

in harmony, is an excellent pianist, and is quite competent to fill the position of a church organist. He is now engaged by Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, in whose factory several of our pupils have found employment. When I add that this young man is the son of an ex-settler on a free grant lot in Muskoka, and has been for some years practically parentless, his indebtedness to this institution will need no further illustration.

The male graduate from the literary classes had made good progress with his studies at a public school when circumstances made application for his admission to this institution necessary. He had ample opportunity and ability to succeed well as a piano tuner and musician, but high if somewhat vague aspirations in other directions, led to his—in my opinion—too early retirement. The female literary graduate had been with us from a very early age. She had not only reached the head of her literary classes, but had found time to become thoroughly proficient in the use of the sewing machine with all its attachments, as well as in every description of knitting and crochet work. Her musical attainments were considerable, and quite sufficient to enable her to be the teacher of others. The pupil referred to as graduating from the work room and knitting classes has also made a most creditable use of the opportunities afforded her.

THE MENTALLY INCAPABLE.

The work of this institution, although mainly directed to training blind young persons to maintain themselves in case of need wholly or in part by their own efforts, cannot be limited to this object. A large class will always remain who, while their own lives are made happier and the burden of their support is to some extent lightened by the education and instruction they receive here, are still quite unequal to independent exertions; and there are those, too, who, while capable of learning up to a certain point, can never acquire enough knowledge to be practically useful. But the degree of their mental incapacity is not always ascertained in the first instance. How much is due to neglected education and how much to actual intellectual deficiency can only, in many cases, be decided by trial and observation. Unless the question of incapacity is beyond reasonable doubt, I feel it to be my duty to grant the application for admission and to give the pupil the opportunity of showing, under judicious treatment, whether his continuance in the institution is likely to be of any real value or not. Two of the three recently excluded were allowed to remain for several sessions, and withdrawn at last only when further progress appeared unattainable. The other child was but a few weeks in the institution. She was found to be too defective to warrant her retention.

THE STAFF.

The staff of teachers and instructors has undergone no changes, I am glad to say, since the last report was issued. I can but repeat my acknowledgments of past years to those to whose devotion to duty and kindly concurrence in every plan or arrangement calculated to further our work must be ascribed in a large measure the satisfactory results attained.

THE LITERARY CLASSES.

It must be obvious that, to a large proportion of our pupils, what is usually known as high literary culture is unattainable. Their circumstances in life, as a rule, limit their opportunities to a curriculum about equal to that of a well-conducted public school or at most of the junior classes of a High School. And I think our examiners will bear me out in stating that, for thoroughness of teaching, we may fairly claim at least equality with the institutions just mentioned. But when, or even before, this standard is reached a natural and commendable desire usually shows itself to be doing something having a more direct bearing on future means of livelihood. On the other hand, as suggested in my last report, it is only right to give to those whose personal surroundings and intellectual faculties and tastes call for it such superior advantages as may be reasonably afforded. Last session we accordingly took up in our senior classes the study of Eth-