have to be learned before their melodies are truly appreciated, as a wino-dribbler has to take a course before he appreciates the flavor of the rosy liquid? Do they not know that the first impression of a beginner with champagne—the elixir of the so-called 77—is that he is drinking a glass of weak vinegar? Sound is not an indispensable adjunct to a pleasing existence, and is in reality in a great majority of cases a thing whose absence is preferable to its presence. If the deaf are shut out from the enjoyment of prima donnas—as so much an enjoyment that is as evanescent as a breeze—they are also shut out from the disagreeable, nerve-disturbing and bone-racking noises that are here, there, and everywhere in the world. Their lack of hearing has not operated against their physical welfare. Fear of the deaf figure in the accident accounts which fill the great metropolitan newspapers day in and day out. By far fewer of them are undergoing penance for fracture of laws. Still fewer of them are dependent upon the public bounty in almshouses. How few there are among the deaf, but remarkably few considering the percentage. On the other hand I claim without a fear of contradiction that the deaf is the highest and best educated, most moral, most orderly, and most industrious class of any people in the world. Taking the commonly accepted conclusions of census takers the deaf number two in 1,000 people, or 1-500 per cent, and putting forward the deaf who have achieved eminence in literary, artistic, mechanical, and spiritual walks of life, ought not the expression "unfortunate" be changed to "fortunate"?

The Silent World says: In British India there are 173,000 deaf mutes and only one school for their education.

In the school where the exclusively oral method of instruction is employed all the children are assumed to be equal as regards aptitude, ability and the condition of the vocal organs, and it is but a truism to say that a system based on a colossal fallacy must be as unsuccessful in practice as it is unsound in principle. Certain and sad failures must be very numerous in institutions where all pupils, even the most stupid, are submitted to a method which can be a success only with the brightest children. On the other hand, where the combined system is in vogue the aptitudes and mental and physical characteristics of each pupil are first ascertained, and to each one is applied the method or methods of instruction which experience and common sense show to be best adapted to his or her needs and abilities. In this and other institutions where this system is adhered to, every pupil that can ever be taught to speak well enough to be easily understood receives such instruction. Pupils that cannot be taught to speak well enough for practical use do not have their time wasted in the acquirement of an imperfect and useless accomplishment. The ideal object kept in view in these schools is to furnish each boy and girl the training and education that will be of the greatest possible benefit to them in the stern battle of life in which all must participate.

The controversy in some of our American contemporaries relative to the advisability of teaching printing to deaf mutes continues with unabated vigor. Some papers aver that the setting of type by hand will soon be entirely superseded by the use of type setting machines, while other papers as vigorously deny this; and so far the latter undoubtedly have the better of the argument. The day is far distant when machines will be used in all printing offices. It would not pay to have them in small country offices and they are not suited for fine book work. It may safely be asserted that a larger proportion of printers who have graduated from deaf mute institutions have secured employment than of graduates in any other branch of industrial training. There are machines for making shoes, but no one proposes to do away with the teaching of shoemaking on this account, and there is no better reason for doing away with the printing department because there are machines that can do a certain kind and proportion of printing. It is not likely that anyone now living will ever see the day when the demand for good type-setters will not be nearly equal to the supply as it ever has in the past.

A number of deaf mutes in the States are making persistent efforts to induce the life insurance companies to write policies on the lives of deaf mutes. Partial success has already crowned their efforts, as some of the companies have consented to insure the deaf, but they charge them a much higher rate than they do hearing people. This is considered to be unjust and efforts are being made to obtain sufficient data to convince the officials that the deaf are not shorter lived than those who can hear. General observation would seem to show that, if any difference exist, the deaf are even superior to the hearing in vitality and physical stamina, and the added risk of accident due to the loss of hearing is probably fully counterbalanced by the greater care exercised and by the superior development of the other faculties.

The Louisiana Pelican, from Baton Rouge, comes to hand printed from now type on a new press. It is very much improved and we are glad to note the prosperity of our confrere.

The agitation continues in the United States in favor of the establishment of a National Technical School for the Deaf, where pupils from the various State schools could complete their industrial education. It is felt that the State institutions do not give an opportunity for a boy to become a complete master of his trade, since, as a rule, only a short time each day is spent in the industrial departments, which are made subsidiary to the regular school work. The project for such a National Institution is a good one and it is hoped it will be carried into effect. The Ontario Institution provides a post-graduate industrial course, as do also a few of the State Schools for the Deaf, but in many cases even in these schools there are not sufficient facilities provided for a thorough training for any considerable number of pupils.

A writer in an exchange sarcastically states that the graduates of the oral schools are securing positions as telephone and telegraph operators. Their proficiency as lip-readers has been developed to such a degree that they can read the vibrations of the telephone diaphragm and the reciprocating action of the Morse sounder.

HAMILTON HINTS.

From our own Correspondent (received too late for last issue.)

Mr Samuel Smyth and family have removed to Ancaster, near Dundas, and, so far as I am aware, are doing well.

Mr. J. M. T. Davis, a deaf-mute, probably of the Coxey Army gang, was doing this city last August, with his five cent samples.

Mr. Chas. Mortimer has secured employment in the Gow Shoe Co., of this city, where I hear he has obtained the degree of "I.L. D." Charlie feels highly flattered.

It is a fact not generally known to the mutes at large, that Mr. Palmer, eldest son of the late Dr. Palmer, first Superintendent of the Belleville School, is employed in this city, in the Bank of Montreal.

Owing to the resignation of the president, the Literary and Debating department of the Hamilton Deaf-Mute Association has ceased to convene. Some of the mutes love the worship of Bacchus rather than decent morality and elevating purposes. At the beginning of the Association your correspondent was president, vice-president and acting secretary, and now he is the official assignee. The gospel department will continue as usual. Miss O. E. Maxwell, of Buffalo, was in the city lately. She was visiting her cousins and other relations residing here, and also to see after the erection of a monument to the memory of her father, whose mortal remains now lie in the beautiful cemetery on the historic Burlington Heights.

Mr. Jas. Goodband has just recovered from a prolonged illness of typhoid fever. At one time during his prostration his life was despaired of for several days, but his strong vitality triumphed and I am glad to report he is now himself again, having successfully jumped the broad deep chasm.

I am sorry to report that though there are only about 18 mutes here, there is a decided split between them, the one half prefer to take the prudent side of life, and the other half the "don't care" side. Toronto, where about 75 mutes reside and perfect harmony prevails, is a striking contrast to Hamilton. Perhaps the "don't care" side may profit by heeding the wise proverb, "A prudent man foreseeth the evil and hideth himself, but the simple pass on and are punished." More anon. J. R. B.

TORONTO TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent

Mr. Nasmith was absent from the class last Sunday. He was out of the city. Miss Anne Prager conducted the meeting with much acceptance.

The ex-pupils of the Ontario Institution for the Deaf at Belleville wish to thank Supt. Mathison for his kind consideration in sending them diplomas in recognition of their good standing and character while at the Institution.

We omitted to mention in last issue that Miss A. Francis, formerly of Huntsville, Muskoka, is living in the city and

has secured a good situation in Murray's dry goods store. She was in addition to the female silent class.

We are pleased to hear that I. Bossia Ball, Detroit, has secured a good situation in that city since she left Toronto. We wish her success.

Miss Marie Moore left for Whitley last week, to put in a year at the Ladies College of that place.

Mr. David Hambly, Nobleton by the death of his father lately, inherits a farm of 100 acres, which is very valuable. We congratulate him.

Shortly after being elected President of the Toronto Deaf Mute Association, Thos. Bradshaw is obliged to leave to go to Stratford, where he will work with his brother. It will be a great loss to the mutes of the city, particularly to the Association.

Miss N. Cunningham and Mr. Richard are back to the city again for a time at least, after a short absence at their respective homes.

Mr. Darnoy has secured a situation as a tailor in Mr. McIsaac's establishment. Work of almost every kind is hard to get these days, but men of push and energy generally succeed at last. We would not advise deaf-mutes to come to this city to find work unless they have a particular trade.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Moore gave an "At Home" to several of their friends on evening last week.

The first meeting of the season of the Toronto Deaf-Mute Association was held on the 3rd of October. There was a large attendance. The old officers retired and new ones were elected, viz President, Thos. Bradshaw; Vice-President, C. J. How; Secretary, R. I. Slater; Treasurer, H. Moore. A debate on the subject,—"Resolved, that war is beneficial to mankind" was arranged for the next meeting, on the 17th. Messrs Slater and P. Fraser were selected to support the affirmative, and Messrs. Boughton and Thos. Bradshaw the negative. On the following Wednesday the above debate came off. A W. Wason, N. McGillivray and H. Mason were the judges, and when the debate was finished they retired for about ten minutes to deliberate and then brought in a verdict for the affirmative.

Extracts from Letters.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I write a few lines to thank you for my boy and the care you have bestowed on him during the past year. I do sincerely hope he will give you no trouble and be a good boy.

A mother writes—"With grateful hearts we do thank you and the teachers for the loving care and kindness my daughter has received at your hands. We all feel that we can never thank you enough. We are pleased to learn that the school opened this year under pleasant and favorable circumstances and we earnestly pray that God's blessing may rest upon yourself and also on the teachers, officers and pupils."

—Mr. F. Flynn, our master carpenter has been laid up for a few days with a severe cold, but we hope to see him at his post again soon.

—Miss Walker, our matron, completed her fifth year as an officer of the Institution on the 20th ult. We trust she will be here for many years to come.

—On the afternoon of Friday 12th ult. our library presented a busy scene between five and six p. m., the room being crowded with our boys and girls, the occasion being the opening of the Allen Kelly Library for distribution among the pupils. The funds for the purchase of these books is provided by the legacy left by the late Allen Kelly of Ancaster and amounts to \$850, the interest on which, \$12.50 yearly, is to be expended in the purchase of new books for our pupils. At present the books number nearly 300 volumes which with small additions will form a collection leaving nothing to be desired in this direction. Every book has been carefully chosen for its simple, moral and entertaining character, and it is expected that great good will result, a taste for reading be cultivated, and a wide field opened for the entertainment and instruction of our pupils. Printed catalogues have been issued from our printing office and the library will be open for the exchange of books every Friday afternoon during the school term. Every book has been firmly covered with canvas, and with the newspapers sent in from every part of Ontario will furnish our pupils with plenty of reading matter.