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VIENNA INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION, 1873.

REPORT

ON

DEAF-MUTE INSTRUCTION.

BY

E. M. GALLAUDET.



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DEAF-MUTE INSTRUCTION AS REPRESENTED IN THE VIENNA EXHIBITION OF 1873.

1. The defective arrangement of the Exhibition, markedly inferior to that of Paris in 1867, rendered it difficult to make a comparative examination of exhibits of a similar character from different countries.

This was true in an especial degree of the matter of deaf-mute instruction; that is to say, it was almost impossible to be certain one had discovered, even after long search, all that might exist in the Exhibition relating to this specialty in the departments of education or public charities.

2. For the credit of the several states of Europe where establishments for deaf and dumb exist, it is to be hoped that the following report may be found to be imperfect, and that much more than we were able to discover met the eyes of observers more fortunate than ourselves. Otherwise, the fact will pass into history that, of the hundreds of institutions in Europe, but five, and four of these in Austria, contributed anything to the *Welt-Ausstellung*.

From the imperial royal institution in Vienna, a set of photographs appeared, showing with considerable clearness the arrangement of its buildings.

From the institution at Briinn, specimens of steel pens manufactured in the establishment, together with some other unimportant articles of handiwork, were exhibited.

The St. Polten school sent a series of picture-cards used in teaching beginners; and the institution at Gratz presented wood-carvings, executed by its pupils, fancy work, shoes manufactured in the institution, and specimens of penmanship.

3. In marked contrast to this meager presentation from the schools of Europe was the collection of reports, photographs, and publications to be found in the American department.

Early in the autumn of 1872, the honorable Commissioner of Education, General John Eaton, requested Prof. Edward A. Fay, then acting president of the National Deaf-Mute College and editor of the "American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb," to invite institutions for deaf-mutes in the United States to send "as full representations as possible of the methods and results of the education of the deaf and dumb in America."

4. In response to Professor Fay's invitation, there were forwarded, through the Bureau of Education, and exhibited in a prominent section of the space allotted to the United States, the following contributions:

From the American Asylum at Hartford, Conn., a complete set of reports, 1817-'72, bound in four volumes; and the discussion on articulation before a committee of the Massachusetts legislature in 1867, one volume.

From the Pennsylvania institution, located at Philadelphia, a volume of reports and a photograph of the buildings.

From the Indiana institution, situated at Indianapolis, a complete set of reports, 1844-'72, in two volumes; and the proceedings of the seventh convention of American instructors of deaf-mutes.

From the Iowa institution, located at Council Bluffs, a volume of reports, and a photograph of the buildings.

From the Texas institution, located at Austin, a complete set of reports, 1857-'72, in one volume.

From the Columbia institution, located at Washington, D. C., a complete set of reports, 1857-'72, in one volume, including proceedings of conference of principals in 1868, and a portfolio of photographs of buildings.

From the Minnesota institution, located at Faribault, a complete set of reports, 1863-'72, and a photograph of the buildings.

From the Clarke institution, located at Northampton, Mass., a complete set of reports, 1867-'72, in one volume.

From the National Deaf-Mute College, Washington, D. C., a complete set of catalogues, 1864-'72, in one volume.

From the American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb, a complete set of its publications, bound in eight volumes, and comprising the quarterly issues of seventeen years.

From the Silent World, a complete file, bound in one volume.

Besides these publications, which were in position to be examined by visitors early in June, we were informed that at a later date the following contribution was sent from the New York institution: Annual reports, from the seventeenth to the fifty-fourth, inclusive, 1835-'72, bound by deaf-mutes; H. P. Peet's Course of Instruction for the Deaf and Dumb, in three volumes; H. P. Peet's Scripture-Lessons for the Deaf and Dumb; H. P. Peet's History of the United States; I. L. Peet's Chart of Predicates of the English Sentence, representing, by means of symbols, the various forms these predicates are capable of assuming.

5. To those familiar with the work of deaf-mute instruction in this country, the mere mention, by title, of the foregoing publications will sufficiently indicate the value of the collection. For the information of the general public, however, it is proper that some further explanation should be given.

In the official reports of the several institutions named, the leading facts in the history of deaf-mute instruction in this country are recorded; statements in detail of the cost of buildings and of current expenses are furnished; much valuable statistical information as to causes of deafness, &c., is afforded; methods and courses of instruction are

explained and set forth; discussions in teachers' conventions are reported; results of examination and specimens of pupils' composition are given as indices of progress; and, the legislation of State and Federal Governments is published. The volume of catalogues and announcements of the National Deaf-Mute College, 1864-'72, gives an account of the organization of this institution, states its objects, the courses of study pursued, the names of its officers and students, the degrees it has conferred, and many other items of interest.

6. The publication of the "American Annals of the Deaf and Dumb," was undertaken in the year 1847, as a private enterprise, under the auspices of the instructors of the deaf and dumb in the American Asylum located at Hartford, Conn. After having been sustained in this form for two years, the periodical was adopted, in 1850, as the organ of the convention of American instructors of the deaf and dumb, which held its first meeting at New York in that year. For eleven years, its publication was continued at Hartford; under the editorial direction of Luzerne Rae, for four years; and for seven years under that of Samuel Porter, both instructors in the institution at Hartford. The latter is now a professor in the National Deaf-Mute College at Washington. Suspended in 1861, on account of difficulties growing out of the war, it was revived by the action of the conference of principals, held at Washington in May, 1868. Since that time, it has been published in Washington, for two years, under the charge of Llewellyn Pratt, followed by the present editor, Edward A. Fay, both professors in the National Deaf-Mute College.

The object and scope of this important publication are stated in the "Introductory" to the first number, that of October, 1847, as follows:

"We intend that the range of discussion taken by the Annals shall be as wide and varied as the unity of our purpose will allow. The deaf and dumb constitute a distinct, and in some respects strongly-marked, class of human beings, and a much more numerous one than is commonly supposed. They have a history peculiar to themselves, extending back for many centuries into the past, and sustaining relations of more or less interest to the general history of the human race.

"With our utmost diligence, we propose to seek after whatever stands connected with this particular history of the deaf and dumb, to gather up its *dissecta membra*, for it exists as yet only in a fragmentary state, and to set it forth with such distinctness and completeness, that whoever shall hereafter desire to ascertain any fact or resolve any doubtful question concerning this class of persons, may find something in our pages to aid him in his search.

"Among the particular points of inquiry to which our attention will be directed, the following may be mentioned as likely to occupy a prominent place: Statistics of every kind relating to the deaf and dumb; their social and political condition in ancient times; the history of the first attempts made to instruct them, and of the progress of the art down to the present day; a particular historical sketch of each of the

institutions for the deaf and dumb in this country, with more brief and general notices of those in foreign lands; a careful exposition of the philosophy of the language of signs; biographical sketches of individual deaf-mutes who, for any reason, may be thought worthy of such distinction; notices of books relating to the instruction of the deaf and dumb, with particular reference to their comparative merit; a survey of the state of the deaf and dumb mind before education, illustrated occasionally by articles from the most intelligent of the deaf and dumb themselves; some account of our method of instruction, intended as a practical guide to those who have deaf and dumb children; a history of attempts made to teach articulation, with the processes pursued and the results attained; something in regard to diseases of the ear, and the efforts made by physicians for the cure of deafness; an inquiry into the relations which the instruction of the deaf-mutes bears to that of hearing and speaking children, and the mutual benefit to be derived from a comparison of the two methods; in short, we mean that our American Annals shall constitute, when completed, a perfect treasury of information upon all questions and subjects relating either immediately or remotely to the deaf and dumb.

“The contents of the Annals will consist of original articles, principally prepared by individuals who are at present engaged in the instruction of the deaf and dumb at the various institutions in this country. Occasional contributions we hope to receive, however, from gentlemen of other professions; and, as soon as the necessary arrangement can be made, we expect to open a regular correspondence with a few of the most prominent establishments of this class in foreign lands. The articles furnished for our pages will be of various length and character, adapted always in these respects to the nature of the subjects discussed, and approaching nearer to the peculiar style of the lively magazine than of the formal quarterly. Special effort will also be made to present whatever we may have to say in such a manner as to interest, not the deaf and dumb alone, and their parents, friends, and instructors, but every general reader who has any heart to sympathize with the benevolent operations of the age, or any desire to make himself acquainted with human nature in all the forms of its manifestation and development.”

The purposes thus announced by the first editor have been measurably fulfilled, and the eighteen volumes now completed present a most valuable series of articles relating to the instruction of the deaf and dumb. They include, in fact, the greater part of the literature of our profession in the English language, excepting, of course, text-books, and are almost indispensable to any who wish to acquaint themselves with the art of instructing the deaf and dumb, its history and its theories, especially to those who would become successful teachers.

This periodical has never been published with a view to pecuniary profit. The responsibility of its support has been assumed by the sev-

eral State institutions, the expense being distributed *pro rata* in proportion to the number of pupils in each.

7. The "Silent World" is a semi-monthly newspaper, published at Washington, D. C., under the editorial direction of J. Burton Hotchkiss a tutor in the National Deaf-Mute College. It is designated for circulation among educated deaf-mutes and their friends, and aims to strengthen the ties which bind the graduates of our institutions to their teachers and school-mates; to keep the deaf and dumb well acquainted with the progress that is constantly being made in the systems of instruction; to furnish a medium for the discussion of new theories and practices by the deaf-mutes themselves, as well as by their friends; in short, to minister to their pleasure, to instruct, aid, elevate, and refine, and give others an insight into the *silent world* of the deaf, their education and capabilities.

8. Since returning to America, we have learned that there were sent to the exhibition, from the institution at Friedberg, Hesse, specimens of handiwork of female pupils; also, a complete set, in nine volumes, of the "*Organ der Taubstummen und Blindenanstalten in Deutschland*," a monthly publication, which has been conducted for nineteen years by Dr. Matthias, the principal of the Friedberg institution; also, certain other publications by the same author.

9. It is difficult to say what effect for good may result from the presence at Vienna of the several publications we have now described.

Our duty is performed in reporting the extent to which the interest of deaf-mute instruction was represented in the exhibition.

We may, however, be permitted to express the hope that the record of what has been done in the United States of America may be allowed to exert such an influence as shall serve to stimulate effort in behalf of this important educational interest in countries where much less has been accomplished, relatively, than in our own land.

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