

method. It has been noticed that some pupils who had followed the oral method and who after a more or less lengthy interruption of their studies had come again to the institution, had a more spontaneous although less distinct speech, and had enlarged the range of their knowledge; this had never been observed here in so high a degree with the students of the Manual Method.

As an improvement to the oral method and to draw the students still nearer to society, the education of the sense of hearing has been added to that method; the Institution has two "Verrier Audigenous" and various ear-trumpets: with or without these instruments, according to cases, every day in several classes, exercises of hearing are given to students susceptible of them: these students actually number 37, 20 of whom have obtained valuable results, which may also be expected for the others. (See Statistics).

20 MANUAL METHOD; combined method.

The intuitive Manual or Dactylological Method makes use of the manual alphabet and of writing, to the effect of connecting ideas with the graphic figures; and to more surely reach this end the method is applied in the Institution with the exclusion of mimic signs.

The Manual Method which at first, owing to the insufficient number of Oral teachers, had to be followed even by students who might have taken advantage of the oral method, is now and henceforth resorted to only for those pupils who, either on account of advanced age or debility, or other causes, — cannot afford to stay long enough to learn speech, or to those pupils whose vocal organs are so affected as to forbid them the exercises of articulations; thus out of the 27 beginners of this year 3 only follow the Manual Method.

With the Manual Method can be connected the Combined Method, which to the former adds the use of speech in teaching. This method—up to 1879, when the pure oral method was introduced—had been followed by a good many pupils who acquired through it a sufficient practice of speech to be able to enjoy it afterwards in their social relations. But now, it is exclusively applied to the students of the English language, and it proves as satisfactory as before.