

THE FIRST AND LAST "WANT."

It was I must confess with extreme disappointment I found that no appropriation for a gymnasium appeared in last year's estimates. I shall not repeat arguments that have been already used again and again in favor of such an expenditure, but will just state a few propositions no person having any knowledge of the wants and requirements of blind pupils will dream of controverting:—

1. That blind youths have no means of cultivating physical development effectually unless special apparatus is provided for them.
2. That by reason of delicacy of constitution the majority of blind youths need, even more than the seeing, such means of physical training and development.
3. That no institution for the blind is or can be complete without a well constructed and properly furnished gymnasium.
4. That it is now a recognised fact that physical training is a primary necessity in the education of the blind.
5. That the mental and industrial education of the blind is at every point thwarted and obstructed by the want of systematic physical training.
6. That a gymnasium for the blind must be (1) A substantial well warmed building. (2) As nearly as possible a part of the main buildings, accessible without exposure to weather or changes of temperature by all the classes and by both male and female pupils as part of the daily routine of school exercises. (3) Large enough to be used for general exercise when the weather confines the male pupils within doors. When these simple statements of fact are recognized and acted upon the first and last educational want of the Ontario Institution for the Blind will have been supplied.

GROUNDS, FARM AND GARDEN.

The abundant rains in the earlier months of the late season gave great promise of heavy crops as well as most successful tree culture. But by the recurrence for the third year of a protracted summer drought the pleasing anticipations at first indulged have been sadly blighted. Our hay crops were excellent, but the almost total absence of rain for two months, just at the time when the potato and root crops most needed moisture, has reduced the yield by at least one-half, and our supply will have to be supplemented by purchases from other sources. The effect of the drought on the newly planted young trees has been no less detrimental. I trust the time is not far distant when we may have some artificial means of supplying water to our trees neither so cumbrous nor so tedious as those we are now of necessity constrained to adopt.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

I am again privileged to acknowledge the kind interest taken by the clergy of Brantford and the citizens generally in the welfare and prosperity of this Institution. Nor must I forget to mention the most valuable help rendered in cases of sickness by the nursing staff of our well conducted city hospital.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

A. H. DYMOND,
Principal.

BRANTFORD, October 1st, 1889.

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