

MUSICAL DEPARTMENT.

R. CHRISTIE, ESQ.,

SIR,—I beg to submit my report of the musical examination held by me in the Brantford Blind Institute, on Thursday and Friday, May 22nd and 23rd.

The results in marks of my examination having been handed to the Principal, there remains little to do but to comment generally on the work being done. Almost all the pupils that came under my notice were familiar to me from previous acquaintance, and I may say that in every case good progress had been made. The senior pupils show an amount of intelligent appreciation and thorough grasp of their subject that speaks volumes for their training. It has always struck me that the teachers of the blind must have special qualifications for their work, and keen sympathy with their pupils, and these seem to be special features of the Brantford staff.

I would recommend that the teaching library of the Institute be enlarged by the selection of a good deal of new music suitable for teaching purposes. To teach the same music so often, to so many different pupils, is wearisome to the pupils, and excessively so to the teachers. I should like particularly to see carried out Mr. Williams' idea to have several courses or selections of organ music of graduated difficulty, so as to avoid the continual repetition, and to increase the range of knowledge of organ music which each pupil can obtain from hearing the others play.

While being extremely gratified with the advance of the piano pupils, I was more struck with improvement of those who are giving attention to the pipe organ. Their playing is much steadier, and in some cases, distinctly artistic.

Since Mrs. Howson's resignation the vocal class has been under Miss Callaghan's care; and considering the little time she has had them, the work done was excellent. The advanced class, consisting solely of young ladies, did some delightful part singing, as well as unison singing, of some songs, all sung with excellent taste, good tone and time. The entire vocal class sang the bridal chorus from Gaul's "Ruth," with accompaniment of organ and two pianos, and the effect was extremely fine. They also sang a few other part songs with excellent effect.

The violin class, under the guidance of Mr. Baker, of Galt, seemed to me rather smaller than before; but all are advancing well, one especially showing great taste and an excellent tone.

The counterpoint and harmony students did some very good exercises for me, some of them being not only good exercises but good music as well.

Several students who are preparing themselves to earn a living by tuning, are doing very well. Of the excellence of their work I made practical test last year by having one of their ex-pupils tune some pianos in my house, and his work I found highly satisfactory.

While listening to the hearty singing at the morning devotional exercises, I was struck by some young men's voices that I thought ought to be in the vocal class. It is curious that the male pupils cannot be got to take as much interest in that class as the girls. There are some voices that would develop wonderfully with the careful training they would get in the class.

I examined the pianos throughout the Institution and found them in fair condition considering it was just at the end of the year's work. A careful going over will put them in good shape for another season.

Let me, before closing, take this opportunity of thanking the Principal and the entire staff for their uniform kindness to me during my brief visit.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. P. ALDOUS, B.A.

ROBERT

Sir
educati
been a
spread
had no
eleven
from h
down
fied th
John
been t
About
ously
and o
scarle
There
proba
vente
compi
boys
made
to fif
Our
were
nitra
with
havi
taken
or to
this
obse
is th
and