

EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF

Sketch of The Beginning in Europe and United States.

GROWTH OF ABOUT TWO CENTURIES

First Proposed by John Butler, an Englishman, Who Was Ignorant of What Was Accomplished by Modern Methods.

"Speech and Sign Reading for the Deaf" is the title of a paper by John Dutton Wright in the current Century. The writer treats of the history, progress and present development of this branch of education as follows:

The earliest recorded attempt to found a school where the deaf could be educated was made in the early part of the seventeenth century by the learned John Butler, a contemporary of Milton and Bacon. He, however, says of the project: "I soon perceived, by falling into discourse with some rational men about such a design, that the attempt seemed no paradoxical, prodigious and hyperbolic that it did rather amuse than satiate their understandings." Indeed, it was not until more than a century later, when De l'Epee, Hainche and Braiwood founded schools in France, Germany and Great Britain, respectively, that any permanent institutions were established for the education of the deaf.

It is a very rare occurrence when a deaf person is able for any other reason save the lack of instruction to be a hearing child. Deafness through his ears. Recognizing this fact, and that speech is the most distinctive gift of man, Hainche and Braiwood devoted themselves to the study of the vocal organs of their pupils, and to teaching them to read the speech of others by noting the movements of the lips and tongue. On the other hand, the deaf were taught to read his method of instruction upon the fact that all human beings, when deprived of speech, either through deafness or ignorance of the language spoken about them, resort to signs to make known their wants. All savage races have a code of signs by which they can communicate with one another and with the surrounding tribes. He, therefore, conceived and systematized signs and invented new ones when natural gestures failed to convey the necessary ideas.

FIRST SCHOOL IN AMERICA.

With this idea of conventionalized signs, brought to this country by Dr. Thomas H. Gallaudet, a school was opened in Hartford, Conn., in the year 1817. It has been found, however, that the sign language did not solve the problem of giving the deaf a means of communication with the world in general. Very few pupils understand the language, while its construction, so far as there was any, and its consistency—a single gesture frequently representing a complete sentence of spoken vernacular—rendered it unfit for representing systematically constructed language. The method of spelling the words with the fingers by means of a finger alphabet was then pressed into service in conjunction with signs. This is the same as writing in foreign characters on the blackboard or upon paper, except that it is more rapid and more convenient. In this way the reading and writing of grammatical English could be taught and both the manual alphabet and the sign language are employed in certain schools today.

For many years after the founding of the Hartford school no speech was taught there, though today the teaching of articulation is an important factor in their work. In 1867, largely through the efforts of Horace Mann, who some years previously had visited the schools of Europe, two institutions were established in this country where the deaf could not only be taught to speak, but be taught by speech without the use of the manual alphabet or the sign language. One of these was in Northampton, Mass., and they are today large and flourishing institutions.

After the establishment of these institutions there sprang up in this country, in the ranks of the teachers of the deaf, a division which already existed in Europe. On the one side were the advocates of the sign language as a means of instruction and explanation, while on the other were the opponents of signs who employed the manual alphabet and speech. Both are now engaged in the great work of ameliorating the condition of an unfortunate class, and have much to learn from each other where they can clasp hands with hearty approval.

A single argument brought forward by the son of a distinguished advocate of the ancient method in support of this language is enough to indicate its ultimate fate, though it has served an especial purpose today. He says: "It is a fact worth noting that the signs used by the Indians of North America are identical in many instances with those employed by the deaf in this country." No one will question the truth of this observation, nor deny that it is worth noting; but we have reached a stage in the world's history where the signs of the deaf are the tools of savagery. Through progress in enlightenment we are fortunately able now to give our deaf children a better means of communication with men than that employed by the American Indian or the African savage. It is a friendly struggle, in which the old-school advocates of the sign language and the rural domestic and oralists the aggressors. Both are, however, engaged in the great work of ameliorating the condition of an unfortunate class, and have much to learn from each other where they can clasp hands with hearty approval.

In the schools of the deaf in the United States today three systems of instruction are used. The methods employed are in the first system, signs and the manual alphabet; second system, speech and the manual alphabet; third system, speech only. Writing is of course employed in all the systems.

OVERPRODUCTION OF TEACHERS.

Some Remarks on the Perilous Activities of Teachers of the Deaf.

The president of the Indiana State Normal school says in his annual report to the governor that the state is suffering from a "surplus of teachers."

The observation furnishes the Chicago Post occasion for remarking that the suffering is not confined to Indiana. "It is also pertinent to observe that the suffering entailed by the vast overproduction of the pedagogic factories is not felt by the schools alone, but by the members of the teaching profession."

"The fact of the matter is that the schools are manacled by an overproduction of pedagogues rather than teachers. For the last twenty years normal schools of every description have had a mushroom growth all over the west. The sons and daughters of farmers have been dazzled by the tempting advertisements and alluring 'annuals' of 'normal' and 'business' colleges to forsake the broiler and the rural domestic drudgery and allow these pedagogic machines to convert them into full-dressed instructors capable of commanding a large salary in the public schools. Some of these concerna boast of their ability to take a raw and callow maiden from the village or the farm and transform her into a finished school teacher in six or eight months."

"The normal schools have been turning out this product in large and increasing numbers for twenty years, until there are now in each state several thousand so-called 'teachers' who are unable to secure positions. For every vacancy that occurs from fifty to hundred applications are filed. Among these are doubtless many teachers who have received training in addition to more advanced preparation in high schools and academies, but their opportunities for employment are curtailed by the reprehensible tendency of school boards to yield to the pressure of over-production and employ a cheaper grade of teachers."

"The remedy for all this is the instance upon a higher and broader scholarship on the part of teachers who seek positions in the public schools. Such institutions as state normal schools that are supported by the state should confer diplomas only upon

END OF A LONG PASTORATE

Rev. Frank Foster Preaches His Farewell Sermon at Immanuel Baptist Church.

ORGANIZED AND BUILT UP THE SOCIETY

Has Seen It Grow from a Mission with Eight Members and No Abiding Place to a Church with Its Own Edifice.

Rev. Frank W. Foster, who has been the pastor of the Immanuel Baptist church ever since its birth, preached his farewell sermon yesterday morning. On January 1 he will cease to be its minister, his resignation taking effect on the last day of the year. The congregation has not yet accepted the resignation, although it has been in its hands for months. Once they positively refused to accept it, but the preacher insisted that he must sever his connection with the church and he will consequently vacate the pulpit on December 31.

Rev. Mr. Foster is one of the oldest ministers in the city. He came to Omaha about ten years ago, being then a field missionary in the employ of the Baptist church. He organized a little mission, which years ago grew to a vacant store-room adjoining the present church edifice. About eight years ago the church organized and later in its history erected a building which it now occupies at Twenty-fourth and Blinn streets. The congregation has increased from an original membership of eight to 225.

He has been pastor of the church, which has been the pastor of the church. Recently he decided that a change would be beneficial both to himself and his congregation and consequently he accepted his resignation. The minister has been ill for some time and the effects of his condition. He, nevertheless, preached a farewell sermon yesterday which a thread of sorrow at his coming departure was plainly to be discerned. He seemed to give some hint as to what he thought of his severance from the church in his remarks. He stated in opening that it was not only philosophical but also scriptural to look upon a mission and church as a picnic with its pleasures and pains.

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HOOMING GOOD ROADS MOVEMENT.

Secretary Freeman Johnson Bustly Explains the Basis of the Charles Freeman Johnson of California, Secretary of the National League of Good Roads, who recently stepped off here on his way east, is doing good work in behalf of his pet enterprise, and also advertising the Transmississippi Exposition wherever he goes.

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HACKMEN FORM A UNION.

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY RATES.

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PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

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Nebraskans at the hotels: E. C. Calkins, Kearney; A. E. Utton, Lincoln; F. Tierney and J. A. Harris, Broken Bow; W. B. Sheldon, Hastings; W. Jenkins, Pullerton; D. W. Schiff, Columbus; J. H. Jones, Wynmore; L. R. Brummingford; R. J. Nightengale, Loup City.

Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Lavino, Mr. and Mrs. Merton, Miss Mollie Thompson, Miss Estelle Davis, Miss Edith Murray, Charles Mack, Ben Harvey, George Delmore, Ollie Lee, Eddie O'Dell, James Hughes and Frank Townsend, comprising the Boston Howard Atheneum Star Speciality company, are stopping at the Barker.

Robert Fitzsimmons, the heavyweight pugilist, is enroute from San Francisco to New York, where he will arrange the details for his fight with Jim Corbett on the 17th of March next for the championship of the world. He will arrive in this city at 4:45 o'clock this afternoon, accompanied by his wife and child, his sparring partner, Jack Hickey, and his manager, Martin J. Burke. This is the first visit of Fitzsimmons to Omaha and the most lively interest is shown concerning his stopover here and his appearance at the Boyd this evening in connection with William Gilder's scenic drama, "Saved from the Sea," by the large sale of seats that has already taken place.

The current currency note, it is known that "the house was sold out," but that statement will not be verified until this evening, when the big theater will be packed from orchestra to the last seat in the gallery. There are many desirable seats yet unsold, but they will all be gone before evening. Either the pugilist or the dramatic actor, when they appear, will draw a crowd when the two are combined there is certain to be no lack of due appreciation and patronage.

Many lovers of comic opera will be pleased at the announcement that the Della Fox Comic Opera company will be at the Creighton Wednesday, Thursday and Friday evenings. The company numbers over sixty men.

Referring to the present condition of society, the speaker said that the terms populism and socialism were suggestive of the leaves which lie at work and broken that the masses are becoming conscious, not only of their rights but of their power, and kings and potentates must recognize this growing power. The speaker further asserted that the voice of the public is more disposed to favor righteousness now than ever before. In this growth which is taking place in the minds of the people the speaker declared that the power of the pulpit is an over-estimate of its real power and that the support of the broad doctrine of humanity.

The province of the pulpit was declared to be the uplifting of sin in society and the growth of power. The speaker said that the organization of society was not the cause of misery so much as the individual wrong-doing, and he asserted that no mere humanitarian movement would suffice to relieve the condition of society, but that salvation must come from within and not from some power applied from without.

In closing Prof. McClelland said he was in sympathy with all good legislation, but back of this must be consecrated men and women who have been regenerated and have allied themselves to God in His purpose to save the world.

Funeral of John M. Kilkenon. The funeral of John M. Kilkenon, who committed suicide Christmas eve, after religiously sounding his wife, will take place from the corner of 16th and Douglas streets at 10 o'clock. The funeral services will be held at 10 o'clock. Rev. Mr. Savidge, with interment at Forest Lawn cemetery.

AMUSEMENTS.

The fame of the Howard Athenaeum company, which was remembered from former visits as being among the best of the variety attractions, was sufficient to attract two large audiences to the Creighton yesterday, where the organization, as at present constituted, performed a short engagement. The afternoon performance was far from satisfactory, and the evening performance, while not brilliant, did not indicate that the old organization had been kept up to the standard of excellence. The first "turn" on the bill was omitted without explanation, the program was refractory and utterly unfit to work and Deimos and Leo seems unable to appear by reason of the late arrival of the company in town and the impossibility of getting their apparatus in order. The manager, in a speech before the audience, made a brief explanation of the circumstances, and in the evening a more complete and enjoyable exhibition was given. The company contains some of the best talent connected with the profession in this city. The program was a very dramatic sacred song by Handel, entitled "Save Me, Oh God," and her rendering of it fulfilled every demand. Especially noteworthy was the way in which she developed the climax near the end and the volume of tone produced. Mrs. Sprague is surely one of Omaha's foremost sopranos.

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