

asylum for the blind, opened only eight years, has 27 patients, 11 males and 16 females. The asylum halls never have fewer than 300 small children, and often in summer, 500 are admitted. They are generally, little girls whose parents being obliged to leave their houses to earn a livelihood, bring every morning these little children to the asylum, and return for them in the evening, after their day's work is finished. These children are admitted from the age of 2 years, and as soon as they reach the age of 7 years, the little boys are no longer admitted, but the little girls may continue to receive their education in the establishment. For eight years, during which the asylum for the blind has been in existence, eight have returned to their parents, and one, of whom great hopes were entertained, died. The training of male and female teachers has been the special object of the institution, and on this head, it seems to be specially favoured. It has now several young girls of rare talent and most happy dispositions. Sums in addition, subtraction, and multiplication were performed without the slightest difficulty. These operations are performed by means of lead figures, which the child places in small squares, purposely arranged to this end. Both systems in use for the teaching of the blind are employed. The oldest is what is called the Boston system. The letters are raised, completely formed. The Bride system, however, invented by the person whose name it bears, is the easiest and best to learn. In this system, the letters are represented by raised points. It is very quickly learned, and once learned, the children learn to write, and communicate with whomsoever he or she wishes. This cannot be done with the Boston system. With the Bride system, a pointer (*bodkin*) suffices to write, and to read the writing of another. There are two female teachers to teach the 27 blind pupils. The pupils learn music by theory and by note, whilst at Boston they can only learn it by dictation. Of these pupils, only two give \$6.50 per month each, and one gives \$2, the rest do not pay anything. The Sisters are obliged to procure, at great expense, the books and other material necessary for the maintenance of their school. After class, and after the hours of study, the blind work at various manual employments. They sew, make small articles of colored bead-work, knit lace-work; and the men stuff sofas, chairs, &c. They have a knowledge of the beautiful and the ugly, of the rich and common, it is something that the sisters cannot explain, but which they witness every day. With the exception of 2 Irishmen and 3 Irish women, they are all French-Canadians. There are 12 Sisters attached to this establishment, of whom 2 are occupied solely with the poor. The Reverend Sister Robin is the Superior, and I noticed that she well deserves her title; there is nothing easier to see than that she is really *Superior*. From 8 to 10 servants, men as well as women, and from 60 to 70 children complete the regular *personnel* constantly living in the establishment. This institution receives \$800 from the public chest, \$400 for the asylum for the blind, and \$400 for the asylum for the poor.

ASYLUM FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB.

This asylum is situated on St. Denis street, Montreal, on a property of 4 arpents in extent. This institution was opened in 1854, and contains 120 children, of whom 114 are girls, and 6 are men. There are, in addition, at Belœil, but under the direction of the same sisters, 30 boys and 4 girls, which give an entire population of 154 children. Eight sisters manage this establishment and teach the deaf and dumb. All attend the classes and have their hour of school, but as the larger ones have to aid in the business of the house, the classes are not held at the same hour. As at the Nazareth Asylum for the blind here they endeavour to educate for teachers, and they also succeed as well. I took pleasure in examining, more especially the most advanced and youngest classes. In the first, I saw girls of 14 and 15 years writing very well, and even articulating, not only isolated words, but complete phrases. There are fifteen who articulate, and the success already attained in this point, gives rise to great hope for the future; the good sisters, however, admit that the children find great difficulty in the beginning. They are obliged to make such efforts with the throat, that some of them spit up blood; but after a certain time, the movement of the tongue becomes more easy and the pupils are scarcely fatigued. In the class for little children, I saw some who wrote so correctly, so regularly, and with so much facility, that I asked their age, so much was I surprised with the fine writing of such small girls; the sister answered that they were only from 5 to 6 years of age. Outside

school hours, all work at various things, as well for the house as for strangers. I had occasion to notice the fact, already well established elsewhere, of the pernicious consequences arising from the intermarriage of relations. Nearly one-fifth of these interesting little girls are the issue of such marriages.

ASYLUM FOR IDIOTS AT HOCHELAGA.

This asylum, under the direction of the Reverend Sisters of Providence, opened on the 7th November last, contains 66 patients. I visited it on the 12th January of the present year. I found all these unfortunates tranquilly sitting in the corridors of the building, formerly the barracks at the foot of the current. They are well clothed and kept very clean. Two patients sleep together in each cell, but in separate beds. These cells are placed on each side of the passage, which is used as a day-room by the inmates of the asylum. The system of ventilation seems to be pretty good. In the lower story, the passage where the imbeciles are kept, is somewhat dark, but that in the upper story is very bright, and a great deal more spacious due to the great distance between the floors and ceilings. Five Sisters live in the asylum constantly. They have as assistants, 3 keepers, 1 yardman, and 3 servants. The Sisters are preparing to provide them with more comfort in the building which they are constructing at Long Point. There were only three sick since the opening of the asylum. The contract with the Sisters is for 5 years. They have \$100 for each patient, and \$3 extra for burial expenses. The Sisters defray all the expenses for the maintenance of the asylum, even for medicines and medical attendance.

A Canadian Artist.

A few months ago, Mr. Calixa Lavallée, the young Canadian pianist, was sent to Paris by some friends and lovers of music who were desirous of giving him every opportunity of perfecting his really remarkable talents. That they were not mistaken in their estimate of the young musician's powers has been proved by the rapid progress he has made in Paris, a progress testified to by Mr. A. Boieldieu—the son of the eminent French composer—in a letter addressed by him to Mr. G. Leclerc, Secretary of the Council of Agriculture, Montreal.

Mr. Boieldieu says that "he is proud of being able to contribute by his advice to the development of his remarkable talents," adding that he has already what cannot be learnt, namely, inspiration. Referring to his compositions, M. Boieldieu expresses the wish that Lavallée may remain in France sufficiently long to perfect himself in his art and to produce his works in public. "You will," he goes on to say, "have in M. Lavallée the man best fitted to become the head of the conservatory of music which you, sir, and your worthy countrymen so nobly think of founding in imitation of that at Paris." Further on he says:—"Mr. Lavallée will become one of your most remarkable artists."

In view of the promises of celebrity held out by the talents of this young Canadian pianist and composer, it is suggested that the gentlemen who originally sent him to Paris should appeal to the public to enable them to keep Lavallée there in accordance with M. Boieldieu's request, and subscriptions for the purpose may be sent to Mr. G. Leclerc, Secretary of the Council of Agriculture, Montreal.

Canada already has a great singer, Mlle. Albani, who has created a perfect *furor* wherever she has appeared, and has held her own with European celebrities. It would be well if we could also count a great composer, and the efforts made on behalf of M. Lavallée will, as M. Boieldieu says, be rewarded by brilliant results.—*Gazette*.

EDUCATIONAL.

Education in British India.—Education is extending rapidly in British India. We find the following statistics in the *Friend of India* in reference to the Madras Presidency, which give a very interesting view of the subject. On the 31st of March, 1870, the total number of schools and colleges connected with the Department of Public Instruction for that Presidency was 3,134, with an attendance of 105,455 pupils. A year after, the schools had increased to 3,479, and the pupils to 115,212, an increase in one year of 345 institutions, and 9,757 pupils. The