

ANNUAL REPORT AND VISIT OF THE EXAMINERS.

By special appointment of the Board of Management of the Mackay Institution the Rev. Messrs. J. Edgar Hill, M.A., J. A. Newnham, M.A., and myself were accorded the pleasure of examining the pupils of this Institution. The whole forenoon of June 6th was spent with the pupils and teachers. The examination began with the the primary classes. Here was made very manifest the exceeding difficulty of leading deaf-mutes into first apprehensions of language and ideas. The process is slow and tedious, and clearly taxes to the highest both the ingenuity and patience of the teachers. After the examiners had thus an opportunity of knowing somewhat of the task of beginning the education of deaf-mutes, they were better able to appreciate the marvellous progress that had been made by young pupils, who had been but six months under tuition. But, when, as the examination proceeded through the different forms to the highest, marked aptitude was evinced in forming correct sentences, in English composition, in arithmetic, grammar, geography, Canadian and English history, Scripture history and particularly in articulation and lip-reading, the examiners realized, as never before, what a grand Christlike work this Institution was doing and how worthy of the confidence and support of every citizen. Besides the deaf-mutes, a class of blind pupils were examined in reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, Canadian and English history and music—in each of which they showed excellent progress. Cordial thanks are due to several young ladies of Melville Presbyterian Church who have during the session gratuitously and cheerfully taught this class.

It gave the examiners great pleasure to examine the work of the drawing class under the tuition of Miss Crawford. They were of the unanimous opinion that only a thorough and able teacher could have brought her pupils to such a degree of proficiency in this delightful study.

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