

highly gratifying. While, however, the drainage and trapping arrangements are in, as I believe, the best of order, the plan hitherto pursued in regard to the disposal of sewage has certainly been to say the least most unscientific, and while I do not believe it has been productive of any actually harmful results, I am glad to know that a scheme is viewed with departmental approval that will place the harmlessness of our sewage output beyond all doubt or question.

DISCIPLINE.

With the exception of the case already mentioned which resulted in the prompt exclusion of the offender, I had very little trouble or cause for anxiety in connection with discipline. It was gratifying to feel that, while, in some pupils, there was room for amendment, with one or two exceptions at most, all leaving at the end of the session would at the close of the vacation be received again with pleasure. Good discipline in any school, and especially in an institution for the blind, must be looked for chiefly in the quiet and continuous maintenance of order and authority, rather than in occasional exhibitions of firmness or demonstrations of severity. Nothing assures this better than the presence and oversight of a staff of well trained teachers conscientiously concerned for the welfare of their pupils, and that advantage the institution certainly enjoys at the present time.

THE KINDERGARTEN.

The adoption of the Kindergarten system for the younger pupils and the appointment of a teacher specially trained for this work, has now been fairly tried and I venture to say with unqualified success. To those who only looked at the Kindergarten superficially the idea of applying it to blind teaching seemed no doubt almost an absurdity. But not so to any who understood the close relationship that existed between Kindergarten instruction and the objective principle that should underlie all attempts at the proper training and education of blind youths. It is in its methods rather than in its principles that the Kindergarten is new to us. Our class of young Kindergarteners has, in the few months it has been under instruction, made excellent progress. Visitors experienced in the work of both blind and seeing Kindergartens have come to the same conclusion in this regard. Nor is it in class work alone the Kindergarten has been a helpful agency. How to manage and control the younger of our pupils, children sometimes not over six to seven years of age, and untrained, untaught youngsters of even a little longer growth, has been hitherto a difficult problem. And yet the tendency—and one too that is to be encouraged—has been, of late years, to increase the proportion of the very young to the whole pupil population. For the ordinary classes, the higher the scholastic acquirements the teacher possesses the better it is for the pupils. Our officers almost invariably hold a first class certificate or its equivalent representing a high degree of experience in their calling. This has brought them chiefly into contact with and fitted them for teaching pupils of ordinary school age and growth. The mind of the Kindergarten teacher, on the other hand, assimilates itself to the mental condition and wants of children of tender years, grasps their ideas, and learns to adapt itself to their needs and peculiarities. Hence there grows up between the Kindergarten teacher and her class a feeling of attachment which is a powerful instrument for good. In a disciplinary sense, not less than in its relation to physical development and mental culture, the Kindergarten may be in an institution for the blind an instrument of untold value.

IMPROVEMENTS.

No important work in the direction of additions or improvements has been accomplished during the past year. Some substantial repairs in the interior of the building will have to be provided for in the next year's appropriations. The provision during the late vacation of a "Watchman's Detector" recording as it does with undeviating accuracy the presence of the night watchman at given points and at stated hours, is a most valuable guarantee of vigilance and gives additional assurance of safety. On other points connected with protection against fire I have had the pleasure of presenting my views personally and by correspondence.