



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 type-setting, 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, 105 Times Building, New York, is our agent for United States advertising.

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THE CANADIAN MUTE,

BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1894.

Dr. Miller and the Deaf.

Communicated.

There appeared, recently, in *Harper's Weekly*, an admirably written article by S. Millington Miller, M. D., in which he gives a condensed history of the School for the Deaf, located at Mt. Airy, Pennsylvania, a suburb of Philadelphia. In it he also endeavors to give to the general public a description of the work accomplished at that place, the methods employed in educating the deaf there being radically different from those generally employed in other schools for the deaf in America.

The arrangement of this school divides it into divisions and departments, whereby the school is converted into two distinctive schools, an Oral School and a Manual School, under one general head or Superintendent.

The three departments are called respectively the Primary Oral, Advanced Oral, and Manual.

In the Primary Oral every child that enters the school is first placed, it being known that many are capable of being taught to speak and read the lips under proper training and instruction. If, after a thorough trial, it is ascertained children are for one reason or another incapable of benefiting by such instruction, they are placed in the Manual department where they can be educated with better results. But it has been demonstrated that the number who need to be transferred is much less than was at one time believed to be the case.

Dr. Miller describes the methods employed at the school, but deals most largely with that of the Oral departments, as it is comparatively a new system in American schools. There have been many adverse criticisms of his article, chiefly concerning his conclusions. As the article in question is so general in its purpose and was only meant to meet a popular view of the work of educating the deaf, it seems as if it had received more than the necessary share of criticism. First and foremost the paragraph wherein he speaks of a graduate of the school attending a college, is attacked.

But it has never been quoted in full, which places it in a different light. It is given here in full:—

For although it would be possible for a graduate of the Pennsylvania Deaf and Dumb Institution to enter any college and follow the lectures by watching the movements of the professor's mouth, he would be under such a constant strain of visual attention as practically and unjustly to handicap him.

It has not yet been proven wrong by the failure of one to do so, authorities know of several cases of semi-mutes, educated at oral schools, doing so. The officers of the Mt. Airy School are not responsible for that sentence. They never stated and would not now state that the graduates of their Oral department, as a class, would be capable of entering a hearing college and take the lectures from the professor. The sentence quoted so extensively was never intended to bear the construction put upon it. Dr. Miller simply meant to state that he thought it would be possible for some of the best graduates, semi-mutes, to attend a college for the hearing, but that even then he thought they might be put to too severe a test in taking such a course, and therefore recommended that they be sent to the college for the deaf at Kendall Green, Washington, D. C. Dr. Miller erred in using the indefinite "a" when he did not mean "any" graduate of the Pennsylvania Deaf and Dumb Institution, as he has been misunderstood to assert. As to the attainments of the average pupil in language construction: "Average deaf and dumb children are taught to speak and write connected and intricate sentences in sixteen months from the day on which they heard nothing and know nothing." The schools which cannot say the same of their pupils must lack something, somewhere. Mt. Airy may have the advantage of other schools in the use they make of the "five state system," which is remarkably effective when properly used, as it is there, in the place of its origination.

That deaf-mutes dream in signs is by no means news; they often talk in signs when delirious; and hearing persons conversant with the sign language have been known to do the same.

The phrase "deaf and dumb mutes" does not appear in Dr. Miller's manuscript, according to Mr. Payne, managing Editor of *Harper's Weekly*. It was simply an oversight of the proof reader, and is as frequently seen in the daily press, the fruit of carelessness or unacquaintance with the nomenclature of the deaf. Seeing is believing, and Dr. Miller but described in his article what he had seen and knew to be founded upon fact.

But in his later article to the *Philadelphia Press*, wherein he attacks Dr. Fay, of Washington, D. C., one of the finest and most upright of men, he has overstepped the bounds of courtesy, either through ignorance of the matter of statistics, which he attempts to discuss, or gross misinformation. The deaf and dumb are not a marked people, as he seems to assert in that article, as are the blind, crippled or idiotic. They can mingle freely among their fellow-men and the fact of their affliction, not being covered, as was demonstrated during the Congress of Instructors of the Deaf, and International Congress of the Deaf, held in Chicago in the summer of 1893; when a blind man stood alone and helpless in the main hallway of the Art Palace, the cynosure of all eyes, while dozens of deaf persons moving about in the crowd attracted no attention whatever.—S. C. B.

We have been favored with an invitation to attend an Assembly to be given by the Fanwood Quail Club, of New York City, on the evening of December 5th. We appreciate the compliment but time and distance will prevent us from being present.

The report of the World's Congress of the Deaf and the proceedings of the meeting of the National Association of the Deaf, held in Chicago, in 1893, is now ready for distribution. It will be embellished with the engravings (half-toned) of many of the prominent deaf of this country who were identified officially with the Congress. An edition of one thousand copies will be printed. Those who have not already subscribed and who desire copies can obtain them by addressing any of the undersigned members of the Committee on Publication:—T. F. Fox, School for the Deaf, Station "M," New York, N. Y.; R. P. McGeehan, 1094 Madison Ave., Columbus, Ohio; Olof Hanson, School for the Deaf, Faribault, Minn.

The deaf mutes of Ontario will gladly join with their friends in the United States in doing honor to the Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, of New York, on the occasion of his "golden wedding," which occurs on June 3rd, 1895. It is proposed that the deaf should at that time give some tangible evidence of their appreciation of the noble work he has performed. No man ever better deserved the gratitude of any afflicted class than does Dr. Gallaudet, whose life has been given up to the service of the deaf.

We regret to learn that Ernest Palmer, son of Dr. W. J. Palmer, former Principal of this Institution, died suddenly at Marquette, Mich., on the 20th of October, leaving behind him a sorrowing wife and two children. Heart disease was the cause. Ernest, when a boy, was well known by the young people at this Institution and in the city, and among them he had many good and true friends. Where he lived he enjoyed the respect and esteem of all his associates.

A new building for the education of the deaf and dumb in Nova Scotia is to be erected in Halifax, in the near future. Plans have finally been decided upon, tenders asked for and the work will proceed right along until completed. We congratulate Principal Fearon on the success which has crowned his efforts since going to Nova Scotia. He appears to be the right man in the right place.

The degree of Doctor of Laws has been conferred upon Prof. A. L. B. Crouter, Superintendent of the Mt. Airy school, by the Illinois State College. *Reporters.*

Dr. Crouter's many friends in this vicinity will be pleased to hear of his continued success.

Against the Oral System.

Secretary H. J. Gill, of the Maryland Deaf-mute Association, says, he lost his hearing at the age of six years, after which he went to a public school for a year, and he has retained some of his faculty of speech. "With those born deaf and dumb it is different," said he. "They never had any training in producing sounds from the throat, and though Professor Bell—ho of telephone fame—claims that all deaf persons can be taught speech in a measure, my personal observation convinces me that he is mistaken. My own experience with the two systems—oral and sign—brings me to the conclusion that the oral benefits only a few and is a complete failure with the majority. Semi-mutes, as a general thing, if they have lost their hearing after infancy, possess greater advantages than those who were born deaf. They have already learned much which is advantageous to them, and in many cases they are fortunate enough to have attended school previous to becoming deaf, and are often able to retain the speech which they had acquired. I do not believe they know exactly how to modulate their articulation like hearing people. I still possess some faculty of speech, but I cannot hear the sound of my voice, though I feel the vibrations."

The Provincial S. S. Convention.

COMMENT ON THE DEAF.

A very pretty and affecting part of the program was the reciting in the deaf mute language of two hymns by ten charming little and beautiful girls from the Institute, under the able and expert guidance of Principal Mathison and Miss James, a graduate of the Institute and now a teacher there.—*Toronto Globe.*

Mr. Mathison, Supt. of the Institute for the Deaf and D., then gave an exhibition with ten beautiful girls from the Institute which was perhaps the most interesting event of the Convention. Mr. Mathison introduced them briefly, then the beautiful rhythmic motion they expressed in their way "Nearer my God to Thee." The audience was stirred by the sight and sound, and led off with an enthusiastic band of hymns, with another hymn, which was responded to with another hymn.—*Bellefleur Tribune.*

The D and D Institute has been a great attraction for the delegates. Yesterday about seventy of them went through the Institute, and this morning about twenty more took advantage of Mr. Mathison's invitation. A great many more will likely go up this afternoon. Mr. Mathison, of the Deaf and Dumb Institute, was accompanied by Miss James, who is first deaf and dumb—and some 20 pupils, but who stood on the platform arrayed in white. They excited the sympathy of the audience as they rendered by signs, "Nearer my God to Thee" and "Every day and every hour, &c."—*Bellefleur Intelligence.*

The class of the Deaf and Dumb Institute was an unique and touching exhibition of the perfection to which the sign language has been brought. The class was received with a strong handkerchief waving and other dumb-show of sympathy by the audience. The piece rendered was "Nearer my God to Thee" and so well was it given that they were, not loudly, but with a great display of haunting white, enthusiastically encored. Mr. Mathison and Miss James deserved the appreciation they received, for the very excellent manner in which they had trained their pupils. President Moore introduced Miss James to the audience. Mr. Mathison explained that she had been a student in the Institute and was now a teacher. She was given another ovation of waving handkerchiefs.—*Bellefleur Sun.*

One of the most touching and beautiful incidents of the Convention was the exercise by a class of a dozen pupils of the Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, in which the hymns "Nearer my God to Thee" and "Every Day, every Hour" were given in the sign language. These bright young pupils won the hearts of all the delegates. They are a credit indeed to their painstaking teachers and to the genial and successful superintendent of the Institution, Mr. Robert Mathison. Mr. Mathison extended a cordial invitation to all to visit the Institution and gave all visitors the kindest attention and much valuable information. His courtesies on this occasion and in past years have won for him the universal appreciation of the people of the province.—*Tele. Press.*

TORONTO TOPICS.

From our own Correspondent.

Mr. Chas. Elliott has purchased a fine bicycle. He has been making good use of it so far, but will have to give it a rest for the winter.

Some of the mutes are interested in the Moody revival meetings now being held in the city. They are endeavoring to secure a few seats for one evening and all go in a body with an interpreter.

Mrs. A. W. Mason was pleased to meet her old friend, Rev. J. Cooper Robinson, Church of England Missionary to Nagoya, Japan, recently.

Miss Lottie Mason celebrated the 10th wedding anniversary of her parents by inviting a number of her young friends for a tea party.

We learn that Miss Lotta Henry is in Chicago and has secured a situation in a millinery establishment, where she receives good wages. The deaf-mute ladies here well know her to be a good milliner. It is a pity Canada loses so intelligent and accomplished a young lady.

The deaf mutes of this city were treated to a magic lantern entertainment on the 2nd inst., given by Mr. Fournier, a friend of Miss Annie Fraser. The scenes were representations in "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and the "Childhood of Jesus Christ." The mutes were pleased with them that Mr. Fournier promised to give another exhibition before long.

Some of the mutes who have to take the street cars to and from work are sometimes placed in an awkward position, by the conductor asking them to pay their fare after they have done so. This they cannot easily explain without attracting the attention of all the passengers, which is rather unpleasant to the more sensitive and modest deaf mutes.

We wish to thank your Hamilton correspondent for the kindly reference he made to the mutes of this city in the last issue of the *Canadian Mute*. Though the mutes in Hamilton may not be all that your correspondent would wish, we are sure he is doing a noble work among them and we hope he will not get discouraged.

Mr. Bridgen preached a very impressive sermon last Sunday on the text "The wages of sin is Death." There were about forty deaf mutes present and all listened very attentively.

Miss Annie Fraser and Mr. Nesmith are on the Moody Committee. They are kept very busy these few days.

Mr. D. Hanbly was in the city lately with a load of apples. He reported good prices.