

at meal time, when they meet, but do not mix, in the dining hall. This blind wing includes excellent day-rooms and class-rooms, fitted up in good style. There are music-rooms for the instruction of gifted blind children in piano forte playing. The accommodation upstairs is similar to that provided for the deaf. Both schoolrooms are furnished to meet the peculiar educational requirements of the blind and deaf. They are supplied with all needful apparatus for their instruction.

The workshop has ample provision for manual instruction. The subjects at present arranged for the deaf boys are carpentry, wood-turning, and modelling; for the deaf girls, cookery and needle-work; while the younger pupils of both sexes will be taught various kindergarten occupations.

The Institution was opened by Godfrey Wedgwood, Esq., the chairman, on May 3rd last, in the presence of an influential company, including Mrs. Thurstan Holland, R. Fowler, Esq., H.M.I., W. Woodall, Esq., M.P., E. V. Greatbatch, Esq., vice-chairman of the Authority, and others. Pupils were received on May 4th, and at the present time there are 56 on the books, of which number 21 are blind. There is every indication that this number will be rapidly augmented, and that in a few months the total in residence will exceed a hundred. There appears, therefore, ample need of the Institution.

The head-master and matron of the Institution are Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Story. Mr. Story, who is a trained certificated elementary school teacher (parchment), has the diploma of the College of Teachers of the Deaf, London, as well as many other general qualifications. He has been a teacher for 18 years, of which 10 have been spent with the deaf. Mrs. Story has also had 12 years' experience as a teacher at Glasgow and Margate. The Institution is thus unique in securing a head-master and matron both of whom came to it as teachers of standing and experience among the deaf. Mr. Story's last position was at Derby, where he was three years head-teacher. Mr. Story is one of the best known of our young men. He is capable, energetic, and keenly alive to the necessities of the deaf. His teaching is practical, and he steers clear of unworkable theories. His present staff is a good one, and includes as head-assistants Miss Kirkland, late of the Derby Institution, and Mr. H. Earlam, late of Liverpool. The Institution is one of the foremost to adopt the pupil teacher system under the Department, Mr. Story being qualified to train them.

The Authority has taken a very high-minded view of its responsibilities, and has recently decided to appoint an attendant to supervise the deaf boys out of school. We give an illustration of the Institution from the south-east, as well as a photo. Dr. Burchart, an American missionary, was

It only remains for us to offer our congratulations to the North Stafford School Board Authority on the care, forethought, and humanity manifested in taking this new departure in State education for the deaf and blind, and on its good fortune in having entrusted the management to the capable and accomplished hands of a pair like Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Story.

## THE JAPAN DEAF.

### SOMETHING ABOUT THEIR SCHOOL.

**The Government Takes Interest in Its Deaf and consequently the School is Prosperous — Its Principal Touring America.**

[The above is an exact copy of the heading of an interesting article we take from the *The Deaf-Mutes' Register* for last June 10th. What do our readers think of the style? The paper is set up and printed by the boys of the Central (New York) Institution for Deaf-Mutes, and appears weekly.]

**A**ROM foreigners, we borrowed our methods of instructing the deaf. But we certainly did a great deal more than merely borrow, for we have improved upon these methods so much that our original benefactors could now come to us for no little amount of information.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed to our land last year, Babu Jamini Nath Banerji, Principal of the Calcutta, Deaf and Dumb School. Now, we have with us Mr. Nobuhachi Konishi, Director (principal) of the Tokyo Blind and Dumb School.

The school for the deaf in China owes its existence to an American, Mrs. Mills. And the time will come ere long, when we will look with pride to what we have done for the education of the deaf of the three great Oriental countries of India, China, and Japan, whose population (300,000,000, 375,000,000, and 50,000,000 respectively) is one-half the human race.

Our interest in the school in Japan has been aroused by the sending to this country and Europe by the Japanese government of Mr. Konishi.

The origin of the school dates back to May 22, 1875, when the Rakuzen Kwai, a philanthropic society, composed of four native gentlemen and Dr. Burchart, an American missionary, was

organized. Mr. Y. Yamao, the Senior Vice-Minister of Public Works, soon joined, and it was at his suggestion that the school should not be under the control of any denomination or creed, and that day the emperor gave to the school \$3,000. Originally, only the blind were considered.

After the school had passed under the hands of the Government, it was opened in February, 1880, for the admission of the blind. Four months later, it opened its doors to the deaf, so that the department for the deaf is seventeen years old this month.

The location of the school has been thrice changed, the present site being at Sasugaya-cho, Koishi Kawa, Tokyo, and belongs to the Government.

The oral method is used in the school for the deaf, the instructors (the same as those for the blind) being Mr. K. Ishikawa, Mr. K. Togama, and Mr. T. Yamane, in addition to five others who instruct in the arts and trades. The committee realizes that it is far from being advisable to have the same instructors for both the deaf and the blind, and is anxious awaiting an opportunity to make a change. Article IV. of the regulations says: "The ordinary course for the dumb pupils comprises Reading, Writing, Composition, Arithmetic, Written Conversation, and Gymnastics. The teaching course, Drawing, Engraving, Joinery, and Sewing." Six hours of instruction are given every day. The number of deaf pupils is about seventy-five.

Mr. Konishi has along with him samples of work done by his pupils. When we were shown flowers engraved out of a single piece of wire, we did not wonder that those who do such could easily get along in life. And when it came to flowers made of inlaid wood, it was hard to believe that such exquisite work could be done after the short time allowed for acquiring. The main, and almost exclusive, end of the school seems to be to prepare its pupils to earn a livelihood; and, as far as this part of schooling is concerned, the school is a success.

The report of the director shows that an education for the deaf in Japan pays. Of the twenty-nine graduates up to 1895, all but four, who are reported as "living with their families," appear to be doing well. And when we recall the prejudice in our own country against the deaf, this school can well be proud of its achievements.

The annual expenditure of the school is about \$5,400, the larger part of which is derived from \$67,500 of the funds. [To reduce to pounds sterling, divide these amounts by 5.] The Government and the people take kindly to the school. The Emperor has presented it with \$3,000, and the Empress with \$300. The latter has visited the school and shown much interest in hearing man. He, no doubt, loses much from

it. But more than this, the Government has sent its director (principal) on a tour of inspection of the schools for the deaf of this country and Europe.

Mr. Konishi is a very interesting gentleman—interested in his work and interesting in himself. All his six children are deaf. He carries on written conversation, as he has not acquired the rules of pronunciation of English words. His language is spelled, and pronouncing English as it is spelled often renders it unintelligible. He has been to Kendall Green daily for the past two weeks, observing everything and taking notes.

He is a man of considerable culture, diligently inspecting the botanical and zoological gardens, art galleries, museums, libraries, public schools, kindergartens, and in short everything that concerns the public's welfare.

There is another school in Kioto, founded in 1877 by Mr. Furukawa. It is in a prosperous condition.

R. E. L. NICHOLSON.

## "Dumb."

HOW much trouble people give themselves to obtain problematical benefits! A year or two ago a craze swept over the deaf mute world to abolish the use of the word "dumb," because a few would-be philosophical persons with more learning than common sense arrived at the conclusion that the words "dumb" or "mute" were derogatory to the dignity of humanity in our "noble selves." These persons said that the word "dumb," as used in the Bible, included stupidity, and, of course, the Oralists added that since their advent there was no reason for anyone to be "dumb."

The consequence was that the word "dumb" was banished from the title of most deaf-mute papers, and "deaf" alone used. But now a new difficulty arose. If for the sake of argument we grant all that the opponents of the words require, still we are brought face to face with the fact that the mental platform of the born deaf is widely different from that of those who have only become deaf at the age of from three to seven years, and have learnt what speech means.

With equal advantages, the man who has lost his hearing at four years old is far more nearly the equal of his brethren of the hearing community than the born deaf-mute is equal to him. The deaf man is generally a greater reader, and has more general book knowledge than the average hearing man. He, no doubt, loses much from

want of college training and the study of different languages, but this will not prevent him from often obtaining a high degree of culture, though he cannot aspire to the highest. To put such a man on the same footing as a born mute who has had to go through many years of hard work before he could comprehend a child's book suitable for the age of five years is absurd.

The world in general, whatever it may have thought in the days of the authors of the Bible, did not consider that the word "dumb" bore any stigma of mental inferiority with it; they simply regarded it as a fact that they were born without hearing, and therefore dumb, and any small ability to articulate later on did not touch this idea.

However, there the difficulty remains. Go into any Oral School and you will find both classes lumped together in the eyes of the public, and consequently the ability of the merely deaf throws a mantle of respectability over the deficiencies of the born mute, even if the teachers are innocent of any intention of using it.

Now we are being exploited to find a new word to describe the different classes. An American proposes "surd" (he leaves out the ab), and an Englishman proposes the extremely original but odd name "owrotic," but I am afraid neither of these words will have much success in this generation. The public does not easily adopt new words, and the most reasonable way of settling the matter seems to me to be to go back to the original "deaf" and "deaf-mute" for those born so.

I have nothing to say against Oralism in its proper place, *i.e.*, amongst those who have once heard, or even for some phenomenally sharp born mutes who can master articulation in a fair degree; but, for the majority, it seems to me to be like a dog standing on his hind legs. It is wonderful to see a dog doing it, but dogs only do it at the command of their masters, and when left free to choose, always prefer to walk on four legs. You would not call such a dog a biped because he walked on two legs occasionally; and if a man, deaf from birth, uses speech on compulsion to two or three persons, and uses manualism and signs to all the rest, why not call him dumb?

#### H. B. BEALE.

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An enterprising deaf and dumb man, living in Glasgow, is the owner of a very smart turn-out in the shape of a donkey and coal cart. "Neddy" has nothing whatever of the dejected appearance which characterises so many of his kind. He is in splendid condition, and, decorated with beautiful well-kept harness, trots along very briskly. His owner is a great bird-fancier and lover of animals, and is quite proud of his four-footed assistant.

#### DETECTED.

A devoted couple, who, apparently, had been long separated, were thrust into each other's company at a largely-attended reception. A lady who tells the story was present, in company with an educated deaf girl.

The happy re-united pair fully displayed the thoughts that were in their hearts by the beam upon their countenances. Suddenly the young man drew near to the one whom he adored and said, in a low tone, inaudible to those about him, a few seemingly affectionate words. The deaf girl watched the proceedings with keen interest, and suddenly broke into a broad grin.

On her companion inquiring what it was that amused her, she turned about so that the couple could not see her, and replied—

"That man said, 'If all these people were not here, I'd kiss you. If they don't get out of the way pretty soon, I shall have to before them.' The girl replied, 'Then I shall scream.'"

The deaf girl had understood their words by watching the motion of their lips.

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A beggar in Fleet Street recently accosted a gentleman, and whined, "I'm paralysed in both me 'ands, mister, an' can't work, for I can't grasp anythink with 'em. Could you spare me a trifle, mister?" "I'm deaf," replied the gentleman. "You'd better write down what you want to say. Here's a pencil and a piece of paper." "Deaf, is 'e?" thought the beggar. "Then 'e didn't hear about the paralysis." So he wrote down, "I've got a wife an' six children starvin' at home, an' ham in a drefful state of destertushon." He handed the paper to the gentleman, who read it, and said: "I thought you said you were paralysed in both hands, and couldn't grasp anything; and yet you can write?" "Did—didn't yer say yer was deaf?" stammered the beggar, who now did really feel paralysed. "Yes, to find out if you were an impostor, which you are, as I supposed," replied the gentleman. "Well, of all the blooming frauds, yer the biggest!" exclaimed the beggar. "The hidea of yer sayin' yer was deaf, and tryin' to impose on a poor feller!" And he shuffled off, sniffing the air with righteous indignation.

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We in Britain are not alone in ANOTHER having to mourn the loss of TEACHER GONE. honoured teachers. Early in April the sad tidings came of the death of Giacomo Panario, honorary director for many years of the Genova Institution for Deaf-Mutes. Our hearts go out in sympathy to our Southern brethren.