

SEWING AND KNITTING.

These classes have long maintained a high state of efficiency under their respective teachers, and knitting affords an attractive employment to a large number of the female pupils in other than school hours. The knowledge obtained of the sewing machine and its various attachments, with all of which the girls become familiar, makes the help of the blind daughter invaluable in the domestic circle.

THE COOKING CLASS.

This class was conducted with much spirit and interest during the past session. The progress and attainments of the pupils are mentioned in a very complimentary sense by the Literary Examiners who witnessed the class in practical operation. Without structural alterations or additions, it is not possible to do full justice to our efforts in this direction. But the best use possible is made of the space and means at our disposal. The retirement of Mrs. Murray, the teacher of the class, who was also directress of the Kindergarten, has been followed by the appointment of Miss Winnifred Messmore to the vacancy thus created, and the credentials that lady brings with her give me the highest confidence in her qualifications.

HEALTH.—DISCIPLINE.

I have already referred to the appearance of diphtheria at the commencement of the past session and the means adopted to meet it. Since that time the general health of the institution has given no cause for anxiety. The pupils who have returned, subsequent to the late vacation, have presented a very healthy appearance. One case of sickness, ending, I deeply regret to say fatally, has, however, to be recorded. Early in the past session one of our senior male pupils showed symptoms of constitutional delicacy. Walter O. Prittie was a young man of much promise, and greatly esteemed both by his fellow pupils and his officers. He had made excellent progress in the musical department, and was prepared to graduate from the piano-tuning class. The disease, which proved to be of a tubercular nature, did not yield to treatment, and on the 3rd of April he peacefully passed away.

I may also record here the death of George Henry Kerr (non-resident), and for many years a faithful servant of the Institution as teamster. He had been frequently incapacitated for work by the disease which ultimately proved fatal, but this was cheerfully met in the hope that the disorder might be overcome and a worthy man spared to his family and employers. The former have had the warm sympathy of all who knew him here.

Discipline has been well maintained during the year. The conduct of the pupils generally has left little to be desired. Youthful minds will sometimes betray a too sportive tendency, and erratic youths have to be taught that the way of the transgressors is hard, or at least can be made uncomfortable, but, as a rule, the penalties of misconduct can be administered with a light hand, and it is hoped are always based on reasonable principles.

FARMS.—GROUNDS, ETC.

The protracted drought during the past summer, covering a large district in the south-western counties of Ontario, has affected our farm productiveness very seriously. For three months, just in the growing time, the rainfall was limited to three or four showers falling with long intervals between. During this period there was little or no development and, when a change came, it was too late to produce decided results. It will follow, I fear as a consequence, that our stock of potatoes will run short and have to be supplemented by purchases outside. Last year we had quite a large quantity to sell. How far our root crop will meet the demand has yet to be ascertained.

The grounds have increased in value from year to year, although, for the last few years, the additions made have been very trifling. I regret that we have no person specially appointed to keep the ornamental part of the estate in better order. The farm