

LITERARY EXAMINERS' REPORT.

To DR. CHAMBERLAIN,

Inspector of Prisons, Charities, etc., for Ontario.

SIR,—We have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report of the results of the examination of the literary classes in the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind at Brantford for the year 1898-9.

The examination was held on the 6th, 7th and 8th of June, a little later than usual. The weather was fine but warm and the spacious grounds around the Institution were looking their very best. Within, everything was, as usual, clean and orderly and the tone and management all that could be desired. The examination this year presented some novel features deserving of a passing notice here and which are a concession to certain demands of the "new" education. In addition to the purely literary work, classes were examined in Domestic Science, Typewriting, etc.

The results were as follows:—

(a) MR. WICKEN'S CLASSES.

I. *Arithmetic*.—Class B.—A bright active class of boys and girls who have been during the year, learning all about fractions and have mastered them fairly well. They certainly do understand their work and do it with speed and accuracy. Of course all the work is done mentally and an examiner has to use judgment in giving questions that involve the principles under consideration but do not contain quantities of such magnitude as would make them too difficult for mental operations. The questions given would be considered too difficult for mental arithmetic for pupils of the same age in our public schools, yet these blind pupils seemed to regard them as fair.

II. *Geography*.—Class A.—The work of this class in this subject was Asia. The pupils have a very correct and comparatively full knowledge of the character of the continent, the countries that compose it, its peoples, their modes of government, religions and customs. The productions of the different countries have been well mastered and also the exports of each. An examiner can easily see that the knowledge is new, late changes and late occurrences in the countries have been noted. The political geography of Asia is well understood, and some of its features seemed decidedly interesting to them. The average of the seventeen pupils was 83 per cent.

III. *Writing*.—Class A.—To test their ability to write legibly and to arrange their writing in proper order, the pupils were assigned a business letter and some business forms. The writing is legible. Of course it must be judged by a standard of its own, for it differs in so many ways from the writing of seeing pupils that to judge it by the standards we adopt in determining the character of the latter would be unfair. The form in which the correspondence was got up showed careful teaching.

IV. *Type Writing*.—A class of four young ladies. They have attained a very fair speed and write a very fair copy. The typewriter seems to be very popular. Its use gives the pupil a degree of independent action that is beneficial, apart from the benefit derived from the ability to use it.

V. *Grammar*.—Class B. Nine members—Limit: Etymology, Simple Analysis, Parts of speech. Class has a satisfactory knowledge of words and their classification. Knows the parts of speech and their inflections and can analyze simple sentences readily and parse with facility.

VI. *Reading*.—Class A. Eleven in class. Point Print. Selections from Bryant—The reading is very fairly done with good expression and generally correct emphasis. Four or five excel.

VII. *Bible Class*.—Boys, A. Eighteen in number. The Old Testament was pretty thoroughly reviewed. They showed a satisfactory knowledge of the Pentateuch, Judges, Ruth, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, etc. They also know something of the Maccabean rule and of Greek and Roman domination.