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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

UPPER CANADA INSTITUTION

FOR

The Deaf and Dumb and for the Blind.

To

J. S. HOWLAND, Esq.....	Warden of York and Peel.
THOS. LESLIE, Esq.....	" Wellington.
ROBERT MILLER, Esq.....	" Halton.
J. TOPPING, Esq.....	" Oxford.
T. E. FERGUSON, Esq.....	" Simcoe.
J. H. THOMPSON, Esq.....	" Ontario.
ALEX. BROWN, Esq.....	" Wentworth.
SHERIFF HALL.....	President Auxiliary Society, Peterboro'.
J. SCOVELL, Esq.....	Warden of Leeds.
ROBT. COOK, Esq.....	" Haldimand.
.....	" Hastings.
.....	" Carleton.

In submitting to your consideration my Semi-Annual Report for the half-year ending June 30th, 1865, I feel it my duty to record with humble thankfulness a continuance of that goodness and mercy which a gracious and merciful Providence has vouchsafed to us during the past half-year. The health of the inmates can bear favorable comparison with any other institution of a similar character in the United States, or in Great Britain, and the practical sympathy exhibited, in so marked a manner, by the citizens of Hamilton, in relieving the pecuniary wants of the establishment and in ministering to the happiness of its deeply afflicted inmates, calls forth from me devout recognition of the goodness and inscrutable will of the Great Architect of the Universe, that the Institution is located in the midst of a people whose peculiar characteristic is the relief of suffering humanity in its various forms and phases. Words of mine are inadequate to express the feelings of my heart for the many acts of kindness manifested towards me and my charge, since our arrival here; suffice it to say that I shall ever cherish a grateful remembrance of them. The average number of pupils on the Roll during the past half-year, is 57, six of whom have left; leaving at present 51 in attendance. Four were removed early in January because the

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rate-payers of the townships in which they resided felt aggrieved in being taxed for their support, and one blind boy no longer supported by Peterboro' County Council, made his way to the States with the view of obtaining admission into one of the Institutions there, so that he might learn some handicraft trade by which he might earn an independent livelihood.

Bearing upon this important matter, there is one circumstance which it is necessary to mention, namely, that in cases when County Councils vote one-half the sum required for the board and education of their beneficiaries and the Township the other half, much difficulty occurs on the part of Township Councillors, and great dissatisfaction on the part of parents, whose sensibilities are deeply wounded by their taxed neighbors, simply because they have to pay for "dummies." I am surprised that such characters would humiliate themselves by sending their speaking children to a free school, for the support of which the parents of deaf-mutes are taxed. The deaf and dumb have as much right to be educated by the County as those in possession of all their faculties; indeed, the claims of deaf-mutes and blind persons are much stronger, and call loudly for equal rights and privileges, which it is hoped will soon be given them.

In cases where the amount is levied upon the whole County, as in York and Peel, Wellington and Halton, no difficulty presents itself. I may here state, that from the opening of the Institution to the present time, these County Councils have extended to us a friendly and generous hand. It is, however, to be regretted that they cannot entertain the claims made upon them by the parents of this unfortunate class till a law be enacted to authorise them to carry into practical effect their benevolent intentions, namely, supporting every indigent deaf-mute and blind in their respective Counties.

The trying circumstances in which we have been placed in our efforts to provide funds for the support of the Institution, and the means to pay Teachers' salaries, added to the fact, that the course hitherto pursued in that way impedes, in a great measure, the progress of deaf mute education in this country, and blights the anticipated prospects of the blind in their sanguine expectations to learn some handicraft trade by which they may become useful and self-sustaining members of Society, rendered it my plain duty to remove the incubus which presses so heavily upon the future welfare of these classes by throwing it over on the shoulders of the Government to whom I stated in writing the grounds upon which I decline the great responsibilities attached to the support of the Institution.

They are these :

Firstly. Because some of the County Councils from which I have received countenance and support will not continue their beneficiaries

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longer than three years while six years is the usual time allowed in all institutions in which the deaf and dumb can possibly be educated so as to make them useful and self-sustaining members of society.

Secondly. Because my whole time would be occupied in collecting subscriptions throughout the country, to meet the growing wants of the Institution.

Thirdly. Because I could not under existing circumstances meet the wants of my family. Personally, I am, I deeply regret to say, in debt, and

Lastly. Because all County Councils who witnessed an examination of my pupils have expressed an ardent and sincere desire to maintain and educate all their indigent mutes, if a law were in operation to authorize them to do so.

The County of Wellington, ever foremost on my list, with York and Peel, and, last not least, Halton, are noble exceptions. Brave Wellington has at the last Session of Council placed three more indigent mutes in addition to the three already on my list; and Halton will support every indigent mute and blind in that County who applies for relief. York and Peel would have, I am sure, done likewise, had the chairman of the committee on education recommended further expenditure on behalf of deaf mute education. Many thanks to our good friends Messrs Leslie, Howland and Miller, Wardens of these noble Counties.

The County Councils of Wentworth and Halton gave last year a grant of \$100 each for which I maintain and educate two pupils from each County; one of whom from Halton pays \$50. The Township of Nissouri East, in County of Middlesex, voted \$25 for the support of an indigent mute, and the County of Lincoln sent a donation of \$40 in aid of the Institution. With the profits derived from the Boarding Department, I have lately been enabled to place on the strength of the establishment no less than 20 indigent mutes for whom no provision could possibly be made by public bodies. What a pleasing reflection to rescue from misery, mental and moral degradation, 20 human beings by that great and powerful agent in human affairs—economy in the Institution, and executive ability in the market.

A saving of 25 per cent can be easily effected by purchasing the necessities of life at the RIGHT TIME—say 1st of November and middle of April. I laid in my year's fuel last February, when sleighing was good, at \$3 25 cts. a cord. I purchase groceries, &c., at wholesale prices, paying cash down.

The County Councils of Hastings, Haldimand, Ontario and Perth, have lately made appropriations for indigent mutes in these Counties. We expect on the assembling of the pupils on the 25th of August, a large increase to our present number.

The following table will throw some light upon this subject :

COUNTIES.	No. of Deaf-Mutes in Counties	No. of Blind.	No. paid for by County.	No. from County supported by me.	No. paid for by Parents.	Total under Instruction.	REMARKS.
York and Peel	40	26	4	3	2	9	One supported by me left.
Wellington	16	17	3	1	1	5	Gave also a grant of \$100 to assist poor pupils.
Halton	9	14	1	1	1	3	
Carleton	16	9	1	1	2	4	Left because Township would not pay.
Lanark	26	20	1	...	...	1	Township of Nisourai voted only \$25 for this pupil.
Middlesex	34	12	1	...	...	2	
Oxford	6	10	1	...	...	2	Withdrew support. Walton, having absconded, taking the money given him to remit to me. Two of the pupils are supported by the Institution.
Peterboro'	27	17	2	1	1	3	
Leeds	28	16	1	2	...	3	
Simcoe	18	5	1	1	...	1	
Huron and Bruce	28	15	...	1	1	2	Gave a free grant of \$40.
Lincoln .....	...	...	...	1	...	...
Norfolk	10	11	...	...	...	...
Elgin	22	6	...	...	1	1	
Brant	7	10	...	...	1	1	
Waterloo	28	19	...	...	1	1	
Perth	16	10	...	...	2	2	
Durham and	15	10	...	...	2	2	
Northumberland	15	8	...	...	...	...
Northwest	15	12	...	2	...	2	
Wentworth	19	22	...	3	2	5	
Toronto City	6	5	...	5	...	6	
Hamilton City .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	Council voted \$100. Corporation will give a grant of \$140. Messrs. Dewar and Watson pay \$70 a year for one of these pupils. The Corporation will give a grant, in September next.
Left during half-year ..	301	274	16	22	18	56	
Grand Total now at School	1	1	3	5	
	15	21	15	51	

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I may state that County Councils pay \$ 140 for each pupil, and that the max. and min. sum paid by parents, varies from \$70 to \$140 per annum, according to age and circumstances. The profits arising from this, with subscriptions, have enabled me to maintain and educate these 20 indigent pupils, sixteen of whom are deaf and dumb and four blind. It may be well to remark, in this connection, that during the time in which the late Superintendent managed the Institution, not even one indigent mute or blind, was supported free, except a vote of \$60 for two years, out of the funds to enable a wealthy magistrate and merchant in the County of Grey, to educate his daughter. Of the \$140 paid for each pupil, the late Superintendent received \$120 for the bare board of each pupil, and \$10 for contingent expenses; the remaining \$10 was given me as School fees in addition to my salary of \$800 a year. Besides this he received \$1200 per annum salary, House, with 4 acres of land attached, rent free, taxes paid, lighting, and fuel provided, and every contingent expense met for him. This extravagant expenditure resulted in closing the Institution, leaving a debt of \$2,800, or thereabouts, to be liquidated; \$2,000 of which was paid by the Government, and the sale by auction of the furniture of the Institution did not wipe out the balance of its indebtedness, as is evident from the fact that I received last year a bill from Jacques & Hay, amounting to \$56 for furniture supplied the Institution two years previously. When the Government grant came to hand, the late Superintendent took the cream and left me the sour-milk. Naturally enough he paid himself and left me to collect my salary through out the country.

From the opening of the School in June, 1858, to January, 1860, I received \$640 only for my laborious services, and from January, 1860, to July, 1863, I received my salary in payments varying from \$5 to \$120. Once, however, I was handed \$300 in one sum and that by mere chance. I was obliged to buy my fuel, on credit, keep a pass book with my grocer and baker. Twice was my furniture distrained for rent and taxes. My feelings, under such painful circumstances, can better be imagined than described.

From July, 1863, to the present time, (June, 1865) I received not a cent in the shape of salary. It is true I was handed \$225 in January last, but that sum did not cover the amount I borrowed to meet the wants of the Institution. Well might I say in my letter resigning my charge to the superintendency of another, that I have shifted from my shoulders a weight of anxious care, inconceivable to those who have never experienced the difficulties and trials which attend such a position.

REMOVAL TO HAMILTON.

Having in July, 1864, been requested by Dr. Ryall, Superintendent of the Institution, to make the necessary preparations for the removal of my School from Toronto to this City, on the 1st of September following or thereabouts, I notified the parents of pupils then at their respective homes to that effect. When the time arrived for their return after vacation (25th August) a difficulty presented itself in obtaining a suitable building for the Institution here, which, coupled with my having given up the two houses occupied by me in Toronto, placed me in an embarrassed position; the more so, as the Government had not at the time referred to taken a lease of a house in this City. I, under these circumstances, was reluctantly obliged to remove here on my own personal responsibility, a step which I did not for a moment regret, having, in an indirect way, been supported by the Hon. Isaac Buchanan and Dr. Ryall.

The project of Confederation, then under consideration of the Government, and their absence in the Lower Provinces, left the subject in *statu quo*, but now that the school is in a very efficient condition, both as regards its high moral tone and literary status, with suitable accommodation, provided for 120 pupils, of school age, I do not entertain the least doubt imaginable, that the Government will not make ample provision to meet the requirements of so helpless a class of the community.

THE TEACHERS.

For the instruction of the 66 deaf-mute girls in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Montreal, there are six lady teachers, and for the 53 deaf-mute boys under the charge of the Abbé Belanger, there are five assistant teachers; while I have only three assistants for the 47 deaf-mutes, and one for the six blind, with which staff we can admit 20 additional pupils in September, without any increased expenditure in the shape of teachers' salaries, &c. I may truly ascribe this good working to the efficiency and zeal with which the teachers have discharged the laborious duties devolving upon them.

The gentlemanly and courteous conduct of Messrs. Terrill and Watson, in the discharge of their onerous duties in the supervision of the pupils, before and after School hours, combined with the tact displayed by them in conveying ideas to the mind of their deaf-mute pupils, bear evidence of their fitness for the responsible position, which they occupy. The Salaries allowed them for the first year while under training, is only \$300, with the usual school fees, amounting to \$65, during the past half-year. It is with mingled feelings

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of pleasure and regret that I have to announce the retirement of my two daughters from the active duties of instruction in the Institution; they have rendered valuable service in their efforts to ameliorate the condition of afflicted humanity. The sum total, which they received amounts to \$735, for their conjoint services of 9 years, Mrs. Terrill having been 6½ years, and Mrs. Watson, 2½ years, teaching; the latter had three years practical knowledge in the instruction of deaf-mutes, before her engagement in the Institution. Mrs. McGann has for the last year given her services free, while engaged in the instruction of a class which can only be reached through the medium of the sign language.

WORK PERFORMED BY THE PUPILS.

I regard the industrial training of the inmates of equal importance with their mental development. A squad of the boys, under the direction of one of their own class, scrub, with long-handled brushes, the 54 rooms of the house twice a week. The cutting of wood, cleaning of knives, working in the field, attending cow and poultry, painting, carpentry and other handicraft work are cheerfully performed by the boys.

A kitchen and three store-rooms have lately been renovated and repaired, thus increasing our accommodation considerably, six rooms papered and several useful pieces of furniture made and painted, such as book-cases, benches, dining-tables, clothes-presses, &c., &c. An outlay of about \$40 will give us three large and commodious school-rooms, leaving us first-class accommodation for dormitories in the second story.

THE GIRLS,

Assisted by a Cook and Laundress, do the remaining part of the housework. The only cause of complaint arises from the difficulty of establishing perfect order during the short time the pupils are engaged in their work, which is occasioned by their passing and re-passing through the halls while engaged in the performance of their respective duties. The testimony of parents who appreciate the industrial spirit exhibited by their children on their return home for vacation is of a very gratifying character indeed.

Had we the services of an efficient matron, whose duties would be entirely confined to the house-work, order could be more thoroughly established, and the benefits arising therefrom productive of beneficial results to the inmates in after life. The services of a superintendent and a matron cannot any longer be dispensed with.

RECREATION.

A field containing about half an acre of land, well fenced, has, for a time, been given to the Institution as a play ground for the Pupils, by the ex-Mayor, Mr. McElroy, to whom we are much indebted for this act of considerate kindness. Gymnastic exercises are practiced in this field two hours every evening. We have for a nominal rent, another field of two acres, one acre of which is planted with potatoes, which promises an abundant yield; and on the remaining acre are fruit trees, &c. Our vegetable garden will give us a fair supply; and when it is borne in mind that vegetables bring, in August and September, high prices, the advantages of having our own stock is quite apparent.

THE BLIND.

With the view of giving the blind some handicraft trade by which they could earn a livelihood and become self-supporting for the remainder of their life—a life of hopeless grief if left to drag out a miserable existence in a poor-house.—I have appealed to the Citizens of Hamilton for means to purchase materials to carry my views into practical effect and succeeded in raising \$100. \$75 of which has been paid. By communications received from my friend Dr. Howe, of Boston, the great Philanthropist, and from the Superintendent of the New York Institution for the blind, it appears that one year will be sufficient to give the blind a trade in mat-making, bottoming cane chairs, broom-making, and upholstery. It is not creditable to us as a people who make our Educational Institutions a subject of loud boasting, that we have no School for the Blind in British America.

An experience of ten years in an institution for deaf-mutes, whose education I have made a special study, justifies me in the statement that there is no subject upon which more deplorable ignorance prevails, even among the more intelligent classes of the community than the moral condition of the Deaf and Dumb. The deplorable state of this afflicted class receives far less general sympathy, and challenges far less attraction than a more intimate knowledge of their case would be certain to produce. Deprived from the intimacy of the power of holding intercourse with those by whom he is surrounded, shut in in a gloomy unintelligent world of their own; he is debarred from all those endearing associations which make life in youth happy, and whose memories cling to us in the older and sterner days of our existence. Parents and children alike suffer and are alike objects of humane commiseration. The engaging prattle of the little one, which charms and delights the mother's heart, is denied to her who has given to the world a deaf-mute. And the sweet mother's lullaby, which soothes to rest the innocent little

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one, the poor deaf mute has never heard nor can ever enjoy. Growing up a stranger to the influence of sound and social intercourse to which from its infirmity, it is quite a stranger, and discouraged as the deaf-mute is in his many fruitless attempts to make himself understood it cannot be wondered at that his temper is sour, and passionate. In cases of illness with what intense anxiety does a mother endeavor to minister to his wants and relieve his sufferings. I can feel for a mother's woe under these trying circumstances.

"Man, may the sterner virtues know,
Determined justice, truth severe—
But female hearts with pity glow,
For, woman hold afflictions dear,
For *guiltless* woes her sorrow flows,
And suffering vice brings forth a tear,
'Tis hers to soothe the ills below,
And bid life's fairer views appear."

The mothers of 800 deaf-mutes, cry aloud to the executive Government to give their deaf and dumb, the means by which they may have the power of expressing their thoughts and feelings and thus enable them to share in the intellectual enjoyment common to all, and know the length and breadth and depth of Christ's love which passeth knowledge. The mothers of 600 blind supplicate the executive Government for means to enable their unfortunates to bear the heavy burden consequent upon loss of sight. "We would solicit the Government together up these fragments of humanity till nothing remains until there shall not be even one deaf-mute, or one blind of school age left without education in the Province."

I desire, to impress upon the Government the importance of relieving me from the onerous duties which devolve upon me.—Left to the management and care of the literary department alone, I could impart even greater efficiency to the Institution, and be saved from the many embarrassments which now surround me; and in the interests of the afflicted class, in whose behalf I labor, I feel that this change is one of great importance.

The retirement of my two daughters as teachers, &c., involves me in embarrassment, and calls loudly for efficient help to fill their place on the assembling of the pupils after vacation.

I feel it my duty to thank Mr. J. B. Smith, Teacher, for the energy and tact displayed by him in realizing the handsome sum of \$109.02 by the *Re-Union* held on the 19th instant. The thanks of the pupils of the Institution are hereby tendered to Mr. Peterson,

"Dentist, for his gratuitous services, and to the Great Western Railway Company for the liberal arrangement made for the return of the pupils to school.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. McGANN,

Principal.

Collections received from 1st January, to 21st June, 1885.

Nassagawea, per Rev. Mr. Savage	\$25 42
Georgetown, per Rev. Mr. Young	21 00
Norval,	6 35
Woodstock, per Mr. Strachan	11 40
Whitby, per Miss. Gunn	14 50
Ottawa, per Rev. Mr. Whyte, Osgoode	30 00
Kingston, per Rev. Mr. Rogers	10 00
"Anonymous," Peterboro'	2 00
Received from J. J. G. Terrill, clear of expenses in his examination tour to Ottawa with a deaf-mute and a blind pupil ..	98 00
City of Hamilton	338 32
E. C. White, Georgetown, 2000 Envelopes	
Barber, Brothers, 1½ Ream of Paper.	
	556 99
Less Expenses.....	3 67
	\$553 32

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DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION in account with J. B. MCGANN, from 1st Jan. to 21st July, 1865.

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Dr.			
To Cash on hand from last report.....	\$ 75 00	By Groceries and Provisions.....	\$1131 38
" " Received from County Council and parents for board of pupils from 1st Jan- uary to 30th June.....	1992 26	" Clothing for indigent pupils.....	86 97
" " Subscriptions from citizens of Hamilton.....	338 32	" Stationery, Postage and Express charges.....	36 68
" " from the country, including \$40 donation from County Council of Lincoln.....	215 00	" Books, Maps and School requisites.....	80 00
		" Furniture.....	209 24
		" Lumber.....	80 67
		" Repairs.....	23 49
		" Paint.....	7 50
		" Travelling Expenses to meet County Councils.....	48 51
		" Lighting for 1864.....	21 00
		" " for this half year.....	18 00
		" Bogus Bill received.....	5 00
		" Servants' wages.....	66 00
		" Crockery.....	20 00
		" Hogs and Poultry.....	20 00
		" Cow.....	26 00
		" Carriage of Books for the Blind from Brighton, England, (6 chests).....	19 50
		" Cash advanced to the Teachers as School Fees, \$5 each pupil.....	280 00
		" Lent Teachers on Account.....	180 00
		" Balance on hand to meet Butcher and Baker's bills not yet furnished and \$10.75 for Gro- ceries.....	280 79
			<u>\$2620 58</u>

\$2620 58

APPENDIX.

I have seized every occasion to bring under public attention the great evils which result from consanguineous intermarriages, frequently at the risk of giving offence; but I am rejoiced to know that my warnings have been the means of preventing these marriages, and have received the thanks of persons who have been saved from untold evils which might have resulted from connections which they contemplated forming. I give one case out of seven, numbering 10 mutes, at present in my school, to show the deep affliction resulting from intermarriage of cousins—it is that of a family having five deaf-mute children, the parents of whom are first and second cousins, and their two maternal aunts and a paternal uncle deaf and dumb, these also the children of cousins. This good and respectable family were in complete ignorance of the evils produced by such a union. The introduction of Physiology into our Common Schools, will in the hands of a good teacher, throw light upon this very important subject.

The following from the Report of the able and benevolent Principal Mr. J. S. Hutton, of the Halifax Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, is of immense importance to the public :

CONSANGUINEOUS INTERMARRIAGES AS A CAUSE OF DEAF-DUMBNESS.

In my paper on the statistics of the Deaf and Dumb in the Lower Provinces of B. N. America, published as an appendix to last Annual Report, special reference was made to the melancholy fact that deaf-dumbness appears to be more prevalent in the Colonies, and especially in Nova Scotia, than in Great Britain or the United States; and the opinion then expressed as to the *chief* cause of this disparity has been confirmed by subsequent investigation. The following facts, elicited by special inquiries, and recorded in the register of the Institution, serve to show that this calamity is, to a striking extent, the immediate result either of hereditary predisposition, or of the intermarriage of blood relations.

Out of one hundred and three deaf-mutes, belonging to sixty-two families, connected with the Halifax school, since its commencement, thirty-eight are known to be the offspring of parents related in various degrees of consanguinity,—38 others belong to families *not* so related, while in three cases out of these, deaf-mutes exist in collateral branches of the family; in 2 other cases the offspring are cousins, and there

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had been deaf and dumb in the family three generations back ; in *one* there was partial deafness in other members of the family ; and in *one* case the child was illegitimate.

In 23 other cases where no definite information has been obtained, further enquiry would probably discover several more as the offspring of first and second cousins, which, with the the 38 cases above, would give an average of betwen 40 and 50 per cent. as the children of cousins ! An impressive and melancholly example of the pernicious consequences flowing from such unions, and the solemn warning both to individuals and communities of the inexorable and inevitable retribution with which nature visits the violation of those physical laws on which the welfare of society so largely depends.

Out of 103 cases above mentioned it also appears that there are					
7 cases of 4 deaf mutes in the family					28
5	"	3	"	"	15
10	"	2	"	"	20
40	"	1	"	"	40

62 families containing a total of..... 103 Deaf-mutes.

Being an average of about two to each family !

In 5 out of 22 families, each containing more than 1 deaf child, the parents were related as second cousins ; in 7 other families, as *first cousins*.

Similar statistics in other countries exhibit similar results, establishing beyond doubt the intimate connection between consanguineous intermarriages, and a large proportion of the privation and suffering which philanthropy is called on to relieve ; pointing out at the same time, the necessity for a Legislative prohibition of such unions, so as to cut off one of the most prolific sources of idiocy, insanity, blindness deaf-dumbness, and other forms of physical and mental affliction entailed upon an innocent and hapless posterity.

Already, in some of the neighboring States, has this policy been discussed and adopted ; and I trust that ere long our Colonial Legislatures will also deal with the question as its interest and importance demand. Meanwhile in the hope of directing attention to the matter, I would present some additional statistical considerations, for comparison with the state of things in Nova Scotia, and in confirmation and illustration of the views now expressed.

The Irish Census Commissioners, for 1861, report as follow :—

" Among the predisposing causes of hereditary disease, the too close consanguinity of parents has long been looked upon as paramount ; and consequently an enquiry was made as to its probable

effect in producing deaf-dumbness. Returns of this kind must be expected to be deficient; still 170 instances were recorded, in which the parents were related in the degrees of second or third cousins. The result of these intermarriages was 109 cases of *one* in a family deaf and dumb, of which 94 were congenital and 5 acquired, 3 were dumb only, and 7 dumb and idiotic.

"Thirty seven cases of congenital, and one of acquired deafness occurred where two of the family were effected, including four out of the fifteen cases already specified; of the remainder, 17 instances occurred in which *three* of the same family, and 3 where *four* in the one family were deaf and dumb. In one of the instances *six* in the family were deaf and dumb, and in the cases of both, seven and eight deaf and dumb in families, the parents were also nearly related."

In France the births of deaf and dumb children, in marriages within the limits of consanguinity, are in the proportion of 25 to 30 per cent.; in Kentucky, U. S., 20 per cent., and in Illinois 12 per cent.

"In England 6 per cent. of such children born are deaf-mutes, which when compared with other countries, shews that the English are careful on this point, and when they marry cousins, they are more distant." It would be well if the Colonies displayed the same rational regard to the interests of propriety and humanity.

"Popular opinion and scientific induction, equally lead to the impression that although one marriage between near relations may be unattended with evil consequences, immediately perceptible, yet it is very rare that the second or third is so innocent. There usually arises from the children resulting in such unions, a tendency to disorders, functional or organic, of the nervous system, and of the nutritive organs, tending in the former case to unsoundness of mind, and in the latter, to conditions bordering on scrofula or an allied affection." *

The following case related by Mr. J. B. McGann, of the Deaf and Dumb Institution in Toronto, C. W., is worthy of particular attention:—

"In one family 4 out of 7 brothers married their first cousins, the melancholy result of which is witnessed in 9 cases of deafness 2 of blindness, and one of idiocy in their offspring. Two other brothers of this family did not intermarry cousins, and the pleasing result may be witnessed in a vigorous and healthy offspring of two sons and three daughters, but unfortunately, however, these sons married first cousins. In the first case, after the birth of one child, a mutual separation was the lamentable result.

* *British Quarterly Review*, quoted by Mr. McGann.

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"In the second case, the husband died at an early age, leaving a young widow to tell the sad tale, that "she and her husband called one and the same woman grandmother!" The saddest part of the case of this unfortunate family is of too delicate a nature for publication. One of the four brothers to whom reference has been made, as having married a first cousin, had two deaf-mute daughters and a son, all of whom grew up in ignorance, in consequence of there being no schools for the deaf and dumb in Canada West, and in due course entered into the bonds of matrimony with hearing an speaking partners, and we have heard of only one case of deafness among their offspring, consisting of fourteen children. This case did not lose hearing till after her marriage. She has two children, one of whom is idiotic."

Mr. McGann further states that "the heads of these families have with much earnestness of manner, entreated him to raise a warning voice" against such unnatural unions."

Of 25 pupils in Mr. McGann's school at Toronto (1863) there were 7 who were the offspring of cousins.

In conclusion I would invite attention to the following statistics, for which I am indebted to the article "Deaf and Dumb" in vol. VI. of Appleton's "New American Cyclopædia," :

Statistics of American Asylum at Hartford.—Of 542 cases 95 had either parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, or cousins, deaf and dumb; 27 more remote relatives deaf and dumb. Of 911 families, 728 had each only 1 deaf and dumb child; 109 had 2; 41 had 3; 18 had 4; 11 had 5; 2 had 6; and 2 had 7.

Statistics of National Institution, Paris.—Of 102 families, 81 had only 1 deaf and dumb child; 9 had 2; 7 had 3; 3 had 4; 1 had 5; 1 had 7.

Statistics of Yorkshire Institution, at Doncaster, England.—Of 110 families 74 had but 1 deaf and dumb child; 17 had 2; 7 had 3; 2 had 4; 1 had 5.

Statistics of Report of Secretary of State, Ohio.—Of 407 families, 327 had but 1 deaf and dumb child; 49 families had 2 each; 17 had 3; 8 had 4; 2 had 5; 1 had 7; 1 had 9. Of these 407 families the parents of 47 were known to have been cousins. Of these 47, 30 had 1 deaf and dumb child; 10 had 2; 4 had 3; 2 had 4; 1 had 5.

Statistics of Ireland, prepared by Dr. Wyld.—Of 170 families where the parents were known to be first cousins, 109 had 1 deaf and dumb child; 17 had 3; 3 had 4; 1 had 7; and one 1 had 8. In 471 cases deafness was found to be hereditary, of which 249 were cases in which the father, or some relative of his, were deaf and dumb; and 222 where the mother or some relative of hers was deaf and dumb.

ILLINOIS INSTITUTION.

In twenty years there had been admitted into the Institution, 512 pupils, from 447 families—of whom 173 were deaf from birth:—2 families had 4 deaf mutes; 13 had 3; 34 had 2; in 2 cases the father was deaf and dumb; in 2 others, both parents were mutes; 28 had 1 brother deaf and dumb; and 19 had 1 sister deaf and dumb; 13 others had each 1 brother and sister deaf and dumb, while 4 had 2 sisters and 1 brother, and 3 had 2 brothers and 1 sister deaf and dumb; 2 had 3 deaf-mute sisters; 23 had relatives, other than parents and brothers and sisters, deaf and dumb.

The benevolent principles upon which social science is founded, assume that public beneficence should be exercised with an unsparing hand to throw a flood of light upon the causes which operate to produce these fearful calamities, and thereby enable us to discover the means by which they may be mitigated, and if possible removed. The great aim and end of secular education, is to advance our knowledge of nature in her numerous forms and by an adjustment of her own laws remove the obstacles which impede the progress of civilization, compel her to minister to our wants and subserve the general purposes of life.

There has, for the last few years past, been a very strong feeling in the community with regard to the marriage of relatives, as the result of investigations upon this subject show, in a most striking manner, the sad consequences of such connections. It is estimated that from 25 to 30 per cent. of deaf-mutes are the children of first cousins—a fearful warning this to those who entertain a notion of forming an union of this kind.

By a close observance of the laws which govern and regulate life and health—a proper universal care of mothers and children, and by a law prohibiting the marriage of cousins, the number of deaf-mutes might be greatly diminished—probably one-half, possibly three-fourths. It is a point which is certainly worthy of the most careful attention, and the evil should be met by a stringent law if it cannot be prevented by milder measures.