

III. *Gymnastic Classes*—The teaching here is excellent, and the pupils take great interest in the exercises, and are suitably benefited by them.

IV. *Grammar*—Class E. A pupil teacher in charge of 15 pupils. Several know the definitions and inflections well and can parse very easy words; others are deficient, but this is no fault of the teacher.

V. *Arithmetic*—Class E. Pupil in charge. The pupils in this class are quite young. Some of them will never be very apt in arithmetic; a few are exceedingly bright. They are in different stages of advancement, and were examined individually. Fair work has been done; some of the little ones performed operations in addition and subtraction very well. They have also been taught to count to quite high numbers, and understand the simple relations of numbers fairly well. In the examination of this class, wooden blocks were employed and the pupils showed much ingenuity in their use.

On the whole, classes are well taught and the Institution seems to be in a most satisfactory state. We have to thank the Principal and his staff for courtesies extended to us during the examination.

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

This was examined by Professor Aldons, of Hamilton. A copy of the report made by him is appended:—

In submitting my report on the examination of the various branches of the Musical Department, which I held in the Blind Institute in Brantford, on May 26 and 27th, I could at once remark on the *entente cordiale* that exists among the teachers, and between the teachers and their pupils; also, on the gratifying progress that is observable in those pupils who came under my notice last year, the advance in some cases being very remarkable."

It is unnecessary to make special mention about each of the classes. The piano classes under Mr. Day, Miss Callaghan, Miss Moore and Miss McNish; the organ pupils under Mr. Day; and the melodeon pupils under Miss McNish; the vocal tuition under the care of Mr. Howson; the violin class under Mr. Baker; the counterpoint class under Mr. Day; and the harmony classes under Mr. Day and Miss Moore; the point class under Miss Moore; and the tuning under Mr. Raymond. In all classes the same careful teaching and kindly attention are to be found that I commented on before. Classes under the care of pupil teachers are a new introduction since last year, which must be reported. It is of course a necessity that those who are going to practice teaching for a livelihood should have some opportunity of beginning to teach, and of getting some experience in that line. In my opinion this should be done under the supervision and in the presence of one of the regular teachers, otherwise many little, but very essential points, are likely, if not certain, to escape the notice of the pupil teacher, who has defective vision and who has not yet found out the way of detecting faults which are at once apparent to a pair of good eyes, such as faulty finger position and action, absence of the clinging touch which is necessary to true legato-playing, which absence seems to be a peculiarity of blind students in their beginning stages. In view of this latter fact I would urge on those who take the pupil at the very beginning of their music studies, to carefully and rigidly insist first on the correct binding of the tones together, which is so essential an element in sympathetic playing. The fact that the blind have to trust to their touch instead of their eyes to find their notes, seems to induce a habit of holding their arms suspended over the keys and allowing the fingers to touch the notes in a light and jerky manner, a habit which can easily be stopped at the outset, but is well nigh ineradicable when once well rooted. The hearty chorus and hymn singing which forms a part of their daily worship, and which is under the care of Miss Callaghan and Mr. Day, is a very pleasant and noticeable feature, and cannot fail to have a very beneficial effect on all those who participate in it. I would again suggest to their attention, the advisability of remodelling the arrangements with regard to the pianos. A new Mason & Risch upright, and a J. R.

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