

THE LIBRARY.

Among the additions to the pupil's library during the past year have been Thackeray's "English Humorists," Thackeray's "Four Georges," Ruskin's "Seven Lamps of Architecture," Hawthorne's "Grandfather's Chair," Nicholl's "Fireside Science," Gage's "Elements of Physics," Andersen's "Stories," Paul Bert's "First Steps in Science," "Among the Lawmakers," "About Old Story Tellers," "Chapters on Animals," "Caesar (Latin text)," "Goldsmith," "3000 Word Speller," Bacon's Essays, Miss B.'s "First Reader" and "Talks With Caesar."

The publication in point print of text books, by the American Printing House for the Blind, will be a great assistance in the general work of instruction.

HEALTH.

In the medical officer's report are mentioned the most serious cases of illness that have occurred among the pupils during the past year. In that report neither the gravity nor numbers of the cases of La Grippe are overstated. Of our total resident population aggregating nearly 200 all told, more than 120 were attacked and three of the senior officials were seriously, one of them dangerously ill.

It is cause, however, for congratulation and thankfulness, not only that no case terminated fatally but also that all made a good and thorough recovery. The relief given by the removal of two cases of typhoid, by which newly returned pupils were affected, to our excellent local hospital was very great, while nothing can have exceeded the care and kindness with which the invalids were treated at that establishment. Its advantages, however, to us and to the public generally, would be greatly enhanced if, to the present hospital were added accommodation for the treatment of scarlet fever and diphtheria patients, whose presence in even our own well situated sick ward is always a source of risk and anxiety. It is true that, by taking extreme precautions, the above-named unwelcome visitants have been effectually held in check when they have made their appearance of late years, but the insidious means by which they too often succeed in baffling every effort to restrain them, preclude over confidence so long as they are actually among us.

In speaking of the health of the institution the absence or otherwise of actual sickness is what is usually present to the mind. But there is a physical condition, short of active disease, that may, and often does affect most seriously the work, usefulness and happiness of life, and which only a healthful and invigorating regimen can effectually cope with. The blind as a rule are not a healthy class of persons. In a large percentage of cases blindness is the direct result of inherited constitutional causes, attended often with delicacy of the internal functions and general physical weakness. Again, when blindness has been caused in early life by accident or sickness, the personal restraint it imposes and the absence of robust exercise which it entails, arrest vigorous physical development and impair bodily strength. Even to those who may have enjoyed sight for several years blindness fetters the movement, limits terribly the enjoyment of pleasurable and health-giving sport and occupations and so acts prejudicially on the system. Blindness, moreover, in most cases is responsible for a more or less stooping gait, with a contracted chest, slow movements, and the absence of that briskness and activity of limb and muscle characteristic of the majority of our sighted youth. The conviction has forced itself on the mind of the educators of the blind in fact, that they may by turning their attention in the first place to intellectual improvement, have been beginning at the wrong end and that the establishment as far as possible of healthy physical conditions should be the primary object to be attained. Hence the strongly worded resolution passed at the late convention, hence the erection of a gymnasium in connection with every well ordered institution, hence the conclusion of everyone whose experience is worth anything that systematic physical training should take precedence of all other efforts for the amelioration of the condition of the blind.

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