

A Rattan mat made by one of the pupils, sent to the Exhibition in Truro, was awarded a Certificate of Merit. Besides cane-seating, the girls are taught to knit, sew, net, crochet, and do various kinds of bead-work.

HEALTH.

During the last year the health of the pupils has been excellent. The average number of days' absence from school on account of *slight illnesses* not having exceeded *two* for each individual; and this is the more remarkable when it is considered that for at least three months of the year, during our winter season, the pupils are prevented by the depth of the snow from taking active out-door exercise. The effect of this confinement is evident towards the spring, when studies which in the autumn were pursued with vigor, are then approached with comparative reluctance. As physical and mental training are equally important, it is proposed to build a gymnasium (as soon as the required funds are subscribed) in which the pupils may obtain exercise without regard to the weather.

CHANGE OF NAME.

The present name of the Institution is the "Halifax Asylum for the Blind." This is decidedly a misnomer, as the word asylum signifies a "refuge" or "home," and therefore cannot be applied to a School where the pupils are only admitted for a limited period. Again, the name asylum fails to set forth the educational character of the Institution.

The term was first applied to homes for the blind, established in England before any effort was made to awaken their self-reliance and fit them to "fight the battle of life." At a later period schools were introduced into these asylums, thus changing their character while the original name was still retained. In the United States an Institution of this kind is styled either "Institution for the Education of the Blind," or "School for the Blind." The former name is objectionable chiefly on account of its length, while the latter has the advantage of brevity, besides the recommendation of defining clearly the nature of the Institution.

For Reports and official documents the present "Halifax Asylum for the Blind" might be changed to "School for the Blind of the Maritime Provinces," thus showing whence the Institution derives its pupils and support.