



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 type-setting, 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, postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postal notes, 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



MONDAY, MAY 15, 1899

A New Aid (?) to Hearing.

People who are closely associated with the deaf, and who are conversant with all the efforts that have been made for ameliorating their condition, are always inclined to receive with a great deal more than the proverbial grain of salt all reports and descriptions of mechanical devices for enabling the deaf to hear. Scores of such inventions have been announced in the past, and hundreds of columns of more or less valuable newspaper space been devoted to glowing accounts of the wonders that have been achieved thereby, but every one of them has proven to be valueless. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that news of any new invention of this character is greeted with a skeptical smile. However, past failures do not limit future possibilities, and it may be that some kind of an appliance will yet be devised which may be of benefit to some of the deaf. The latest invention, announced only a few days ago, is called the akoulallion, and was devised by a young electrician of Mobile named Hutchinson. The akoulallion is thus described:

The instrument is very simple and consists of an audiphone and transmitter. At the test they were run by a battery of ten cells. The instruments used at the test consisted of two audiphones, bound together by a spring, one fitting over each ear, in the order of the appliance used in telegraph exchanges. The transmitter is something like the transmitter of an ordinary telephone, though not nearly so large and cumbersome, and shaped somewhat like a small egg cup.

For purposes of instruction in institutions for the deaf and dumb there is a brass plate to which is attached a transmitter, so arranged that it can be used for the mute to speak into, or for him to turn and catch sounds. In other words, the transmitter is connected with the audiphone, so that the mute can hear his own voice as well as that of his teacher, through the transmitter used by the teacher. In this brass plate there are two switches, one of which cuts off each individual pupil from all other pupils, and the other is a control of the intensity of the wave sound, through the audiphone, in order to accommodate the intensity to the different degrees of sensitiveness found to exist in the ears of different mutes.

By means of the switch in the brass plate any number of pupils can be connected together and taught by one teacher through the

instrument, and the teacher can be heard by all at the same time.

According to newspaper reports this instrument was tested at the Alabama Institution for the deaf on over one hundred pupils, with not a single failure. Some of the pupils could hear even whispers that were inaudible to hearing people, and were able to repeat the whole alphabet, and even several words, after Mr. Hutchinson. All of this makes very interesting reading, but we fear it is too good to be true. The effect of the descriptions is very much weakened by the excessive claims made. Had we been told that some of the deaf could hear with the aid of the akoulallion we might have believed it possible, when we are asked to believe that all could hear to great a demand is made on our credulity. There is too much of a patent medicine cure all flavor about the story. And then when it is gravely asserted the deaf children who never had heard a sound, were able to distinguish and repeat off hand the whole alphabet and various words, then we must be excused to express complete skepticism. Were a deaf child to have its hearing suddenly and completely restored, it would be many days before it would be able to discriminate between various sounds and to reproduce the same sounds vocally. Long and practice are necessary to enable us to control and use any of our organs, yet we are gravely assured that this instrument will enable the deaf to do that which is beyond the power of the perfect human ear. We hope the akoulallion will accomplish all that is claimed for it, but at present we must confess that our faith is very, very weak.

In addition to the new device for enabling the deaf to hear referred to above, recent despatches describe a new sort of a medical discovery by Dr. Stapler, of Marion, whereby it is claimed that all deaf mutes can have their hearing and speech restored, and it is further averred that the Georgia State Medical Society has endorsed the new discovery. Of course, in view of the fact that in many of the deaf the sound producing and transmitting organs have been entirely destroyed, such a claim as is made by Dr. Stapler is too absurd for serious discussion. That some cases of deafness are amenable to medical treatment is quite obvious, but it is equally true that the vast majority of such cases are beyond the power of human skill to remedy. Yet doubtless in the future as in the past we will be regaled at frequent intervals with thrilling accounts of new discoveries and inventions similar to those recorded above. It would seem that the deaf are favorite subjects for exploitation by quacks and tricksters.

When, some two years ago, it was announced that Superintendent Gillespie of the Nebraska Institution had been dismissed owing to misappropriation of the funds, the news was received with surprise and regret, and, on the part of many of his friends with incredulity. Recently the State Legislature appointed a committee to investigate the affairs of the Institution during the incumbency of Mr. Gillespie, and the report, which was recently presented, not only completely exonerates him from every charge made against him, but also finds that the state actually owes him the sum of \$1122, that being the excess of his disbursements over his total receipts. The report also pays a very high tribute to the value of the work Mr. Gillespie has done on behalf of the deaf as teacher and superintendent. Mr. Gillespie's friends and their name is legion, will be delighted to hear that their faith in his integrity

has not been misplaced, and that his character now stands before the world without a stain, and with the added lustre of a detailed official appreciation of his worth and work such as it is the lot of few men to receive.

The second Canadian Conference of Charities and Correction will be held in the Normal School Building of Toronto on the 1st and 2nd. The object of the gathering is simply to bring the various charitable and prison reform workers together for interchange of thought and experience. Membership in this Conference is open to all who are interested in this work. The meeting last year, though the first held, was a very interesting and helpful one, and no doubt much good will be accomplished by these annual discussions as to the best methods of carrying on the various kinds of charitable and corrective work in this Province.

The Institution for the Deaf at Halifax has begun the publication of a little paper called *The Institution News*. It is composed entirely of letters and compositions written by the pupils, many of which are very creditable to their authors. *The Institution News* is the baby of institution papers, as regards both age and size, but no doubt it will grow and in due time develop into a full fledged newspaper. It has our best wishes for success.

A Guild of Silent Workers.

The Brooklyn Guild of Silent Workers was organized January 7th, 1894. Its object is to help the sick and needy deaf mutes in Brooklyn. The Guild meets the first Thursday of each month, except July and August, at 10 o'clock in the evening in St. Mark's Church on Adolph Street, Brooklyn. The officers for the year 1899 are: Archie J. McLaren, President; Chas. J. Sanford, Vice President; W. G. Gilbert, Secretary; Henry L. Jahring, Treasurer; Leo Gries, Executive Committee; Solomon Schloss, Chairman of Committee on visiting; Robert Rusk, Finance Committee. Sign service for deaf mutes is held every Sunday at 3 P. M. in St. Mark's Church, Adolph Street, near DeKalb Ave., Brooklyn, except August. All are welcome. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, Wm. G. Gilbert, 913 Douglass St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

Lip Reading.

It is marvelous to see the perfection which some people who have become deaf in middle life attain in lip reading. It is something that can be learned by oneself after the first few lessons. A hand glass is all that is necessary for the regular study and every person not furnished practice. Like all study, it requires perseverance to become an adept, but the reward is so great in this case that it is worth working for, even if one is not deaf. Soon we may appreciate the advantages of being able to speak to a person silently and from a distance and to receive what is said to us without depending on the easily confused ear. Soon lip reading may become a fad, and any one who wishes to be accomplished in this way while it is a rarity would better being at once. Parents with children of defective hearing are almost inexorable if they neglect having such children taught lip reading while it is easily learned. *Newport News*.

Supt. Argo, of the Colorado Institution says in a recent editorial that a hearing and seeing child may lose a day now and then or a week or even a month and yet keep up with his class since he has a perfect command of language, can read for himself and is constantly adding to his general information by his contact with others with whom he can communicate freely, but the deaf child, on the other hand, masters language by slow steps, word phrase and clause at a time each requiring careful explanation and elaboration by an expert followed by frequent repetitions and drill. *New Era*.

For The Canadian Mute

A May Morning

Fairy between the green and blue
The daily battle now takes place
Over a system skies he waxes
While slow she retreats with grace.

And as the vector onward
To show his triumph to the
The bird his advent ball with
The birds have all their part.

The pear tree stretches its boughs
Its sleepy blossoms rub their
And every lovely child of joy
Gratefully looks towards the

And every man's life to be
For every one there is a
But when the dawn at length
It brings to each long hour.

M.S.

Manners at Home

I have heard that some people who are polite manners and say nothing, was merely affected. They prided themselves on being so boorish and defying the laws of a good society. This is not true, and it is not just to oneself and others. When a young man sits and stands aside for a lady to pass, it is the outward sign of the respect which good men feel for the hearts for pure womanhood. At the time one does it from the heart, it deepens his love for his own sisters, and makes the woman honored feel a deeper desire to be worthy of the homage done her.

Then, if real politeness springs from the heart, there is none to whom we owe a larger share than the members of our own home. You may say, "Well, they know I love them and they will use to trouble myself about the things." That is true, they know you love them, but for that they are courteous go a long way to make the wheels of the household run smoothly. Let the boys and girls begin to remember the little courtesies of life to one another, and you will be surprised to see how soon dirt, grime, and bickering and strife will vanish; each will be able to remember the rights of others, and the daily friction and fret which makes so many homes unhappy will be gone more.

When the family gathers around the breakfast table, it costs nothing to greet one another with "Good morning." You would say it to the varnish stanger that came into your midst, and it is good for him, why may it not be good for those who are to separate in a moment and go out to work for one another? And sometime one may go off to work and come back. When mother comes into the sitting room, why not get up and give her the easy chair and wait for her to say, "hostatingly, 'Well, you let me sit there a little while. Mother is so tired!" When father comes home from the office or from his daily work, why not have the paper ready for him with a comfortable chair by the study lamp and not enjoy it yourself until asked to surrender them?

Sometimes I have heard a mother relating some incidents to a friend, and one of the children interrupt and correct her statements. Mother has told you that it is rude to interrupt other people and it sounds even ruder to the person who hears you interrupt your mother.

Did you ever see boys and girls show things from one another? I hope not, but I am afraid you have. Suppose the next time, you want anything from your brother or sister has, you politely ask them to please let you have it, and there is anything among your possessions which you think they would especially like to have, offer to let them have it. Just try it once, and see if the result is not pleasant enough to tempt you to try it again.

When your boys call at the house of a stranger, you carefully clean your shoes on the door mat, leave your hat in the hall, and walk quietly about the house. Now, isn't your mother's house your own home? Just as worthy of consideration. Does not your mother like clean carpets just as well as anyone, and would you storm through the room occupied by your mother and sister in noise less disagreeable to them than other ladies? - *Elizabeth D. Fiedler, Youth's Advocate.*

DEAD.

NEWS - Suddenly at Blackstock, on April 10th, 1899, Mr. Francis W. Spinks, in the forty-first year of his age. He was an ex-pupil of the Belleville Institution and his demise is deeply regretted by many friends.