

from friends and acquaintances who speak to it or in its presence, is in the case of the deaf mute completely lost.

His lessons in English generally date from his entrance into the school room, but if parents would devote themselves to the development of their child's dormant powers, much might be done to pave the way for a trained instructor.

While a deaf mute is cut off from all sounds, his sense of sight is continually utilized and he becomes a keen observer of all that is passing around him. He soon learns to distinguish the prominent characteristics of things and eventually creates a language to make his wants known. The actions and gestures spontaneously called forth by his natural desire to give expression to the feelings by which he is animated, afford a basis of communication on which his after education is built.

The natural aptitude of the deaf mute to express things by representing characteristics is also taken advantage of by his teacher to develop his intelligence. From rude and primitive signs a system is evoked by which even abstract ideas may be conveyed to his mind almost as readily and plainly as words can convey them to our own.

The common wants or conditions of the body as thirst, hunger, pain, lassitude, etc., are expressed as follows: When thirsty the child touches his throat, and intimates the action of drinking; when hungry he points to his mouth and pretends to put something in it. If he has the headache, earache or a pain anywhere, he puts his hand to the spot and shows in his countenance a feeling of distress. If tired or sleepy he allows his muscles to relax and puts his hand on the side of his head as if to lay it down. Heat and cold are represented in the one case by drawing the hand across the forehead to wipe off the perspiration, and in the other by putting the hands together and shivering. The movements and appearance of certain animals suggest the signs used in designating them. An elephant is indicated by making a sign for its trunk; a cow, by its horns and going through the process of milking; a fly, by pretending to catch it with the palm open; a tiger, by the lines on its skin and showing its carnivorous nature by biting the left hand; a fish, by showing its action in the water; a dog, by patting the right thigh and pretending to whistle for it; a cat, by its whiskers and stroking the back of the left hand; a pig, by touching the right side of the nose to indi-