

HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

Ontario Institution for the Deaf BELLEVILLE.

This booklet is compiled for the purpose of giving parents of pupils and other interested enquirers full information regarding the rules and regulations of the Institution, the courses of study, methods of instruction and all other matters that it would be of interest for them to know. Each person receiving a copy is requested to read it carefully and then to preserve it for future reference.

HISTORICAL.

The history of the education of the deaf is practically all comprised within the last two centuries. Previous to that time, and especially among the ancients, it was believed that the deaf were quite incapable of receiving instruction, and of exercising the rights and privileges of citizenship. They were in most cases outcasts from society and their condition was a lamentable and hopeless one. But since the beginning of the eighteenth century a wonderful change has been wrought. Great schools for the education of the deaf have been established in every civilized land, and it has been amply demonstrated that the average deaf child is the equal of the average hearing child in natural ability, and quite as capable of mental, moral and religious development. Among all the grand things that have been accomplished for humanity in the last two hundred years, there are none greater or more beneficent than the results that have been achieved in the education of the deaf. In 1755 the first schools for their education were opened in Dresden and in Paris by Samuel Heinicke and Abbe de l'Epee respectively. In 1760 Thomas Braidwood began teaching deaf children in Edinburgh. The first school for the deaf in American was established at Hartford in 1817 by Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet. In 1848 the first school in Canada was opened in Montreal under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Bishop there, and in 1856 a school was begun in Halifax by Mr. Hutton. The first school in Ontario was opened in Toronto in 1858 by J. B. Magann, and this was continued with varying fortunes in that city, and afterwards in Hamilton, till 1870, when it was replaced by the present Institution.