

TUNING DEPARTMENT.

This department has been placed under the management of Mr. D. M. Reid, a former graduate of the Institution. Mr. Reid has had six years of practical experience as a pianoforte tuner in Charlottetown, P. E. I. He is familiar with the mechanism of all kinds of pianos now in use. His testimonials from those for whom he has done work are of the most satisfactory character and his abilities as an instructor are unquestioned. Six young men are now being trained as pianoforte tuners under his direction. I shall ask your Board at an early day to purchase for this department a set of models illustrative of the piano actions used by different makers. All persons desiring to have their pianofortes tuned and put in order are requested to leave their orders at this Institution.

WORK DEPARTMENT.

Recognizing the importance of this department, I have for many years carefully studied and examined into those trades best adapted for the blind. In Norwegian Institutions the males are taught the trade of boot and shoe-making; in the German, Holland and Belgium schools the manufacture of rope is the chief industry; while in France, netting and wood-turning are the principal handicrafts in which instruction is given. In the British Institutions willow-work, mattress and brush-making are taught successfully, and the American schools, in addition to several of the trades already named, broom-making, carpet-weaving and chair-seating are carried on. The selection of suitable trades depends largely upon the country, or section of the country, in which the Institution is located; and, bearing this in mind, it will be found that the manufacture of willow-work is better adapted than any of the other trades named, to those among the blind who intend making their homes in the Maritime Provinces. The material for willow-work can be grown in the Provinces; the ware meets with ready sale, and machinery cannot be employed in its production; these are the reasons which have induced us to introduce the trade into this school, and each year we become more convinced that the expenditure will prove advantageous to the industrial blind. The Work Department under the efficient management of A. D. Baird is doing well. Mr. W. Nodwell, who has been giving instruction in willow-work, will shortly sever his connection with the Institution, when Mr. Baird will take sole charge of our workshops.

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