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THE CANADIAN MUTE, BELLEVILLE, ONTARIO.



TUESDAY MARCH 15, 1892.

METHODS COMPARED.

Superintendent Wilkinson, of the California Institution, who has been traveling in Europe for several months, compares the methods of instructing the deaf there and in America.

OUR SENTIMENTS.

The Missouri Deaf Mute, referring to the task undertaken by Mr. Warren Robinson for the Silent Educator, remarks:

"Mr. Warren Robinson, in the January number of the Silent Educator, and in connection with the 'Half Hour' series of letters, whether the mistakes mentioned can be the result of our system or ways of teaching. He ventures the suggestion, that a good part of these errors could be eliminated by a constant use of finger spelling on the part of all connected with the school.

We give this editorial prominence with pleasure, as it sustains what we have said in a previous issue of THE CANADIAN MUTE, and what we have practised for several years. Experience has taught us that a promiscuous and reckless use of signs, in and out of the school-room, is a source of much that we find so trying and discouraging in

teaching language to the deaf. For several years the writer has carefully noted the relative standing of pupils in his class in language exercises, and has invariably found that those most proficient in signs and most deficient in spoken words are the ones that constantly blunder when attempting to express an idea or describe a scene.

TEACHING AGRICULTURE.

Dr. Mott, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Minnesota Institution, recommends the introduction of agricultural subjects as a part of the curriculum of studies for the pupils of that school. He sagely remarks that a large percentage of the pupils will become farmers, or farmers' wives, and that, if encouraged by proper training, this percentage may be increased.

Have classroom talks with plants of such board illustrations, during the months of Sept. and Oct. in the autumn, and March, April and May in the spring. Two or three times a week on the following named and kindred topics: The selection of seeds, how to raise, gather and protect them, including seeds for both farm and garden and both seeds proper and ballast seeds. When and how to plant or sow amount of seed per acre, distance of plants apart.

Horticulture and small fruits would form another interesting subject, and the prevalent lack of thrift and success in the cultivation of these plainly indicate that "ignorance is stamped on every stage of their existence." Mr. Mott says:

I think our pupils may be taught what varieties to select, and the kind of plants of each, sown, and when to plant, cultivate, and care for them. Teach them the theory of preservation. Give them thorough instruction and drill in both root and top grafting and budding.

He also recommends the opening of a school for instruction and thorough drill of the girls in all kinds of common cooking and general housework.

The Competitor says this report was approved unanimously by the Board and Superintendent, and will probably be adopted by the Legislature. It is commendable for various reasons, but would not its adoption necessitate the appointment of special instructors, or special preparations on the part of teachers now employed? We incline to the opinion that, however well qualified for ordinary school-room work, and experienced in the execution of this work, the majority of those now teach-

ing in schools for the deaf are neither practical nor theoretical farmers. The plan outlined above involves considerably more than a rudimentary knowledge of agriculture, and would require an instructor of special qualifications. But this does not detract from its merits as a part of the system of instruction that has accomplished, and is accomplishing, so much for the deaf in this continent. We shall watch the results of this new departure with considerable interest.

Since the above was written we have received the Competitor with a report of the first lecture in this department by Judge Mott, and also a statement that a second lecture by Capt. Hunter, of Paribault, had been given. Both lecturers are outside the teaching staff of the Institution, and we presume the whole series of lectures will be given in the same way. Will not the teachers be required to receive the information furnished by the lecturers, much of which is of a statistical character and therefore difficult to be remembered?

We have been placed under lasting obligations to the publishers of Institution papers in the United States, for kindly sending us their interesting publications without a quid pro quo on our part. We assure them that their kindness was highly appreciated, and that we will keep it in grateful remembrance. The CANADIAN MUTE will aim at a recompense for favors thus received, and will endeavor to cultivate and retain the friendship and co-operation of all its conferees. The publication of these papers, and the purposes served thereby mark a new and advanced era in the education of the deaf.

That old reliable oil journal, the Petroleum Age, has renewed its youth and now comes to hand better looking than ever which is saying a good deal. The cuts of the energetic proprietor his new premises and new press give evidence of well deserved prosperity. What friend Herring does not know about publishing a readable town paper is not worth knowing.

We have received an interesting letter from Dr. J. H. Brown, of the Kansas Institution, addressed to his "dear young friends here. It is accompanied by another letter, written by one of his pupils, also addressed to the boys and girls of this Institution. Both will appear in the next issue of THE CANADIAN MUTE, and we are sure they will be read with much interest.

TORONTO NEWS.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Nasmith's father-in-law, died on the 5th inst.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mason are spending a couple of weeks in Penville.

We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Cotterill - nee Nellie Blight - is very ill now.

There is talk of a good many deaf mutes going to move to other parts of the city at an early date.

Mr. Robert Green fell on the street the other day and broke his arm. He is going to sue the city for \$200 in consequence.

John McInnes, a Scotch shoemaker, is working in W. B. Hamilton's shoe factory. He is employed as a finisher on heels and edges.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson gave a tea to a few of their friends on the 27th ult., on the occasion of Mrs. Wilson's birthday. A very pleasant evening was spent.

In a previous issue we stated that time did not know the name of the lady. Since then however we have learned her name was Miss McEwen, who is well known at Belleville. We offer them our sincere congratulations.

Mr. J. W. Bradshaw, brother of Thomas Bradshaw, a former pupil of this Institution, has returned home after a year's sojourn in Vancouver, B. C., where he met Mr. Mathison and Mr. Wallace, formerly of Belleville. Mr. Wallace is a painter and is doing well.

It is understood that Mr. Gardiner, who has been living in the city over a year, since coming from St. John, Newfoundland, intends leaving for British Columbia next month, where he will live. We wish him success in his new home, but sorry to lose him from our midst.

P. Fraser is the possessor of some valuable thoroughbred Lens, Light Brae, anas, which he lately obtained from one of the best fanciers. He expects to raise quite a number of chickens this spring. It is his initial step in this line, and he intends to go slowly until he sees how it pays him.

We are sorry to learn that our friends, Mr. and Mrs. W. Yeale, are going to leave the city for the United States soon. They are well-known among the deaf-mutes here, and we are sure they will be much missed by them, but we wish them success wherever they may locate.

DANGER AHEAD! - It is probable that the Trolley system will soon be adopted in the city as a motive power for street railways. If so, deaf mutes will have to look sharp, according to what a gentleman in Buffalo said to a newspaper reporter from this city, who went there to interview the leading men on the utility of the system. On being asked in regard to accidents, he said the deaf and blind were apt to be knocked down who did not happen to get out of the way in time.

As the number who attend the meetings on Wednesday evenings has largely increased of late, and more than ordinary interest manifested, it was decided to form a regular society, which was done at the meeting on the 2nd inst. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: - President, C. Howe; Vice, A. W. Mason; Sec. Treas., R. C. Slater. However before the election was proceeded with, Mr. Flynn gave his lecture pursuant to appointment at the previous meeting. It was interesting and enjoyed by all who listened to it. There was a large attendance. The society meetings are held every two weeks. The Bible Class is held the alternate Wednesday evenings.

Letters to the Editor.

We shall be pleased to receive communications for insertion under this heading pertaining to matters relative to deaf-mutes, but will not be held responsible for assertions made or opinions expressed. The writer's signature must accompany each letter, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith. Communications to be written on one side of the paper only.

Missionary for the Deaf.

MR. EDITOR. - Allow me to correct an error in my letter. "Missionary for the Deaf" in the 20th line, the word "support" should have been "object."

In regard to the provision of a suitable salary for a missionary for the deaf, I beg to say there are ample resources for such in this country. The Episcopal Church in Canada alone gives to the mission of the Jews about \$500 annually. There are other denominations. What goes to foreign missions is an enormous sum in the aggregate. Much of this could be profitably spent at home. For instance, if all the denominations set apart a Sunday for the mission to the deaf, on which the collections at services would be given to a fund for this purpose, the result would be encouraging. The Mother Country has done well in the matter of missions to the deaf. There the missionaries are satisfied with \$200 and upwards a year. In conclusion, Mr. Editor, I would say that it would be more difficult to find a good man for the work than a suitable salary. The man that thinks about his salary only is not the man we want.

J. Wm. BOUGHTON, Toronto, March 2nd, 1892.

P. S. - Please publish the following list of places where the deaf congregate to learn from the Word of God: - Central Toronto - Y. M. C. A. building, Yonge-st. - Mr. J. D. Nasmith, and Mr. Bridgen, Toronto West - Y. M. C. A. building, Dovercourt Road, - Mr. Slater and Mr. Fraser, occasionally Mr. Boughton, Hamilton, Berlin, etc. J. W. B.