

Miss Mary Jane Brown, a former pupil who had for some years acted as assistant instructor in the workroom, also retired at the vacation, and her successor has not yet been appointed. While occasional changes are inevitable, it is gratifying to know that they occur from no unpleasant cause, and that the majority of the staff are officers of such experience and standing in their profession as to leave nothing to be desired on that score. To one and all of them my cordial thanks are due for their kind and faithful co-operation.

THE LITERARY CLASSES—KINDERGARTEN.

The general arrangement of the literary classes continues to be nearly the same as last year. The numbers of pupils constituting these classes are as follows:—

In Arithmetic	76
Grammar	68
Geography	67
Reading	66
Literature	20
Writing	97
Natural History and Physiology (Boys)	7
Object Lessons	34
English and Canadian History	20

For full information as to the condition of the literary classes and the progress of the pupils, reference may be made to the Examiners' reports, which have for the past six sessions formed a very interesting feature in our annual records. While the Examiners find little to criticize, and speak in only too generous terms of the state of our literary department, the necessity for progressive improvement, wherever possible, must not be lost sight of. I am conscious of the need in this particular for the more systematic training of the minds and perceptive faculties of our younger pupils during the earlier stages of their Institution life than we have yet attained. This, in my opinion, only the Kindergarten system, thoroughly and scientifically applied to the needs and condition of the blind, can fully supply, and to teach this properly, the systematic training of the teacher for this particular work is required. The two Institutions that rank highest on this Continent as models in respect of the education of the Blind, whether as regards their appliances and apparatus, or the experience brought to bear on their management, are respectively the one in New York city, under the superintendence of Mr. W. B. Wait, and the Perkins Institute, under Mr. M. Anagnos, the son-in-law and successor of its founder, Dr. Howe. At both of these the Kindergarten system is being carried out on a liberal scale. From my conversation with Mr. Wait during the sittings of the late Convention of Instructors of the Blind, I was convinced of the existence of two Kindergartens, a false and a true one, or, rather, of one that might be termed empirical and another properly designated scientific. The danger of adopting the former in mistake for the latter is to be carefully guarded against, especially when it is remembered that the pupils are those whose whole method of thinking and reasoning has to find in our educational processes its ground-work. The propriety of introducing the Kindergarten system in this Institution under a properly trained instructor, is a matter calling, I venture to suggest, for early consideration.

THE MUSIC CLASSES.

The plan of grading the classes under instruction on the pianoforte has, so far, proved very satisfactory. It had been carried out hitherto rather tentatively and experimentally than as a perfect or complete arrangement, but will now go into force in its entirety, and no pupil will be changed from one grade to another except, as in the case of the literary classes, after a report by the teacher to the Principal. A graded course will also be adopted with the pupils under Mr. Knight's tuition on the pipe organ. I