

NOTICES OF THE PRESS.

(From the *Morning Chronicle*, March 24, 1876).

Halifax may well be proud of possessing among its various charitable institutions, establishments such as the Asylum for the Blind and the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, both of them aiming to relieve afflictions which, in former times, and in some countries even now, prevented their victim from taking part in the earnest work of life, and sharing the pleasures of occupation and progress. The Deaf and Dumb Institution stands on a par with the Blind Asylum, and each merits the best support of the public. It is difficult for persons in full possession of all their faculties to know which is most to be pitied—the child that never saw and can never see with his mortal eyes the glorious scenes of nature—or he who never can hear the sound of loved voices or the sweet strains of music, and cannot, either, speak to his fellows. Thanks to the labors of many good men, to the perseverance and industry of scientists who saw in these afflictions but new obstacles to be turned into triumphs, much has been done to ameliorate the condition of the blind and of the deaf and dumb. In reviewing the report of the Blind Asylum, we showed what had been and what is being done to enable the blind in our Province to get on in life. The report of the Deaf and Dumb Institution shows how much may be done for those who can neither hear nor speak.

It is, we believe, generally acknowledged that many, if not most deaf-mutes are mute because they are deaf; because, unable to hear sounds they are unable to attempt their reproduction. In London deaf-mutes have been taught to speak as distinctly as their more favored fellow-beings, and it is wonderful to listen to them, knowing all the time that they do not themselves hear what they are saying, and that they gather the purport of a reply by watching the motion of the speaker's lips. The system of "Visible Speech," invented by Professor Bell, of Edinburgh, some years since, has proved remarkably useful for the purpose of teaching deaf-mutes to speak. Mr. Hutton, Superintendent of the Institution here, has endeavored to carry on this branch of instruction along with others, during the past year, and strongly recommends that as soon as the finances of the Institution will allow of it "the services of a teacher, who would make this a specialty, devoting his attention mainly, if not exclusively, to the impartation of a knowledge of vocal speech and lip-reading to all the pupils (especially the semi-deaf and semi-mute), who might be found capable of acquiring it," should be secured.

The Institution has been quietly progressing during the past year, doing good work, doing it well, though doing it quietly and unobtrusively. Sickness has not troubled the inmates and this, it is stated, is chiefly due "to the equable and comfortable temperature secured throughout the building by the new heating apparatus," which appears to have been a good investment. The registered attendance was 48, of which 34 were males and 14 females. Twenty-three of the pupils had been in attendance during the previous year, five new pupils were admitted in 1875, and

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