

before being used, is soaked for many hours in water, in order that it may be made more pliable, and that it is manipulated by the workmen while in a wet state; again, as no fire was kept burning in the workshop during the night, the dyes used in staining the baskets were destroyed by the action of the frost, while the Willow, which had been left to soak, was injured by the same agency; in fact after a night of severe frost, several hours of the succeeding day were lost before work could be resumed. These reasons, added to that of greater security against fire, were sufficient to warrant the action of your Board in providing a safer and more effective method of heating the adjoining building, than had hitherto been employed. The workshops are now warmed with hot water, supplied from a small upright boiler, placed in the gymnasium, upon the ground floor of the outer building. We may safely conclude from the reputation of the gentlemen who executed the contract for this work, and from the satisfaction we have experienced from the heating apparatus in our main building, supplied by the same company, that the new means of heating our workshops will fully serve the purposes for which it is intended. The workshop is now comfortably warmed—a direct supply of cold water from the street main has been introduced—each pupil has been provided with a full set of excellent tools—a large quantity of suitable Willow has been purchased—the services of a competent instructor have been secured—and in short everything has been done that experience and forethought could suggest to make the enterprise a complete success. We anxiously look forward to the results, feeling confident that they will demonstrate the wisdom of the outlay upon this department, and prove that our efforts to secure the introduction of this trade were prompted by a desire to serve the best interests of the Blind, in enabling a larger proportion of our pupils to become self-supporting.

GIRLS WORK DEPARTMENT.

As each year passes by we endeavour to increase the efficiency of the various departments in the school, in order that our Institution may not be a whit behind its more populous and wealthy sister establishments; at least, in so far as the practical results of the work are concerned. Realizing then that our girls work department was scarcely up to the proper standard of efficiency, and feeling that our lady teacher required a further knowledge of the means of instruction employed in similar institutions abroad, it was decided to allow Miss McKenzie to visit one of the American schools, in order that she might obtain a more comprehensive idea of the methods of instruction adopted in the same, and also that she might ascertain the classes of work in which instruction is given. Accordingly, Miss McKenzie was sent to the Boston Institution, in which special attention is given to machine knitting, sewing, etc. We desire to express our sincere