



THE CANADIAN MUTE

Four, six or eight pages.

PUBLISHED SEMI-MONTHLY

At the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb
BELLEVILLE, ONT.

OUR MISSION

First.—That a number of our pupils may learn typesetting, and from the knowledge obtained be able to earn a livelihood after they leave school.

Second.—To furnish interesting matter for and encourage a habit of reading among our pupils and deaf mute subscribers.

Third.—To be a medium of communication between the school and parents, and friends of pupils, now in the Institution, the hundreds who were pupils at one time or other in the past, and all who are interested in the education and instruction of the deaf of our land.

SUBSCRIPTION

Fifty (50) cents for the school year, payable in advance, postage prepaid by publisher. New subscriptions commence at any time during the year. Remit by money order, postal notes, or registered letter.

Subscribers failing to receive their papers regularly will please notify us, that mistakes may be corrected without delay. All papers are stopped when the subscription expires, unless otherwise ordered. The date on each subscriber's wrapper is the time when the subscription runs out.

Correspondence on matters of interest to the deaf is requested from our friends in all parts of the Province. Nothing calculated to wound the feelings of any one will be admitted—if we know it.

ADVERTISING

A very limited amount of advertising, subject to approval, will be inserted at 25 cents a line for each insertion.

Address all communications and subscriptions

THE CANADIAN MUTE,
BELLEVILLE
ONTARIO



WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1901.

Ideal School Paper—Ideal Teacher.

Every few weeks we come across an article entitled, "An Ideal School Paper," or some such name. Quite a number of such articles have been written and duly gone the rounds of the press, and as often as we see one of them we have to sit down for a few minutes and admire, while we wonder at, the sublime assurance with which they have evidently been penned. Of course any given one of these articles is the work of some individual writer and it represents his personal ideal of what a school paper should be. That is all right, of course, if he gave it as such; but when he calmly labels his ideal as "the ideal," then our patience is quite exhausted. In our opinion it is simply ridiculous to try to define or describe an ideal school paper for the reason that the circumstances and needs of no two schools are identical. The ideal paper for any school is the one that best meets the requirements of that particular school; and what might be an ideal paper for one school might be very far from the ideal for another school. It is the same with teachers. We have seen a good many articles in which the characteristics of the ideal teacher are set forth with great detail and particularity, as though all good teachers were fashioned in the same mould. The ideal teacher is the one who promotes the intellectual and moral advancement of his pupils to the greatest possible extent; yet no two ideal teachers, did any such exist, would adopt the same methods in doing this. The methods employed might be very dissimilar, but of equal efficiency in the hands of the respective teachers; yet if each was to adopt the other's methods both might prove to be total failures. No two ideal teachers would or could be the same either in mental characteristics, moral

attributes or professional methods, and it is the worst folly to attempt to depict "the ideal teacher," though it may be possible to conceive and to some extent describe a common ideal in purpose and in hoped-for attainments on the part of the pupils.

Empire Day.

For sixty four years the 24th of May has been a day of rejoicing and jubilation all over the British Empire, and was in fact the most popular and the best enjoyed of all public holidays. This year, however, the usual festivities will be tinged with the inevitable feeling that the Good Queen, whose natal day has always been so loyally celebrated, is with us no more. At least nine-tenths of her hundreds of millions of subjects have never known any other sovereign and it is hard for us to realize that "the Queen's Birthday," always so gladly welcomed and so universally celebrated, has become the occasion for commemorating the dead rather than for rejoicing with the living. In common with all other Canadians, we are glad that our Parliament has set apart the 24th of May as a perpetual holiday, which is a fitting tribute to the memory of the world's greatest and best sovereign. It is probable that similar action will be taken all over the Empire and that the long-celebrated "Queen's Birthday" will be transformed into "Victoria Day," and thus, being dead, will she yet speak to us. Her own personality it was, above any and every other influence, which welded the almost innumerable and very heterogeneous elements of the Empire into one loyal and homogeneous nationality, so that "I am a British citizen" is spoken with pride by four hundred million people in all parts of the world, anywhere compels respect and recognition, backed as it is with the preternatural strength of the world's dominating power. The probable disintegration of the Empire used to be a common subject of discussion, but no Briton would now suggest even the possibility of such an event taking place. We are now indissolubly joined together and no man nor all men combined could rend us asunder; and it is well to have an Empire Day to commemorate the life and work of her through whom chiefly this beneficent result was achieved.

By the retirement of Mr. Frank W. Metcalf, Superintendent of the Utah School, the profession loses one of the ablest and most successful educators of the deaf in the United States. Mr. Metcalf has been Superintendent of the Utah School for a number of years and had brought it up to a high state of efficiency and we much regret that he has severed his connection with the profession he so much adored. His successor is Mr. Frank M. Driggs. Mr. Driggs is a young man of thirty and has been connected with the Utah School since 1886. He is well spoken of as an earnest, progressive worker and we most cordially extend to him our fraternal greetings, and our best wishes for his abundant success.

On the 4th inst. the Hamilton Herald issued a "Twentieth Century Edition" full of interesting matter. It described the numerous industries of the city, and its many other attractions both as a business centre and as a delightful residential city, and it also assumed the prophet's mantle and gives a very pleasing forecast of what the Ambitious City may be a hundred years from now. The Herald is one of the best edited papers in the province and well deserves the success it has so abundantly achieved.

Misleading, if Substantially Correct.

The father of two pupils here some time ago wrote the superintendent of a certain school for the deaf asking him whether the reports of tests with the akoulalion published by the press of the country were true, and received a letter in reply which contained these statements: "Replying to your inquiry, would say the newspaper articles are substantially correct. The akoulalion is an electrical device for hearing. It has been tested at this Institution and found to possess a great deal of merit. In many instances the deaf by its aid have been able to hear, but I am not prepared to say what the instrument may be able to accomplish in any individual case, as only a personal trial could demonstrate that. For the partially deaf, who have a knowledge of spoken language, the instrument will be of immediate benefit, but for those deaf from infancy, who have never understood language by the ear, a long course of instruction will be necessary before they could properly interpret the sounds so heard. Here is a sample of these statements going the rounds of the papers: "As the result of a demonstration given before the New York academy of medicine, exclusively for members of the profession, the hearing of a young woman, 19 years of age, totally deaf from childhood, has been completely restored. A new electrical invention was used. By its aid the girl heard distinctly, and a full test with it resulted in the discovery that, after it had been used, she still heard words spoken by some of the physicians present. A detachment of deafmutes from the New York Institution for the instruction of the deaf and dumb was present under the guidance of William H. Vantassel, one of the most skilled of their instructors. With almost uniform success the inventor, by means of the device, constructed for the purpose of instructing the deaf and dumb, clearly demonstrated the practicability of teaching such patients in a few minutes not only to hear but to repeat words."

Is the above mentioned superintendent willing to endorse such statements or even willing to let them pass unchallenged? Take the first case mentioned. If the girl was totally deaf from childhood, we venture to say that neither the akoulalion nor any other mechanical device ever made could transmit intelligible sound to her brain, and the assertion that after use of the instrument, which seems to have been but momentary, she was able to hear with the naked ear—which, we are persuaded, was the meaning the writer wished to convey—is simply absurd. We believe that the benefits to be derived from the akoulalion are not of a curative nature, but that the instrument will serve simply as an aid to the partially deaf. That the hearing of this young woman, totally deaf from childhood, has been completely restored we are very seriously disposed to doubt. At any rate we shall not believe it upon the say-so of the ordinary newspaper reporter. If she has been benefited so that she can distinguish speech through the ear, she was not totally deaf from childhood. Such statements are calculated to arouse hopes that are sure to be disappointed, and persons connected with our schools ought not to give them over the appearance of sanction. The item in regard to the detachment of deafmutes from the New York school is likely to be misinterpreted by the casual, unthinking reader. The experiment with that crowd of deaf-mutes may have been almost uniformly successful, as far as making them hear and repeat words goes, but such a fact, if it is a fact, does not prove that a like success could be attained with any crowd of deafmutes that might be tested. They were, beyond peradventure, a number of persons who were possessed of a considerable power of hearing. We do not desire to insinuate in the least that the superintendent who wrote the letter quoted from above would knowingly endorse misleading statements, but he can not have seen such statements as we have instanced, or he would not have said they were substantially correct. He is an honorable gentleman. Parents of deaf children are too prone as a rule to grasp at anything that holds out the hope of relief for their afflicted child, and we as educators of the deaf who are looked up to in matters pertaining to them should be very guarded when appealed to for an opinion as to whether such hope is well founded. —Texas Lone Star Weekly.

TORONTO TOPICS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

Our annual social was held with great eclat on May 2nd, an unprecedented date, but like good wine it lost none of its luster by the slipping back. It was proved by our friend Mr. Bridgen, and was held in the spacious All Saints School House by the kindness of the Rev. A. H. Baldwin. About 150 sat down to a spread of good cheer, in plenty and to spare. The lady waiters were Miss Curtis and Mrs. Nicholson, Miss Fraser whose experience was invaluable. Mr. Bridgen, Mrs. Thompson and daughter and the two Miss Rickabys, their kind courtesy and effective arrangements made the social most enjoyable. Things sped with the ease of pneumatic tires and a crowd of willing helpers cleared the tables in good time for the evening program. In the first item, "The Bashful Man," Mr. C. Elliott was the star performer, and Mr. McIntosh as the gouty legged heavy father, perfecting with a genuine lady of the house in Mr. A. W. Mason. The piece was through, got up and captured the audience. In the next performance, "The Scandalous Mistake," the Misses O'Neil and Munro as two old ladies, and Miss Elliott as pretty widow, made a sensation. Mr. A. W. Mason towered great as the stranger brother, and the points of the piece were brought out with much spirit. The last on the program was an original composition, and perhaps the best of the evening, illustrating with great humor, complaining and cheerful views of life. It was given with immense vim and go, by Mr. Weddaburn as growing carpenter, Mr. Fraser as despondent shoemaker, Miss O'Neil as voluble English housewife, and Mr. Slater as disgusted printer, making out things in general as only fit for the times. Miss Munro was huffishness itself as the overdone proprietress. Miss Elliott got up perfectly as red cross nurse, and cheerful, set all things right in the style. During the evening Mr. Fraser recited "The Patent Barber" starting and Mr. Elliott "The Dove and the Lion" with excellent effect and expression. The performances were followed with keen interest by hearing visitors present and received much praise. The stage arrangements with a regular drop curtain and other accessories were very good. From a spectator's point of view the entertainment was the most successful yet given by our association. Mr. Bridgen closed the evening with a short address referring to his projected visit to England, and emphasizing with his usual earnestness the great objects to be kept in view in the great voyage of life. Most hearty votes of thanks to all concerned wound up another of Toronto's old time meetings. May their shadows never grow less.

The Bible Class met at Mr. Slater's for the last time this season on the 8th inst. These weekly meetings, conducted by Mr. Bridgen, have had many intensely earnest and interesting studies of Scripture, the fullest discussion being encouraged. The teaching has been thorough and systematic. At the last meeting honest-heartedness and living reality in faith was urged with much force.

The Maple Leaf Club held its last regular meeting on the 25th ult. It was a very interesting gathering, at which Mr. A. W. Mason gave an address on "The course of gold," and Miss J. Munro on "The Heroes of the Victoria Cross." Both addresses were delivered in a vigorous style, and well deserved the close attention they received.

The deaf-mutes in the city were exceedingly sorry to hear of the death of their old friend, Mr. D. J. McKillop.

We were pleased to see Mr. and Mrs. M. Thomas come down from Oakville to attend the social. They are always most welcome. We understand Miss N. Morrison is going to spend a couple of weeks with them, where we trust the bracing country air will strengthen her up.

Mr. W. Watts, of Hamilton, came down on the 2nd inst., and attended the social. It staid over in the city on Monday morning following. Mr. M. Pherson, of same city, also spent Sunday with us at our Sunday meetings. We are most happy to welcome friends from a distance.

Mr. P. Fraser spent Sunday, 5th inst. in Oakawa, where he held a meeting for the benefit of our friends in that district. We hear he had a very successful gathering. We greatly rejoice in the spirit of the Association's work outside of Toronto.

The Bridgen Club held its last meeting for the season on the 4th inst.