

TRUE CHRISTIANITY

EVIDENCE AT BRIGHTON

WORKING FOR THE AFFLICTED

BLIND AND DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

One of the finest demonstrations which have been held at the Brighton Home for the Blind and Deaf and Dumb occurred on Saturday afternoon, when the 41st annual meeting of the institution was held at the home. There was a large and distinguished gathering present, over which Lady Galway presided. Notable features of the afternoon were the fine address which she delivered and the practical exhibition of the work which is being accomplished at the home. The blind pupils went through some lessons in reading, algebra, and arithmetic which showed that truly marvellous results had been achieved, while the method of teaching the deaf and dumb to understand and realise what was being said to them and to make answer to the questions put to them was wonderful. Mr. Johnson and his staff are to be heartily congratulated upon the fine humanitarian work upon which they are engaged.

—A Splendid Record.—

The annual report which was submitted showed a thoroughly satisfactory state of affairs. It stated among other things the following:—

During the year 10 pupils were admitted and 13 left. Ten of the last named went to various trades and occupations, two returned to their homes and one was sent to Angus Deaf and Dumb Home at Parafield. During the past five years 54 pupils have passed out of the institution. Of these 39 went either to trades or to domestic service, 10 girls returned to their homes, and five boys were transferred to Angus Home. At the present time there are only five scholars above the compulsory school age, viz., 16 years, and four of these will leave at the end of the year. As the children come at an earlier age than formerly, they are fit to leave between ages of 16 and 17 years. It will, therefore, be understood that the institution is in no sense an asylum or a place of refuge, but a boarding school. There are 70 pupils in the schools at present, and 13 deaf and six blind persons are employed by the institution. The health of the pupils had been satisfactory during the year. Regret was expressed at the death of the hon. treasurer (Mr. A. M. Simpson), who had been a member of the board for 22 years, and had acted as treasurer since 1896, Mr. Robert Knowles (a member of the board for 27 years), and Mrs. J. H. Luxmoore (who had been a valued member of the ladies' committee for nearly 30 years). Miss Ruby Hubbard, who had been a teacher in the deaf school for seven years resigned her position in March last to be married. The teachers and the pupil teachers were working well, and the superintendent reported satisfactory pro-

teachers were working well, and the superintendent reported satisfactory progress in all the classes. Physical training and gymnastics had received much attention. The blind especially received much benefit from these exercises. The gymnasium was open at night in order that the pupils might practise when not receiving instruction.

—Production.—

There had been considerable development on the farm. The crops comprised eight acres of wheat and oats, three acres of peas, three acres of lucern, and one acre of potatoes. The fruit garden had been enlarged. All the vegetables, milk, butter, and eggs required in the establishment had been produced, for which Mr. Miller's bore was mainly responsible. An up-to-date saw and bench had been presented by Mr. C. Grieve (member of the committee), and a very fine lucern mower, an up-to-date plough, and a cultivator had been handed over the institution by Mr. J. H. Champness (another member). For these valuable gifts the committee recorded their grateful thanks. Considerable saving would be effected by these implements, as Mr. Hinton, the head gardener, was able to work the whole of them. He had cut all the chaff required during the year. Although the education of blind and deaf mute children was now compulsory by Act of Parliament some parents were evading the law, to the detriment of their afflicted offspring. There was a case known to the committee of a deaf and dumb girl over 12 years of age growing up in ignorance. It was difficult to conceive how parents could inflict such a terrible injury on their own children by refusing to send them to school. In conclusion the committee returned thanks to all connected with the institution who had assisted it during the year.

The balance sheet indicated that £3302 in receipts had come in, apart from the £1400 Government subsidy. The full total of receipts was £5591, to which must be added £1450 which had been transferred from the endowment fund. Expenses reached a total of £2701, of which the principal items were £2383 for salaries and wages, and £1000 for provisions and groceries.

—Veteran President.—

The adoption of the report and balance sheet was moved by Professor Mitchell, who said that one would judge from the balance sheet that the institution was the vanguard. He regretted to notice, however, that it had lost several of its prominent supporters. One more name must be added to that list, that of Dr. T. K. Hamilton. It was something for which they should be grateful, however, that their president (Sir Edwin Smith) was still with them after 44 years' service. He trusted that the veteran would see his jubilee. A magnificent educational work was being done in the institution, and he knew of no organisation in Adelaide which had a greater claim to the regard and support of the public. The teacher had to enter absolutely into the minds of his pupils, and after the exhibition they had witnessed that afternoon they could appreciate how difficult was the task of imparting knowledge to the afflicted. The faces of the children were happy and bright, however, and showed clearly what a grand work had been achieved. He congratulated the members of the staff upon the great success

and been relieved. He congratulated the members of the staff upon the great success which they had won.

—A Miracle Performed.—

Professor Darnley Naylor, in seconding the motion, stated that the exhibition they had seen that afternoon had been little short of miraculous. The institution was a true haven of rest for the unfortunately stricken children. It was a place where the true ethics of Christianity were to be found. Whenever he saw Mr. Johnson and his associates at work he was reminded of the Sermon on Mount.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Rev. C. J. Whitfield moved that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded the officers for their services in the past.

Hon. F. S. Walsh, M.L.C., seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation.

—The New Officers.—

The following officers were appointed for the ensuing year:—Patron, Sir Henry Galway; patroness, Lady Galway; president, Sir Edwin Smith; vice-president, Mr. W. Herbert Phillips; hon. treasurer, Mr. A. J. Roberts; hon. ophthalmic and aural surgeon, Dr. Symons; hon. physician, Dr. A. P. E. O'Leary; hon. surgeon, Dr. J. B. Dawson; dental surgeon, Mr. B. Thomson; auditors, Messrs. F. Stevens & Son and R. G. Neill; committee, Messrs. A. C. Colton, J. H. Champness, W. J. Denny, C. Grieve, J. H. Gurr, Andrew Loutit, John Miller, and P. T. Scott; ladies committee, Mesdames W. Burford, A. C. Colton, W. Kither, H. P. McLachlan, A. W. Marshall, A. M. Simpson, R. H. Kay (hon. secretary), D. H. Power, and C. M. Todd, and the Misses Colton, Kay, and Sandover.

At the instance of Mr. W. Herbert Phillips a vote of thanks was accorded Lady Galway. The mover stated in his remarks that though the finances showed a credit of £240, they had to transfer £1450 from the endowment fund. That amount would have to be repaid, and he trusted that their many good friends would help them to repay it. He paid a glowing tribute to Mr. Johnson and the staff for the splendid work they had accomplished.

After the meeting concluded the visitors made an inspection of the premises.