

To adequately set forth the large volume of work done by blind labour in the sewing-room, I should have to give the articles as detailed in the official record, and thus turn my page into a series of clothes-lines. The list includes such items as 36 dresses, 77 sheets, 178 pillow-cases, besides a vast variety of general household furnishings, and an unspeakable assortment of feminine accoutrements. Canadian farmers still largely use the spinning-wheel, though of improved construction, and our girls are nearly all daughters of farmers. Miss Tyrrell has suggested that the use of the spinning-wheel should therefore be included in our scheme of instruction. An excellent suggestion, and I am now looking about for an available form of spinning-wheel.

The number of machine knitters is 34 ; of machine sewers 64.

Miss M. Ross, lately appointed on the staff of teachers, devotes a portion of the day to the manual instruction of her pupils,—a branch of growing interest and importance. The *unhandiness* of neglected blind children exceeds all belief.

Religious Instruction.

The pupils, both Protestant and Catholic, are conducted to Brantford on Sunday morning, and attend their own places of worship. For the guidance of the Presbyterian and the Baptist pupils, I am greatly indebted to the good offices of Mr. S. M. Thompson and Mr. Cox. The continued kind attentions of these benevolent gentlemen are deeply felt and appreciated. On Sunday afternoon, the Protestant pupils attend a service conducted in our Music Hall by the various clergymen of Brantford, who attend with almost unflinching punctuality. The Catholic pupils, on Sunday afternoon, are instructed by the Sisterhood of St. Joseph, under the direction of the Rev. P. Bardou. For the general use of the Catholic blind, the catechism of their church has been embossed at Louisville, under the special supervision of the Bishop of Kentucky. For Protestants, the *Society for Religious Literature*, recently organized at Philadelphia, propose to issue devotional works of a non-denominational character. At present, our Protestant pupils are instructed in an undenominational series of Sunday-school lessons.

Medical Department.

185 pupils have already arrived this session, and some more are expected. Among so many blind persons, vital statistics would prepare us for much illness and some deaths. The general health, however, continues excellent, in spite of blind persons' well-known predisposition to disease, and also in spite of our over-crowded buildings. The physician, Dr. Corson, makes daily visits, and passes under close scrutiny all ailments, real or imaginary. Dr. Corson's system of ophthalmic treatment has brought many severe affections under control, and in several cases I have had the great pleasure of returning children to their homes with their sight restored.

Domestic Department.

The Government are already in possession of particular information respecting the structural renewals, alterations and extensions required, and I trust, Sir, that your recommendations may be speedily carried out. The old heating service was never designed for the task that is now put upon it, and in many parts of the building the coils require the company of stoves to *keep the steam-pipes warm*. The flooring of the main halls has become macerated into a mere anatomy of pine knots, so that the central line looks like the backbone of some gigantic saurian showing through the floor. In the United States the public institutions have found the only flooring material that wears satisfactorily to be the Georgia or yellow pine. Of this, the "comb-grained" variety is the best, but it is expensive, costing in the Northern States \$50 per thousand feet at the planing-mill. It can scarcely be hoped that any part of the Dominion will furnish this valuable wood; the *habitat* of the tree (*Pinus Mitis* of Michaux) lies south of a line drawn from the