

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

The table of attendance, herewith submitted, shows that 28 blind persons have been under instruction during the year; 18 of whom were males, and 10 females; 3 of these have since graduated or left the school, and one has died; making the actual attendance December 1st, 1886, 24; 15 of whom are males and 9 females. Of these, 18 are from the Province of Nova Scotia, 5 from New Brunswick, and 1 from Prince Edward Island. No pupils have yet entered the school from the Province of Newfoundland, but I anticipate that at least one blind child from that colony will enter during the ensuing year.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
Pupils registered December 1st, 1885.....	14	10	24
Entered during the year.....	1	0	1
" adult workmen.....	3	0	3
Graduated, or remained at home	2	1	3
Died	1	0	1
Pupils registered December 1st, 1886.....	15	9	24

LITERARY DEPARTMENT.

Slowly but surely the educators of the blind are beginning to realize that too strict a conformity to the methods employed in teaching those blest with sight is a positive disadvantage in the training of blind youth. The complexity of the characters which make up our alphabet offer to the seeing child no difficulties, but if the more elaborate of these be printed in raised letters in a convenient size, they would present great difficulties to those dependent upon touch; and this is true in a less degree of all line characters. After thirteen years experience as an instructor of the blind, and after having given a most impartial trial to the several line and point systems now used by them, I am convinced that the ordinary line letter is unsuited to the sense of touch; and that although a small proportion of pupils may learn to read fluently from books printed in such characters, even these will, as age advances, find the reading of raised print tedious.