

Blind and with the sanction of the department I had the pleasure of extending to the association a cordial invitation to hold the next meeting (1892) at Brantford, which proposal was unanimously and heartily accepted.

The discussions of the convention all took a very practical turn. In connection with one on the amusements and physical development of the blind, a strongly worded resolution insisting on the necessity of systematic physical training such as a gymnasium alone can afford and already referred to under another head, was adopted.

Dancing as a recreation and as affording opportunities for social intercourse has been introduced into one or two institutions and found its advocates, but the weight of opinion in the convention was clearly against allowing any other association between male and female pupils than in the class-rooms.

#### THE WORKROOM AND KNITTING CLASSES.

The classes in female industrial work were well kept up during the past session and are again of full strength and busily occupied. The progress of some pupils last year in these branches was particularly noteworthy.

#### THE KINDERGARTEN.

The Kindergarten class has now become an all but universal institution in schools for the blind on this continent. In our own case it has been an unqualified success, and the progress made, even by very young children, under this method of instruction, has been most extraordinary. Several young Kindergarteners have already been promoted to the regular classes, and show most plainly, in competition with others, how admirable has been their earlier Kindergarten training.

#### IMPROVEMENTS.

While we have, from an unfailing spring, enjoyed at all times a most abundant supply of the purest water for domestic use, and are well furnished with the means of combatting internally an incipient fire, our external fire appliances have never been equal to grave emergencies. The City of Brantford, now possesses, however, an admirable system of water works, and has also a well drilled and most efficient salaried fire brigade. By an arrangement with the city authorities, we shall, in the near future, be protected by a six inch main with four hydrants, each furnishing, if required, two streams of water, and completely commanding the whole of the buildings. The services of the city brigade will also be at our disposal on call. Judging by personal observation in other cases, I should expect to see the force, whose headquarters is over a mile distant, on the ground and ready for action within ten minutes after giving the fire alarm signal. While sincerely hoping their services may never be called into requisition, it is most reassuring to know that such facilities will for a comparatively small outlay be so immediately at command.

The next local improvement in progress in Brantford is a complete system of sewerage, and I trust it may be found practicable for us to solve, once for all, the long standing difficulty in this respect, by connecting our drains with the city sewers.

#### THE GYMNASIUM.

In connection with the question of health, I have alluded to the subject of systematic physical training, and have also noticed the attitude of the late convention in relation to the same subjects. Knowing what I do of the necessity for a gymnasium, and what every person competent by actual experience thinks about it, I may be excused for once more repeating what appeared in my last report as urgent reasons for an appropriation for this object, and which were as follows:—

1. That blind youths have no means of cultivating physical development effectually unless special apparatus is provided for them.

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