



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 typesetting, 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. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postage stamps, or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us, that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires, unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted if we know it.

ADVERTISING

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions to
THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE,
ONTARIO



SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1895.

The Convention at Flint.

Instructors of the deaf in Canada and the States are looking forward with pleasurable anticipation to the Convention to be held at Flint, Mich., beginning on July 2nd. The Executive Committee has worked most energetically in order to provide an attractive programme which will be harmoniously consistent with methods of instruction approved by the Association, and yet sufficiently varied and comprehensive to be of interest and value to those engaged in all branches of management and instruction. As regards the physical comfort and enjoyment of the members, nothing desirable has been overlooked, and Superintendent Clarke can be depended upon to give a hearty welcome to all comers.

The programme will include several features which will doubtless prove of much value and interest. Among these will be a Normal Department, which will be conducted by Mr. Walker, Superintendent of the Illinois Institution, which fact will ensure its success. Mr. Walker has entered upon his task in the proper spirit and asks all teachers to make suggestions as to subjects to be discussed and methods and principles to be exemplified. Such a class as this, properly conducted, should be of very great value to all teachers of the deaf.

The Committee having charge of the oral section of the Convention propose to make as good practical use of the time at their disposal as possible. They ask that the various Institutions send each a teacher and a class of at least five pupils to exemplify the methods of instruction, an invitation Superintendent Clarke no doubt hopes will not be accepted by all the schools. If we may venture a criticism we think this Committee are

attempting to do too much. Only about five hours have been allotted them, and during this time they propose to have addresses by Dr. Bell and Prof. Goolson and to discuss, and exemplify with classes from each school in America, some twelve branches of oral work. Much better results would be obtained if only three or four subjects were exemplified by expert instructors followed by full and free discussion. Miss Caroline A. Yale, of Northampton, Mass., is chairman of this section.

Another feature of the Convention will be an exhibit of text books and school aids of all kinds. Such an exhibit cannot fail to be exceedingly valuable if all the schools and institutions respond to the request to contribute samples of all text books and school room devices. The exhibits will be properly classified according to subjects and grades and a study of these by teachers will give them a practical insight into the methods pursued by the best instructors of the deaf. Mr. J. L. Smith, of Fairbault, Minn., has charge of this department.

The last feature of special interest, and somewhat on the same line as the above, is the proposed industrial exhibit. Each institution in America is asked to send specimens of pupils' work in every industrial employment. In connection therewith, we understand, to be a conference of industrial instructors. In view of the present tendency this should be one of the most important features of the Convention. Instructors of the deaf are learning every year to more highly appreciate the importance of giving deaf-mutes an industrial training. An acquaintance with the English language and the various branches of knowledge taught in regular class work is of course important and necessary, but this alone will not enable our pupils to earn a livelihood, and this after all is the chief end that should be held in view. It would be well if every pupil in our institutions were taught some useful trade, and the efforts of the Convention to encourage our industrial departments is worthy of commendation, and it is to be hoped the trades' instructors will be present in large numbers and ensure its abundant success. This exhibit and conference will be under the charge of Mr. John W. Switzer, of Wisconsin.

During the Convention there will also be a meeting of the Union of Kindergartners for the Deaf, under the charge of President Z. F. Westervelt, of Rochester. The secretary, Miss Alice F. Hudson, of Chicago, asks all schools to give a report of their kindergarten work, if they have such a department, and to make an exhibit of kindergarten work at the Convention.

Manual Alphabet in School Books.

A bill has been introduced into the Arkansas Legislature the object of which is to compel the incorporation of the manual alphabet in the spelling books and readers used in the public schools. We hope the bill will be adopted and the good example thus set be generally followed. When with very little trouble and practically no additional expense so great a boon can be conferred on the deaf, it is a pity that it is not done. If all public school pupils were taught the manual alphabet the deaf would not so keenly feel their isolation and would be in effect restored to society, from which in all the past they have been cut off. And apart from this the pleasure and utility of an acquaintance with the manual alphabet would well compensate every hearing person for the trouble of acquiring a fair dexterity in its use.

Our Portrait Gallery.

In this issue we present our readers with portraits of the officers, teachers and instructors of the Institution. The pictures, in nearly all cases are very good ones, and we suggest that the parents of the pupils keep this issue for future reference. Speaking of the staff generally we think we can modestly claim that it will vie in good looks and all other good qualities with that of any other school or institution on the continent. During the school year just closing earnest, faithful and successful work has been done by every member of the staff; and of each one we can say that he or she has been dominated by the single desire to contribute to the greatest possible extent to the mental, moral and physical welfare of the children placed under his or her charge.

A Concession.

Dr. Bell after all has to admit that the oral system is not of universal application. During a recent visit to the Texas school he said:

All children on entering school, should be placed under a competent oral teacher and given a thorough trial to ascertain whether or not they can be taught by that method. More can be taught in that way than is supposed. If a deaf child is instructed that they cannot learn orally then well, use the manual alphabet.

This is considerable of a concession on the Doctor's part and having gone so far no doubt he will still further modify his views. A practical test of the two methods made with equal numbers of pupils selected at random in any deaf mute school would very soon settle the controversy.

The Belleville Sun in a recent issue, referred to this Institution as an "Asylum." Doubtless this was a mere inadvertence. If not we beg to assure the Sun that this is simply and purely a public school for the deaf, performing the same functions as the other public schools do for the hearing. The ladies and gentlemen employed in the class-rooms here are not "keepers" but teachers, and the pupils are intelligent, bright, active, courteous boys and girls, in the full possession of all their mental faculties, and capable of holding their own with hearing people in every sphere of life from playing football to calculating the volumes of comic sections, and not a few of them, with a few years' training, could even edit a news paper with average success.

The last issue of the Wisconsin Journal of Education contains an interesting article by Mr. Warren Robinson, on "The Education of the Deaf in America." The writer appears to be fully acquainted with the object, character and aims of schools for the deaf and the methods of instruction employed, as well as the characteristics and capabilities of the deaf. Altogether the article is one of the best we have yet seen for the general public, conveying just the information needed without exaggeration or fulsome effusions of unwished for and distasteful sympathy.

He was a buyer in a large wholesale house, and he was in love. One night he snatched a kiss. "Ah!" he exclaimed, "I am so well pleased with this sample that I should like to negotiate for all you have." He was accepted on the spot.

F. O. Jefferson is in Clinton, Iowa. He was bound for Morrison, but the heavy rains washed out the Northwestern railroad tracks and a telegram stopped it at Sterling, and saved the train. A permit was given to it to go on the Burlington railway tracks and the train went to Clinton, Iowa, without stopping and Mr. Jefferson was glad to get out as there was a Grand Army encampment there. He has been hunting for pearls and found 300 little ones of all colors, and also found some Indian stone arrows and axes, and some carnelian and ice crystal stones.—*Exponent.*

FOR THE CANADIAN MUTE

Talks with Girls.

BY EDITH CHARLTON, ST. LOUIS, MO.

TALK 2. *A Girl's Work.*—No doubt of you have taken many a quiet walk through some cemetery and read the epitaphs inscribed on the monuments of the sleeping ones. Perhaps you have thought whether such an inscription could be written over your grave. Possibly you may have questioned in your mind whether the glowing inscription inscribed there, was really merited. Then let me remind you of a truly sincere tribute that was once paid to a poor woman by One who never spoke an untruth. Christ said of Mary when she anointed Him with ointment, "she had done what she could," and don't you think, girls, such simple, sincere praise from Him would be sweeter far than the grandest epitaph ever written? Then let us strive in all our work, be it great or small, to win that same commendation, for we know that He is watching the feeblest efforts yet, just as when the poor outcast anointed Him.

I know a great many girls think they can do so very little, that their work will count for nothing; but will you try to bear these three things in mind and try by them, have a purpose in life, make that purpose great and be thoroughly earnest in your work. Many of us must be content to do the little things; we are not all fitted to fill high places or do great deeds, but don't forget that the little things are necessary to do. Is not the tiny blade of grass just as useful in beautifying the world as the mighty oak and the sparkling stream as the mighty ocean? We may not be great like the oak or ocean but like the blade of grass and the silvery stream we have a mission to fulfill, a special mission left entirely to our charge. Are we going to neglect or pass over as of no account this work entrusted to our care simply because we cannot do some great deed? There is no room for drones in the world's busy hive, there were never intended to be any so find out your work, for be very sure there is one for you, even if it is nothing greater than letting the sun shine of a happy, contented life as brightly on some other life.

But while our duties are among the little things we ought to be careful that we do not think we will have plenty of time for our work and so loiter over our tasks. Make each day show a finished record, have something to show for the hours that have passed for the day may come when we may be wanted in another place and we should not leave our first duty unfinished.

Then make your work great. Perhaps it is nothing more than setting the stitches straight in a plain garment, the daily round of household duties, or perhaps dropping a kind word here and there; but whatever it is look upon it as worthy your utmost efforts.

"The trivial round, the common task, too often appears to many of us as a little moment and so we let our work go undone or else thoughtlessly do it, and the "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" does not seem to apply to our simple daily duties.

But, girls, making a room tidy, setting the table or washing the dishes may be our "Whatsoever" and if so, the command is also ours "do it with thy might." For this reason we should be very careful in the discharge of our trust and perform it faithfully.

The time is past, if there ever was such a time, when a woman's life was considered aimless; there is something for each one of us to do, not one of us has been overlooked. There is a page in life's story for us to fill, perhaps only with loving deeds and tender words but oh, let us not allow that page to be turned over without the trace of our pen upon it. Though our place may be among the lowly still we ought to aim high. Strive to reach a higher footing at all times even if you must remain far below your mark.

"Greatly begin, if thou have time for just one line, make it sublime. Not failure, but low aim is crime."

What a comfort is this, for though we may never reach the height to which we aimed, still we know that failure is not counted against us and even our little if well and faithfully performed, to merit the sweet reward "She hath done what she could."