

# AUSTRALIAN DEAF & DUMB CONGRESS

1903.

To the Workers among the Deaf, and to the  
Deaf and Dumb of Australasia.

Greeting!

**W**E have the honor to inform you that arrangements are in active preparation for the holding of a Congress of the Deaf and Dumb, and all interested in their welfare, to be held in Melbourne from the 24th of December, 1903, to the 2nd of January, 1904.

Papers dealing with subjects affecting the welfare of the Deaf will be read and discussed, and several very important resolutions will be submitted.

There will be carefully organised Excursions to places of pleasure and interest, an Inter-state Cricket Match, Conversaciones, Public Meetings, a Banquet, and an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts of the Deaf and Dumb. The object of the latter being to bring prominently under the notice of the public the capabilities of the Deaf.

The date fixed upon will be found to be the most convenient. It being the season of the year when the great majority of the Deaf are able to take their holidays, and there will be Cheap Excursions by train and boat from all the States and from many country towns in Victoria, to Melbourne.

A very large number of visitors have already signified their intention of coming from New South Wales, South Australia, and Queensland, also from many Victorian towns.

The Committee desire it to be thoroughly understood that a cordial invitation is extended to all Deaf-Mutes, workers among them, and hearing friends interested in their welfare.

Arrangements will be made to secure accommodation for visitors, but timely notice must be given to the Hon. Secretaries as to the requirements of yourself or party.

The Festivities will be open to the visiting Deaf and workers among them, tickets for which will be available shortly from the Hon. Secretaries.

You are earnestly invited to assist in making this Congress not only a great success, but a re-union of the Deaf of Australasia that will give us pleasure to remember in the future.

Deaf-Mutes willing to loan samples of their work for the Arts and Crafts Exhibition will please communicate with Mr. R. H. Luff.

The Congress Programme will be ready early in December and will be posted to you on receipt of your name and address.

We are, fraternally, yours

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, President,  
MATTHEW MILLER, } Hon. Secretaries.  
JOHN E. MUIR, }  
ADAM MUIR, Hon. Treasurer.

All communications should be addressed to  
the Hon. Secretaries, "Deaf and Dumb Congress,"  
Independent Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne.

## TO THE PEOPLE OF VICTORIA.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

May I ask you kindly to give our Scheme for making adequate provision for the Four Hundred **ADULT** Deaf and Dumb people of Victoria your earnest and generous consideration?

Hearing is the ordinary avenue of communication, without it man is cut off from much that makes life worth living.

The Deaf-Mute cannot therefore participate in the numerous provisions made for hearing and speaking persons, so that **unless special provision be made**, in addition to being deprived of two such important senses, he is also left without the ordinary benefits that every normal Victorian enjoys.

It is the desire of the Committee of the

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to raise sufficient money to build and equip a Permanent Institute, the utility of which will consist in concentrating therein all the Educational, Social, Charitable and Religious work—carried on by means of a language the Deaf-Mute can understand—that for the hearing is shared by many organisations under many roofs. The committee have the land and £2,800 toward the building. £500 more would enable them to erect, furnish, and open the building free of debt.

To be deaf and dumb is a sad affliction **but to be deaf and dumb and blind, or feeble both in mind and body** is terrible in the extreme. Yet there are at least 40 with one or other of these additional afflictions in Victoria.

In his last report the headmaster of the Victorian Institution for Deaf and Dumb Children, speaking of the feeble-minded pupils, says:—

"In our School we find that *fully twenty per cent.* belong to this unfortunate class and we fear that, in spite of all the endeavours that are being made on their behalf, they must eventually leave us with but poor mental equipment to meet the exigencies and requirements of life."

Our Mission will ultimately have to take charge of these as well as those who have already passed through the School. It is hoped to provide a **Farm-Home** for them. This scheme would not only save many of these sorely afflicted ones from the ordinary Benevolent Asylum—which is almost equivalent to solitary confinement to a Deaf-Mute—but the gathering of them together into such a home as suggested would lighten their affliction and brighten their otherwise dark lives, and they would have the satisfaction of being able to do something toward their maintenance. Indeed, under an expert—one thoroughly acquainted with their peculiarities—the Farm could ultimately be made almost self-supporting.

Such a Farm was opened as an experiment a few years back in South Australia, and is now a brilliant success. The land was given and some thousands of pounds subscribed to build the cottages and stock the farm. The people of that State have also erected a model little Church and Institute for the Adult Deaf and Dumb. May I hope that the people of Victoria will do likewise.

Here is an opportunity for those who are wealthy to accomplish lasting good with some of their money. Who will help as a thank-offering for the powers of hearing and speech? Will **YOU** help one or other or both of these schemes? Any amount both large or small, or promises of stock for the Farm will be gratefully received and acknowledged by the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. E. Newbiggin, "Stella," Punt Road, Prahran, Melbourne.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Very respectfully yours,

87 Victoria Road, Auburn, Victoria.

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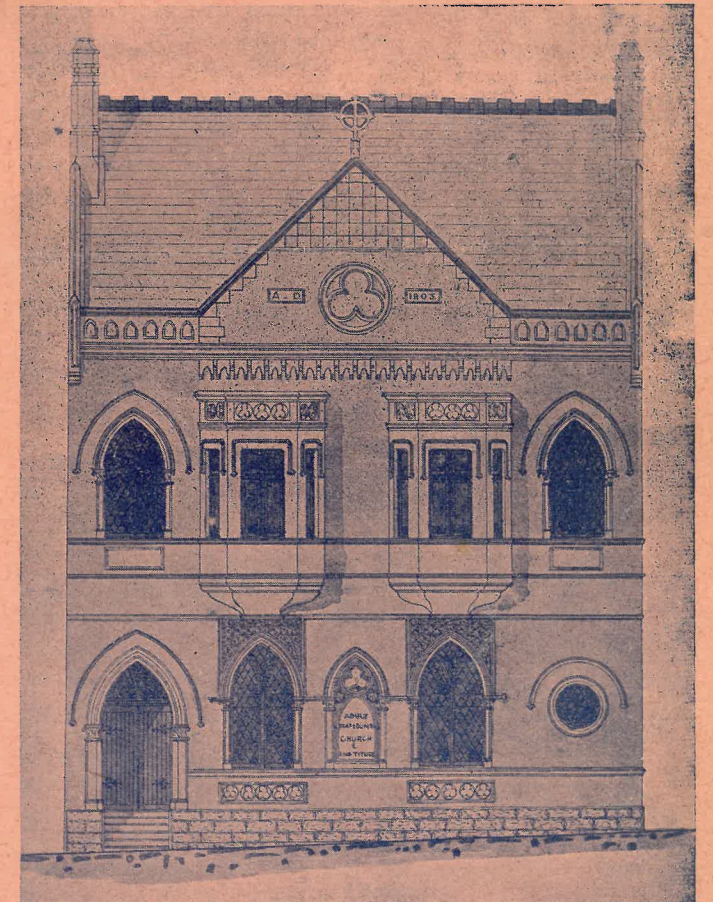


"THE ADULT DEAF AND DUMB MISSION of Victoria," the organisation for which we plead is a Religious, Educational, Social and Benevolent Society for the **ADULT** Deaf and Dumb of this State, and is **NOT** connected with the School for Deaf-Mute **Children** known as the "Institution for the Deaf and Dumb."

THE "VOICE" OF THE DEAF & DUMB OF AUSTRALASIA

# THE GESTURE

No. 3. October, November, December, 1903.



Front Elevation of the **Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission INSTITUTE AND CHURCH** (next to Griffiths Bros., Tea Merchants, and near the Australian Church), **FLINDERS STREET, MELBOURNE,** The Foundation Stone of which will shortly be laid.

Designed by E. Leslie Newbigin, Esq.

Photo by Sarony, 114 Elizabeth-st.

Price 3d.

An Educational Establishment for Deaf and Dumb Children is no more an "Asylum" than is a State School for Normal Children, nor is it an "Institution," or "Institute," or "Hospital." It is a residential **School**. The Deaf-Mute child is not an "Inmate" but a **Pupil**. How would you like to hear the school your child attends referred to as an "Asylum," and your child as an **Inmate**?—Extract from speech by Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham.



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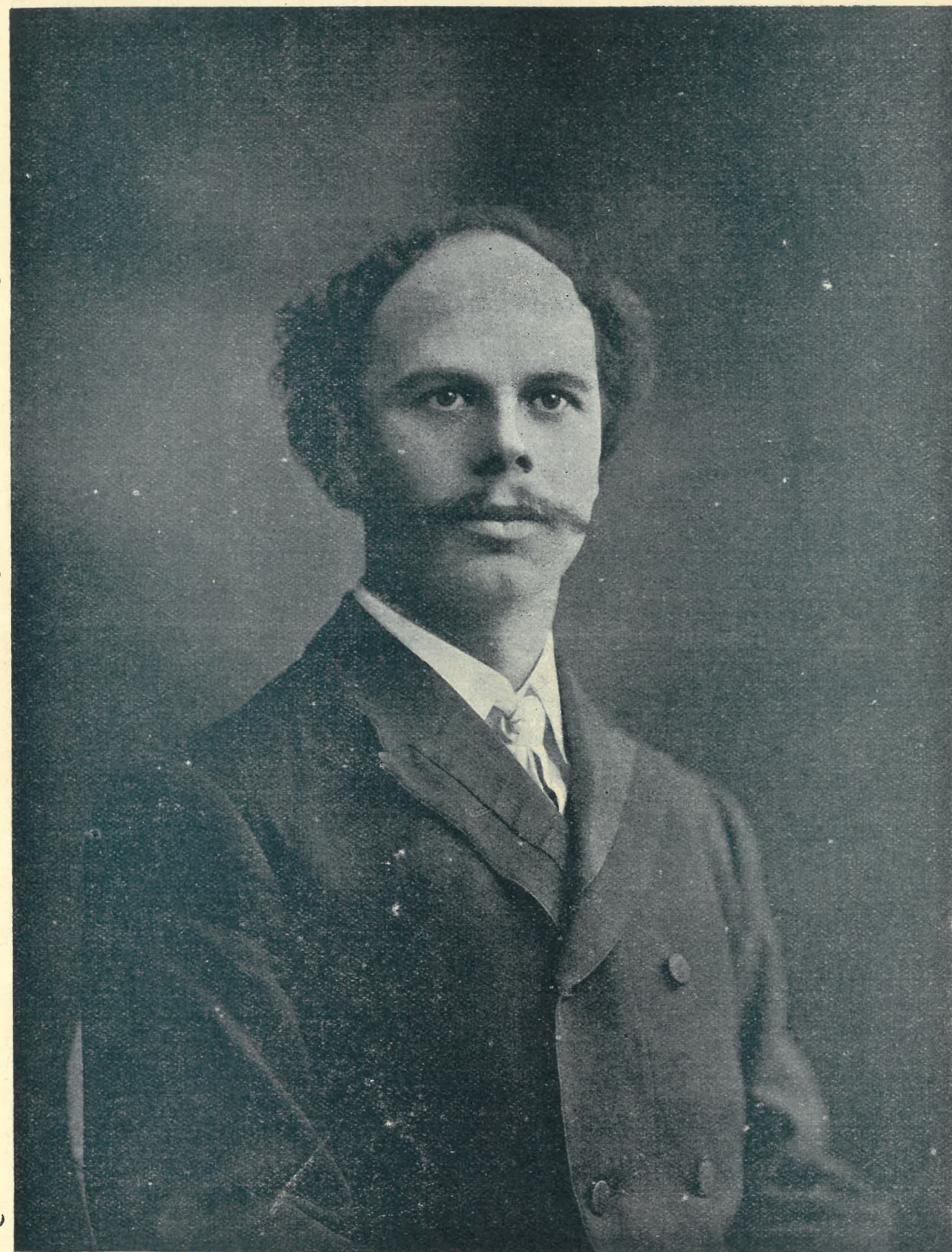


Photo by "Sarony,"

ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, F.I.M.D.

114 Eliza bell-st.

Superintendent and Chaplain of the ADULT Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria.

President of the Forthcoming Congress of Australian Deaf Mutes.

# THE GESTURE

The VOICE of the DEAF and DUMB of AUSTRALASIA.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER and DECEMBER, 1903.

## A Word of Thanks.

Before undertaking the seemingly egotistical but actually necessary task of explaining and recommending **ourselves** and **our aim** to the general (and generous) **public**, we desire most earnestly and thankfully to acknowledge the strong and sympathetic support which, so far, has been accorded us. It was D'Israeli who once cynically said "Gratitude is a lively sense of favours to come." This is one of those half-truths which are such hard matters to fight, but in such a cause as ours and in such a liberal community as the Commonwealth it should be unnecessary to say to our readers more than this—"You have helped us, and we thank you, and have every confidence that our cause will continue to receive your sympathy and assistance."

## A Word of Warning.

An old English saying has it, "There is always a black sheep in every flock," and it is astonishing—if you take the trouble to look—how absolutely correct that saying is. There is almost always one; often two or three; occasionally half-a-dozen. It all depends on the size of the flock. Now the Deaf Mutes are a comparatively small flock; *ergo*, there are not many black sheep in it. Still, "there is always a black sheep in every flock." Ours, unhappily, is no exception. If it were we should not have now to pillory some unworthy members of the flock who have been imposing upon the public. It appears that one or two ne'er-do-weels, idle Deaf Mutes, who prefer sponging and begging to working—we are proud to say that out of the 500 odd Deaf Mutes in this State of Victoria there are only one or two such, and even they have been led astray by hearing people desirous of making a living out of their affliction—have been wandering about all over the State selling, for **threepence apiece**, Alphabet Cards which can be purchased for a few shillings per thousand! Each of these cards has printed upon it the names of "The **Adult** Deaf and Dumb Mission" and "The Victorian School for the Deaf and Dumb." This, it is hardly necessary to tell our readers (who perhaps have been among the victimised), has been done quite without authority from either of those organisations, although the imposters lead the purchasers to believe that the institutions named will benefit by the sales! Now, we want to make it impossible for these vagrant Deaf Mutes either to swindle the public or to lead idle, useless lives, and so—to save them from themselves—we would ask anyone upon whom they endeavour to thus impose to at once call the attention of the police to the game. In many cases it will be found that the "canvasser" is not deaf and dumb at all, but a sheer imposter who deserves no mercy! Any Deaf Mute who applies to the Mission can secure work or assistance **at once**, so that there is no necessity for him or her to go about begging or imposing on kind-hearted persons. We ask the public to so far co-operate with us in this as to demand proper credentials from these persons, failing which the police should be asked to intervene. Only in this way can the good name and reputation of a hardworking and upright section of

the community be guarded, and the public spirit of charity and good-will rescued from abuse.

## The Deaf Mute Congress.

The forthcoming Congress of Deaf Mutes at Melbourne is now the one all-absorbing topic in Deaf Mute circles—and justly so. It will be the first thing of its kind ever held or ever attempted to be held in Australia, and it will doubtless cause discussion and attract a good deal of attention among the general public. The Committee which has the necessary arrangements in hand is most enthusiastic, but to back up that enthusiasm it is working day and night with the strong determination to make the Congress the greatest ever yet held, and a truly historical event in the annals of the Deaf and Dumb of Australasia. The President is desirous of opening the forthcoming functions by, in the first place, influencing the Rt. Worshipful the Lord Mayor of Melbourne to afford a public welcome to the delegates, and also of enlisting the help and sympathy of one or two of our more prominent and philanthropic citizens to give them a garden party or reception. In view of the generous and public-spirited manner in which such gentlemen as the late Sir Frederick Sargood, the present Lord Mayor (Sir Samuel Gillott), Sir Malcolm M'Eacharn, Mr. W. H. Felstead and other prominent citizens of Melbourne have always sustained the great reputation for hospitality and encouragement which the capital has earned, the President thinks that there will be little difficulty in securing his wish. One or two brief, bright days, one or two mirthful and enjoyable evenings will, for long after, be a source of supreme delight to our doubly afflicted brethren and sisters.

## An Appeal to the Rich.

While we may not share the exuberant and sanguine views of the President as to the certainty of some great citizen coming forward in the way indicated—at the psychological moment like the God from the CAR—yet we honestly believe that the case has only to be laid before one or two such to be generously answered. Who can loosen the bonds of the *Pleiades* or bind the sweet influence of *Orion*? Who can fathom this man's well of good-will, or restrain that man's out-pouring of a generous heart? The date of the Congress is fixed for Christmastide—the time, be it remembered, when even the *scrooges* of the world feel a spark of that divine **Spirit of giving**, which comes from the *Founder of Christianity* who gave all that he had—Yea! even His very life!

So, most strongly, we support the President's plea, and ask our most powerful and wealthy helpers "**Who will give a day or a night of pleasure to these silent ones to whom Pleasure comes but seldom?**"

In all there will be about 200 to entertain and provide for.

The Hon. Secretary to the Congress Welcome Committee is Mr. M. Miller, Deaf and Dumb Mission, Independent Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne.



### The Work of the Conference.

It is perhaps unnecessary to state that even without these two very important items (though we hope they may be included) the programme before the coming Conference will be a full one—undoubtedly equal to anything of the kind that has yet taken place in England, Canada, or the United States. The Deaf will be able to air their many grievances and disabilities by the agency of several interesting papers, and of course motions of importance will be submitted and no doubt equally important resolutions adopted. If possible an "All Australia Association of Deaf Mutes" is to be formed—a work of great moment. There are also projected meetings, Conversazione, an Exhibition of Arts and Crafts of the Deaf and Dumb, and on the lighter side, picnics, a dinner, and even an Interstate cricket match. We can assure our readers that they will find particular instruction and amusement in the Exhibition of work, and no doubt some material for astonishment. We are informed that the Committee has already managed to raise £20 toward the expenses of the Congress, thanks to the personal effort and exertion of its members, and the Committee of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission has made a grant of £10, but of course much more will be needed. From £120 to £150 will have to be found to meet the expenses entailed. Can YOU or will YOU spare something to help. Even a modest five shillings (which you would never miss, we hope) would be welcome. If you can, and WILL, send it to Mr. Matthew Miller, the Hon. Secretary of the Congress, and address it care of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission, Independent Hall, Russell Street, Melbourne. Mr. Miller, on behalf of the Committee, will gratefully acknowledge receipt, and you may rest assured that the welcome contribution will be well spent in a good cause.

### Editorial Note.

As a very general, if not unanimous desire has been expressed by the Deaf and Dumb of the six states of the Commonwealth to obtain a good likeness of Mr. Abraham and also of Mrs. Martin, we are pleased to be able to print one of the former in this number. We are making arrangements to secure a good picture of Mrs. Martin which will appear as the frontispiece to the next number of the GESTURE. These will be followed in all probability by a full page portrait of Mr. Samuel Johnson and from time to time by other photographs of our prominent workers and helpers.

### The Feeble-Minded Deaf and Dumb.

In his recent report to the Committee, Mr. Cook, the head of the Victorian School for the Deaf and Dumb, speaking particularly of the feeble-minded says:—

"In our School we find fully 20 per cent. belong to this unfortunate class, and we fear that in spite of all the endeavours that are made on their behalf, they must eventually leave us with but poor mental equipment to meet the exigencies and requirements of life."

This is one of the most lamentable features of the question of educating the Deaf and Dumb against which competent teachers and a charitable public have to contend. Twenty per cent. is a very large average. Practically it means that out of the 70 children now under instruction at the School 14 or 15 will be utterly unable to obtain employment—even employment sufficient to give them a bare livelihood—when they leave. Another thing to consider is this: Assuming Mr. Cook's percentage estimate to be fairly accurate, it means that there must be some 80 odd feeble minded Adult Deaf Mutes scattered over the State of Victoria alone! Even taking only 10 per cent. as an average, that means that Victoria has more than 40 Deaf Mutes of feeble intellect scattered over it, and we are cognizant of two-thirds of that number. Ought we not—with or without the help of the Government—to at once attempt to provide

a comfortable home for these almost helpless fellow mortals—these feeble ships, drifting mastless and rudderless across the Sea of Life? We think so. To be utterly deprived of the power of hearing and speech is to go through life sorely handicapped. It means missing one half of its joys. But in addition to be blind or of feeble intellect, and perhaps as well aged and infirm (and there are many such) is simply Life in Death!

When Mr. Samuel Johnson made his stirring appeal for these afflicted ones in South Australia he said, among other things:—"This scheme will not only save these sorely afflicted ones from the Destitute Asylum, but the gathering of them together in such a home as we propose to establish will lighten their affliction and brighten their dark lives, and they will have the satisfaction of being able to do something towards their maintenance, as nearly all are able to do light gardening, tend cattle or mind poultry."

The response to this practical and sensible appeal was electric. One generous man gave a farm worth £3,000, other men gave money for stocking it, or, in some cases, donated good stock toward its completion, and others again gave money to build cottages and outhouses. The upshot of this splendid work was, that within one year the Farm Home was fitted, stocked up, opened and in full working order. It now carries in comfort some 18 or 20 inmates, who are happy and contented, and leading useful lives.

It is within the bounds of probability that ere long the Farm will be entirely self-supporting. There is an example Victoria would do well to imitate. Should not the Government help? And, failing any present assistance from the Government (which we recognise always has its hands full and its funds earmarked), could we not, by means of such a grand response as followed Mr. Johnson's appeal do something? If we could we should then be able to go to the State Treasurer and ask—with some reason and with some expectation of getting help—for a little assistance and encouragement. But we must make a start ourselves. Who will help us to do it? Who will inaugurate the fund by a handsome donation?

### "The Gesture" and Its Aim.

Our aim is to be the "voice" of the Deaf and Dumb of Australasia. To educate the public as to the real condition and needs of our afflicted brothers and sisters, to bring prominently before the hearing and speaking community the peculiar difficulties and obstacles that Deaf Mutes have to encounter in the battle of life.

To agitate for free and compulsory education for Deaf Mute children of Australasia—privileges already enjoyed by normal children, but at present withheld from the Blind and Deaf.

To secure the abolition of the absurd law that classes the Deaf Mute with paupers and idiots.

To organise and carry out a Bi-Annual Congress of the Deaf and Dumb and their teachers.

To keep the work of our Schools and Missions permanently before the public.

To be an organ of communication between the Deaf and Dumb of the different States of the Commonwealth.

We have named our magazine "The Gesture" with the single object of impressing upon the minds of our hearing friends the uncontrovertible fact that whatever the system of instruction the Deaf Mute invariably resorts to the manual alphabet and the language of gesture as the only expedient means of communication with those similarly afflicted.

We learn with pleasure, just as we go to press, that the efforts of our Chaplain are already bearing fruit. A deputation from the Victorian Institution for the education of Deaf-Mute children waited upon the Minister of Education on 5th inst. and asked that the education of the Blind and the Deaf and Dumb be made compulsory, between the ages of 7 and 14, by Act of Parliament.

### A True Story of Love and Patience.

#### A Clever Blind Deaf-Mute.

To have become absolutely blind and deaf, and therefore mute, in earliest infancy; to have lived for seven years in a world of blankness without the clear consciousness of existence which comes to the youngest child; to have been gradually led into the light of understanding; to learn that objects and actions have names, and from this to gain a conception of the world, the universe, and the aims of life; to have climbed higher and higher in knowledge; to have learned to speak English, French, and German clearly; to have passed examinations in Greek, Latin, and higher mathematics, and be practically assured of a degree in a leading university; and then to write an autobiography unique in literature—this is the story so far of the wonderful young woman whose photograph we publish this quarter.



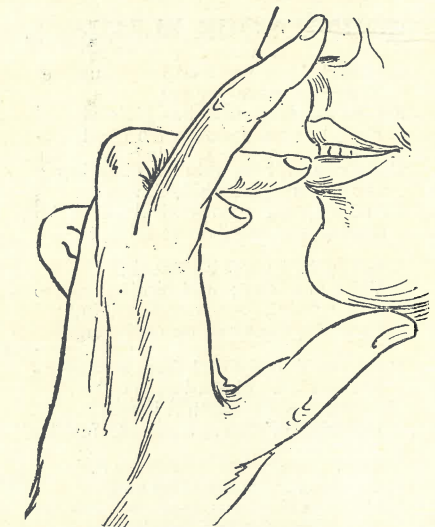
Miss Sullivan reading to Helen Keller.

Helen Keller was born in Alabama, in the United States, in 1880, and she is now a successful student at Radcliffe College, the women's annex of Harvard University. The late Charles Dudley Warner said that hers was the purest mind in the world—for little but good has reached it. Mark Twain says that he considers Helen Keller second only to Napoleon among the interesting personalities which the world has known.

Although her mental capacity is far above the average it does not appear that Miss Keller has the additional strength in her remaining senses, smell and touch, which many blind or deaf people have. But although people usually speak to her by spelling with the manual signs into her hand, she can, by placing her hand over the mouth of the speaker, and by following the movement of the lips and jaw, understand a conversation on ordinary every-day topics. (See illustration.) She also loves to catch

the expression of the face of the speaker, and respond with smile for smile. Notes for her own use she makes in English braille characters, but letters, examinations, and articles for publication are written on an ordinary typewriter. Higher mathematics and Greek have offered some difficulties as to signs and text, but this has been overcome, as have all other obstacles, by devotion and determination.

Miss Keller often makes short speeches in public, and delights to converse with French and German visitors in their own language. She writes singularly clear and forcible English, and the story of her life, as she tells it, has, during its serial publication, been one of the sensations of the year in America. More wonderful still is the account of her education from blind, deaf, and dumb childhood related by her faithful teacher, Miss Sullivan, who has been with her from the first.

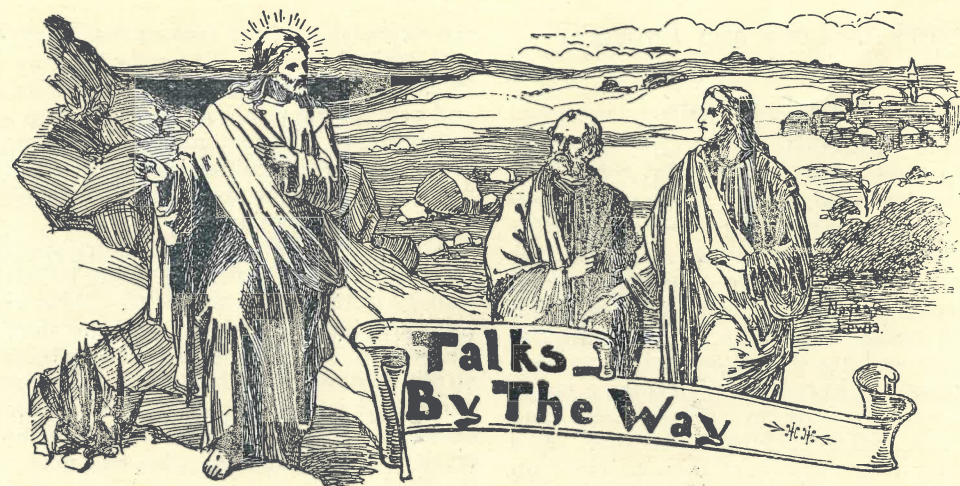


How Miss Keller reads the Lips of her Friends.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

In order to prevent mistakes, which of late have been frequent, we respectfully ask our friends to note that the **Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria** is quite distinct from the **School** in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, which is solely for the education of children and known as the "Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. No single title can cover the work undertaken by the **Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission**. It is everything to the Deaf Mute who has left school:—Church, Secondary School, Lecture Hall, Place of Entertainment, Social Club, Employment and Relief Agency. **Whatever may be his trouble he invariably seeks the Mission for consolation and help. A Church and Institute—headquarters for the Mission—will in the course of a month or two be erected on a piece of land next to Griffiths Bros., Tea Merchants, Flinders Street, Melbourne.**





### COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.

THANKFUL! yes indeed we should be  
If we really understood,  
All the blessings God has giv'n us  
Each to work for our own good.

Have you ever thought that hearing  
Is a blessing from which spring,  
Countless pleasures, soothing, cheering,  
Gladness in our lives to bring?

Music, with its soft cadences;  
Voice of friend; and bird's sweet song;  
Grandeur of the sea-waves' roaring;  
Myriad sounds that on us throng.

Have you thought that there are others  
Not so richly blessed as you?  
Who pursue life's up-hill journey  
Knowing of these pleasures—few?

Others, though you little think it,  
At your very doors are some,  
God's own children; your own brothers  
Sore afflicted—deaf and dumb.

You've no claim to special merit,  
Why are you more blessed than they?  
Do you more deserve God's goodness?  
Need more comfort on life's way?

"No," you say; and say it truly,  
'Tis a mystery from above,  
"Whom the Father most regardeth,  
Most are chastened in his love."

Thankful! yes, indeed, you must be  
If you view these things aright,  
Use then all your many blessings  
Ever, as if in His sight.

Talents, wealth, and every good thing,  
Hearing, speech are Heav'n-lent.  
He who lent them, can recall them,  
Use them then as Heav'n-sent.

What more Heav'n-like than helping,  
These imprisoned souls to free,  
Christ, Himself set the example,  
By the Sea of Galilee.

Think then of your poorer brethren,  
Let your sympathies o'erflow,  
God expects you, nay, commands you  
Thus your love to him to shew.

Money, talents, time and all things  
'Tis recorded in His Word;  
"He, who giveth to His poor ones,  
Lendeth wholly to the Lord."

The power to do great things generally arises from the willingness to do small things.

Think you, you will be the poorer?  
Think you, He will e'er forget?  
"Whatsoe'er to Him is given,  
Blessings richer shall beget."

Thankful! yes indeed you will be,  
At the last and awful day,  
When the trumpet sounds, and all things  
Pass eternally away.

Thankful! when the Books are opened,  
And your name therein shall be,  
"In as much to these ye did it,  
Ye have done it unto Me."

Thankful! when through heavenly arches,  
Sounds of Jesu's voice shall run,  
"Thou, My good and faithful Servant,  
Enter into joy. Well done." A.J.S.

The money we give in Service and Sacrifice of helpfulness may add nothing to our banking account but it is laid up as a treasure in Heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth consume or where thieves do not break through and steal.

Give as you would if an angel  
Awaited your gift at the door;  
Give as you'd like if to-morrow  
Found that your giving was o'er;  
Give as you would to the Master,  
If you met His searching look;  
Give as you would of your substance;  
If His hand your offerings took.

"We can all do more than we have done and not be a whit the worse. It never was loving that emptied the heart, nor giving that emptied the purse."

### To the Friends of the Deaf and Dumb.

#### SPECIAL NOTICE.

In order to prevent mistakes which often occur, the Public are *most particularly* requested to observe that the **Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria** is quite distinct from the **School** in St. Kilda Road, Melbourne, which is solely for the education of **Children**. The object of this **Mission** is to provide both for the temporal and spiritual wants of the **ADULTS** of Victoria, as well as for the care of **Children** who have left **School**.

### Doings of the Deaf of Victoria.

#### Mission Social.

A social meeting of the congregation of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission was held on the evening of the 16th of July, when there was a very large gathering of "silent people." Mr Abraham delivered a stirring address, which was much enjoyed, as the hearty laughs and applause testified. An excellent supper was partaken of, and afterwards some lantern views of incidents connected with the lives of Deaf Mutes occupied the attention of all present until closing time. It was a most happy and pleasant evening. During the evening some 85 persons affixed their names to Certificates of membership of the Mission.

#### Cricket Club.

The Annual Meeting of the Melbourne Deaf Mute Cricket Club was held on the evening of the 1st of September at the Independent Hall, Russell Street. Mr. M. Miller, the President, presided over a fairly large attendance of members. The Annual Report, read by the Hon. Secretary, shewed that the past season had been a fairly successful one, and it is to be hoped the prospects of the coming season will be better still. Mr. J. Charles won the batting prize, Mr. R. K. Beattie the bowling prize, Mr. J. Anderson the fielding prize, Mr. G. Stubbs the prize for most catches and Mr. J. M'Lean the hat-trick prize. The following office-bearers were elected for the coming season:—President, Mr. M. Miller; Vice-Presidents, Messrs. J. E. Muir, W. P. Muir, W. A. Patterson, R. H. Luff and J. Dempsey; Hon. Treasurer, Mr. J. M'Lean; Hon. Secretary, Mr. E. R. W. Smith; Committee, Messrs. E. Burke, F. E. Frewin, L. Downes and G. Mortimer. Afterwards the President entertained all present at supper. The members of the Club are looking forward to a very pleasant time at Christmas, when a visit to Melbourne of their New South Wales and South Australian brethren is expected.

#### Farewell to I. A. Tenney.

A successful social in aid of the funds of the Melbourne Deaf Mute Cricket Club was held on Saturday evening, 19th September, at the Independent Hall. Mr. A. C. Muir, one of the Patrons, presided. The prizes won during the past year were presented to the winners by Mrs. Frank Frewin, each recipient receiving hearty applause. During the evening another pleasing function was performed, when Mr. J. M'Lean, on behalf of the gathering and others, presented a testimonial to Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Tenney, who shortly leave Melbourne for the United States of America. Mr. J. M'Lean expressed the feelings of all when he said that "we were sorry to lose two such active and useful members of the Mission." He wished them a safe and pleasant journey and a happy and prosperous future in their new home. Mr. Tenney feelingly replied on behalf of Mrs. Tenney and himself. He said "their handsome gift would always remind his wife and himself of the friends on the other side when they reached America. They were indeed sorry to leave so many friends behind." The presentation, which consisted of a handsome electro-plated tea pot, biscuit barrel and sugar bowl, bore the following inscription: "To Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Tenney, a token of esteem from their Melbourne Deaf friends on the occasion of their leaving for America, 19/9/03." The company then adjourned for supper, after which various games were indulged in until closing time came, too soon to be welcome.

#### Young Men's Society.

The Meetings of the Deaf Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society continue to be held, and with success. Last July Mr. M. Miller gave an interesting paper on "The Evolution of the Ocean Greyhound," beginning with the first steamboat and ending with the mammoth liners of the present day, and with the help of numerous and elaborate drawings and other illustrations the audience was kept interested throughout.

Last August a discussion on various Sports and Pastimes was held.

At the meeting on 29th September Mr. Ernest Abraham lectured on Jerusalem, Ancient and Modern.

#### Young Women's Society.

The Young Women's Friendly Society meetings have been held as usual at the Baptist Hall, Collins Street. The second anniversary was celebrated on the 14th of July, when there was a large attendance. The evening was very pleasantly spent in various indoor games, and at the conclusion refreshments were handed round. On the 21st of July Mrs. J. E. Muir read a paper on "The Parable of the Husbandman" to a large audience. On the 11th of August Miss A. Foster read a paper. On the 25th of August, 1st

and 15th of September Mrs. Luke, Mrs. A. Wilson and Mrs. J. Martin contributed interesting Scripture lessons.

#### The Church.

Our Chaplain still continues to attract large congregations at both morning and evening services at the Mission Rooms Independent Hall. We have had several hearing visitors of late. All go away impressed. Hearing ladies and gentlemen desirous of attending our silent service are heartily welcome to do so.

#### Ballarat.

Captain Olden is ever ready to help the Deaf and Dumb of this district. It is some years now since he commenced a fortnightly Bible class for the local Deaf. He still continues his self-sacrificing labours, and the Deaf appreciate his goodness. The Melbourne Deaf are hoping to see their old friend Captain Olden and the Deaf of Ballarat at the great Congress to be held in Melbourne at Christmas.

#### Bendigo.

Will the Deaf and Dumb residing within a radius of 10 miles of Bendigo please send in their names and addresses to the Chaplain, Mr. Abraham. He is desirous of opening a branch in this district and to come over and conduct special services for the Deaf at regular intervals.

#### Geelong.

The Rev. H. Kelly has generously granted our Chaplain the free use of a room at the rear of All Saints' Vicarage in which to conduct services for the local Deaf. Mr. Abraham opened this branch of our Mission on the 14th of August with an appropriate address, a Bible reading and prayers. The Deaf are delighted. The Rev. Mr. Kelly conducted a service a fortnight later, and Mr. Abraham again visited Geelong on the 18th of September. The Deaf are to have services fortnightly, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Kelly and our Chaplain alternately. And this is not all, for the Vicar of All Saints' has secured the help of several ladies, who will visit the Deaf at their homes. The Geelong Deaf are very fond of Mr. Kelly, who, by the way, can speak on his fingers.

Mr. Hood, who has been wintering in Bendigo, passed through Melbourne on the 28th of September, attended our services, dined with our Chaplain, and has now returned to Colac much improved in health. He caused quite a little sensation whilst in Bendigo by handing a postal note, value 10s., that he found to a policeman. The local papers couldn't quite understand such honesty.

Mr. Williamson, our country Collector, is at present in Gippsland.

Our suburban Collector, Mr. Mortimer, is spending a brief holiday with his people at Boisdale.

Mr. John E. Muir, a well known and popular Deaf Mute, has started business on his own account as a Litho. Artist and Designer, etc., and has taken an office on the third floor of the Premier Permanent Building, in Collins Street. We wish him every success in his undertaking.

Mr. W. P. Monahan, another Deaf Mute, has taken an orchard at Blackburn. We also wish him every success.

We regret announce the death, on 25th August, in his thirty-ninth year, from consumption, of Mr. Thos. H. Monahan, brother of Mr. W. P. Monahan, of Blackburn. The deceased was a well-known shearer, and had frequently been engaged for the clip on many well-known New South Wales and other runs.

Mr. and Mrs. I. A. Tenney left Melbourne on Saturday, 26th September, for Sydney by the A.U.S.N. Co.'s steamer "Wyandra," from whence they take passage for America. A number of their friends met at the vessel's side to bid farewell and to wish them *bon voyage*.

Mrs. Leslie Downes, wife of the well-known Paper Manipulator at the various entertainments, who had been on a lengthy visit to relatives in New South Wales, returned to Melbourne on Saturday, 19th of September, looking well and greatly benefited by her holiday.

Mr. R. H. Luff, who has been located at Seymour for some time, has now obtained a position in Melbourne, and his reappearance among his "brethren in misfortune" and at their various meetings is hailed with pleasure.

Entertainments in aid of the Fund for the Congress at Christmas were held at Footscray, South Melbourne and Hawthorn, and the Fund was thereby raised to an appreciable extent. The entertainments were greatly enjoyed by the large audiences assembled in the respective Town Halls.





Posing by Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, F.I.M.D.

Photos by Sarony, 114 Elizabeth St.

- 1. Jesus, Lover of my soul
- 2. Let me to Thy bosom fly
- 3. While the nearer waters roll,
- 4. While the tempest still is high,
- 5. Hide-me, O my Saviour hide,
- 6. Till the storm of life is past!
- 7. Safe into the haven guide;
- 8. Oh receive my soul at last.
- 9. Other refuge have I none,
- 10. Hangs my helpless soul
- 11. On Thee;
- 12. Leave, Oh leave me not alone
- 13. Still support and comfort me:
- 14. All my trust on thee is stayed,
- 15. All my help from Thee I bring,
- 16. Cover
- 17. My
- 18. Defenceless head,
- 19. With the shadow of Thy wing.

### Humorous Recital, "THE WHIMSICAL WAYS OF WOMEN."

By the Deaf Mute Humorist, MR. W. A. PATTERSON, of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria.



Posing by Mr. Ernest J. D. Abraham, F.I.M.D.

Photos by Sarony, 114 Elizabeth St.

- 1. Sewing.
- 2. Yawning, tired of work.
- 3. Washing.
- 4. Plaiting the hair.
- 5. Twisting the hair up.
- 6. Curling the fringe.
- 7. Putting on the skirt.
- 8. How does it look?
- 9. Just a little.
- 10. The last hat pin.
- 11. Putting on the veil.
- 12. That diamond ring.
- 13. Good day.



## New South Wales Institution for the DEAF AND DUMB AND THE BLIND, Newtown Road, Sydney.

This Institution is situated on a triangular piece of land, containing five acres, about a quarter of a mile outside the boundary of the city of Sydney. It occupies a commanding position, and has a frontage to three roads—Newtown Road, Darlington Road, and Codrington Street. Immediately in front is the Sydney University, and in close contiguity thereto are five affiliated colleges and the Prince Alfred Hospital.

From the towers of the Institution there are magnificent views of the city and suburbs; in the distance, westward, the far-famed Blue Mountains can be seen; to the east, beyond the city, the lighthouse on the cliffs, near the entrance to Sydney Harbour; and to the south, the waters of Botany Bay.

Doubtless its grand position has had no small influence on the health of all the pupils and officers, hence there has been very little sickness to be chronicled.

The honour of initiating a school for deaf and dumb children in this country is due to Messrs. G. A. F. Lentz and Thomas Pattison, who for a period of twelve months carried on privately their philanthropic work.

Mr. Pattison, who was deaf and dumb, had passed twenty-three years of his life in the Edinburgh Institution as assistant master, and came out to this country with very high testimonials from the directors of that Institution.

This Institution has for its object "the education and maintenance, and, as far as practicable, the advancement of life, of deaf and dumb and blind children." It commenced as a public charity at a small house in Castlereagh Street, Sydney, on October 1, 1861, under the patronage of His Excellency Sir John Young.

The Rev. George King, M.A., was the first president, and he filled that position most worthily for

nineteen years, when he resigned, and was succeeded by Dr. (now Sir Arthur) Renwick, under whose able guidance the Institution has made, and still continues to make, good progress.

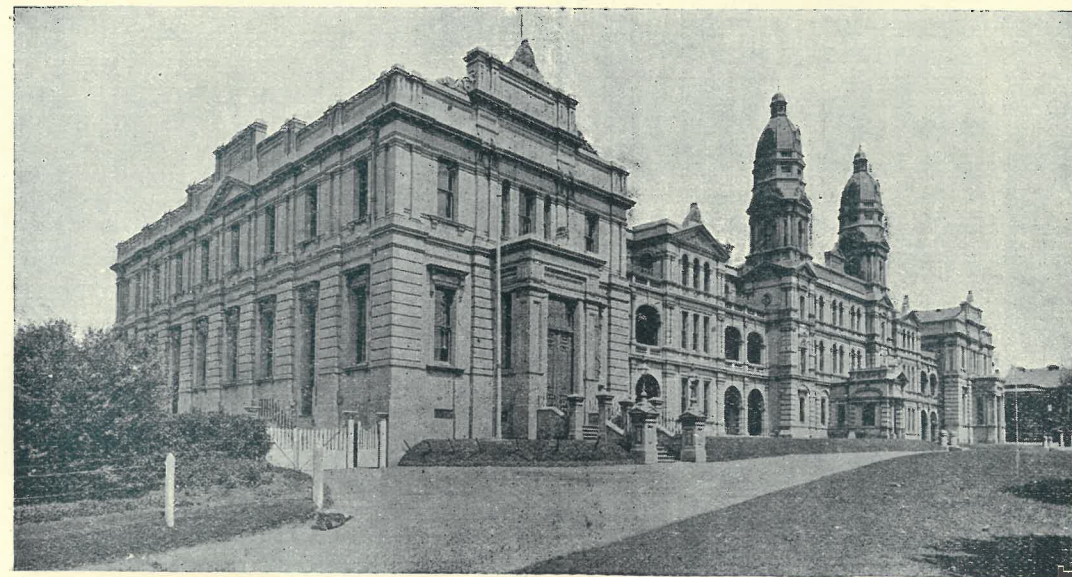
The Institution opened with seven pupils; thirteen others entered during the year, making a total of twenty under instruction within the first twelve months.

Early in the second year of the Institution's history, Mr. Ellis Robinson became hon. secretary. He has occupied the position ever since, covering a period of over forty years, and has devoted much time and energy to the advancement of the Institution. It would be difficult in this very brief review of its history—impossible, indeed—to state fully all this has meant as to the progress and welfare of the Institution. One's imagination, however, can easily conceive how an earnest application to such a work for a period so prolonged must have contributed largely to its general prosperity.

The first home of the Institution was soon found to be too small, and a removal was made during the second year to more commodious premises in Pitt Street, Sydney. Five years later, in July, 1868, another removal took place to Ormonde House, Paddington, which was occupied until July, 1872, when a transfer was effected to the Institution's new building, which had been erected on the Newtown Road, and where it has been permanently established ever since. The opening ceremony on the occasion was performed by His Excellency the Earl of Belmore, who had laid the foundation-stone a year earlier. Additions were made to this building in 1879, in 1884, and again in 1891.

Mr. S. A. Gilder was appointed master in 1866, and held the position until 1870, when he was succeeded by the present superintendent, Mr. Samuel Watson, who, before coming to Australia, was for many years connected with the Belfast Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, and the Derry and Raphoe Deaf and Dumb Institution.

The success of the Institution as a school for deaf and dumb and blind children, and as a bright and



NEW SOUTH WALES INSTITUTION for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Sydney.

happy home, to which, in after years, they can look back with feelings of thankfulness and gratitude, is due in very large measure to the personality of its superintendent. Mr. Watson's attainments as a scholar, his ability as a teacher, his clear conception of, and earnest devotion to, the duties of his high office, combined with his kind and gentle disposition, have won for him the love of his pupils, the confidence of the Board of Management, and the respect and esteem of all those who have had the privilege of his acquaintance.

In November, 1895, Mr. Watson completed his twenty-fifth year of service as the superintendent of the Institution. His fellow-officers took advantage of the occasion to show their respect and appreciation by presenting him with an illuminated address and a fitted travelling bag as a small token of their esteem.

Early in the present year, the Board of Management considered that Mr. Watson, after upwards of thirty-two years' service, was entitled to a rest from the cares and responsibilities of office, and granted him a well-earned holiday, which enabled him to take a trip to Great Britain and America. In the course of his travels he has visited a number of kindred institutions, has attended a convention of teachers of the deaf, has met many eminent men and women engaged in similar work, and has had an opportunity of seeing and observing the methods employed by others in educating and training the deaf and blind. Mr. Watson has now returned to Sydney strengthened and invigorated for the important work to which he has been called, and if he is spared, as it is sincerely hoped he will be for many years, this Institution will reap the benefit of the additional knowledge and experience he has gained in the course of this holiday.

The year 1880 saw the introduction into New South Wales of the pure oral system of teaching the deaf, by the advent of Miss Kernohan, a young lady who has been specially trained for this Institution at the Ealing College for training of teachers of the deaf on the German system, as a teacher of articulation and lip-reading. Articulation had been previously taught by Mr. Watson, but more as an accomplishment than as a direct medium of acquiring knowledge or of communicating with hearing and speaking persons.

Miss Kernohan, after nearly sixteen years' service in teaching the pupils and in training other teachers, resigned her position in August, 1896, to be married, and was succeeded by Miss Bateman, who had also been trained at the Ealing College. In April, 1901, Miss Bateman resigned to join her mother, and take an appointment in Hong Kong. The vacancy thus caused was filled by the promotion of Miss Beaumont, a teacher trained in the Institution. Miss Beaumont was sent to the Ealing College for a course of special instruction, and after nine months' study passed the college examination very creditably, and obtained a certificate of competency.

The method of instruction adopted at this Institution for the education of the deaf is what is commonly called the "combined system." On first entering the Institution the deaf pupils, as a rule, are tried in the articulation department, and if they give reasonable promise of successfully acquiring articulation and lip-reading within the period which they are likely to re-



MR. SAMUEL WATSON, Principal.

main at the Institution, they are kept in that department; but if they are dull and incapable, or if they enter the school so old that they can only remain a short time, they are drafted into the manual department, and taught by means of the sign and finger language.

The regular teaching staff consists of nine persons besides the superintendent; in addition to which there are two visiting teachers—one for drawing, modelling, and wood carving for the deaf, and another for music for the blind. Instruction in the use of carpenter's tools is also given to the deaf boys.

One of the most important events of the year 1902, in connection with the Institution, was the opening, on Saturday, June 21, of the Institute for the Adult Deaf (a view of which has already appeared in the "Gesture"), where they can meet for religious and other instruction, social intercourse, lectures, debates, and mutual improvement. At the invitation of the Board, about 100 of the adult deaf, some of them coming long distances, attended the opening ceremony, and were afterwards entertained at tea in the Institution.

It is very gratifying to know that the adult deaf, of both sexes, highly appreciate the accommodation that has been provided for them in this direction. For many years classes, conducted by Mr. Watson, had been held in various places, but the deaf were very anxious to have a place they could call their own and in which they could meet more frequently. The directors of the Institution therefore took the matter in hand, secured the lease of the land adjoining the Institution, and erected the handsome building in which the adult deaf now meet. The work has been carried out by the directors of the Institution in order that they may keep in touch with their ex-pupils, to help them in various ways, and to influence them to live good, useful lives.

Unless a man has faith in himself there isn't much hope for him.



When the deaf have completed their school career and leave the Institution, they are encouraged, if they live in the neighbourhood of Sydney, to join the Institute, and reap the advantages which it confers.

The internal management of the affairs of the Institute is in the hands of a committee appointed by the deaf themselves, presided over by Mr. Watson, and the able manner in which this committee has carried out its duties is highly appreciated by the directors of the Institution. Mr. F. S. Booth, an ex-pupil of the Institution, is paid a small salary to act as a missionary to the adult deaf. In the performance of this duty, and in the influence for good which he exercises, Mr. Booth is entitled to the highest praise.

### The President of the Deaf-Mute Congress.

By Samuel Johnson, M.A.

MR. ERNEST J. D. ABRAHAM, F.I.M.D., who has been unanimously elected president of the forthcoming Congress, has had a unique and extensive experience of educational and missionary work among the deaf and dumb. Few men have had better opportunities of examining all sides of deaf mute problems, and none has made better use of those opportunities. During the past ten years his name has been the property of the deaf and dumb the world over, and his labours to ameliorate their condition have been crowned with remarkable success. He commenced his work among the deaf mutes at an earlier age than most of his contemporaries. At fifteen he was in charge of a free school for deaf mute children, in the south of London. At seventeen he was elected minister to the London Gospel Mission by the deaf mutes themselves. At twenty he accepted the post of Superintendent of the Bolton, Bury, and Rochdale branches of the Manchester Adult Deaf and Dumb Society; he secured the deaf mutes of this district a permanent Institute, and an income sufficient to support it. At twenty-four he became editor of the "Deaf Chronicle," a magazine having a circulation of less than 1,000, he changed its name to the "British Deaf Monthly," and in two years the circulation went up to 15,000. It became the organ of the deaf and dumb of the United Kingdom and the colonies, and also of the instructors of the deaf. He lectured extensively on their behalf, visited America in connection with the work, and for ten years was in constant communication with the instructors of the deaf in all parts of the world, and has thus gathered together a mass of information in relation to their education, statistics, etc., etc.

Mr. Abraham founded the Institute of Missionaries to the Deaf and Dumb, and the Guild of St. John Association of Deaf Mutes. Four years ago he was (for the third time) prostrated by a severe nervous collapse, from which he has never rightly recovered. Two years later he was advised by his physicians to try the Australian climate. In August, 1901, he accepted, for three years, the post of Chaplain to the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria, and is now engaged in helping to raise funds to erect a church and institute, and to found a Farm and Home for the Aged and

Infirm Deaf Mutes of Victoria. When Mr. Abraham left England, some 7,000 people attended a farewell picnic given in his honour, and presented him with an address and a purse of gold, subscribed to by Anglican, Wesleyan, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational, and Unitarian ministers, members of Parliament, mayors, and the public generally. His fellow missionaries, and the headmasters of the British Deaf and Dumb Institutions, headed by the Rev. W. B. Sleight, member of the Royal Commission on the education of Deaf Mutes, and Sir A. H. Fairbairn, Bart., showed their appreciation of his services by a purse of sovereigns and an address presented to him in Exeter Hall, London.

### AUSTRALIAN DEAF AND DUMB CONGRESS.

In connection with the above

# An Exhibition

of WORK  
done by the Deaf and Dumb of Australasia,  
will be held in Melbourne

From December 24th, 1903,  
To January 2nd, 1904.

#### PRINCIPALS

of Institutions for Deaf and Dumb Children are invited to loan Samples of School Work.

#### DEAF-MUTE ADULTS

both Male and Female are invited to loan specimens of their work.

Full Particulars will be advertised in the *Argus*, *Age*, and *Herald* the week previous to the opening.

#### Exhibition Hon. Secretary,

R. H. LUFF, Independent Hall,  
Russell Street, Melbourne.

**Admission to the Exhibition  
will be FREE**

(By Ticket which may be obtained  
from the Hon. Secretary.)

**The Hearing and Speaking Public  
Specially Invited.**

**In order to win success a man must first fall in love with his work.**

### The Hon. Secretary of the Deaf-Mute Congress

By J. R. Rose.

MR. MATTHEW L. MILLER, whose portrait appears in this number is one of the most valuable and esteemed members of the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria, and a respected citizen of Melbourne. He is by birth an Australian, born at Stawell, Victoria, with full possession of his senses, but the fell disease, scarletina, took hold of him at the age of six years, which totally deprived him of speech and hearing. A sad misfortune to his parents, for he was their only child. He was educated at the Victorian Institution. On leaving school he was articled to an architect in his native town, but on the completion of his indenture, finding it difficult to compete with the many in the same profession having full possession of their faculties, and being too energetic in disposition to wait recognition of his talents, he bravely sought for some other occupation that would



MR. MATTHEW L. MILLER.

Photo by Sarony, 114 Elizabeth Street.

bring immediate returns, he selected copper-plate engraving, and in his early manhood set about mastering the art and to-day he enjoys the reputation of a first-class ornamental engraver. He is also an excellent engrosser of testimonials, etc., and is a good amateur photographer. He has been connected with the Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission for some twenty years, and a member of its Committee for upwards of thirteen years. He has rendered much valuable assistance to the above-named organisation, and is at present Hon. Secretary to the Sub-committee, President of the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Society, and was a few weeks back for the third time elected President of the Cricket Club. Mr. Miller's services are always in great demand, sometimes it is to conduct services, at others to lecture or take a class, and to preside at social functions. Being of a generous nature his name is also always to be found on every subscription list. Mr. Miller is of a most amiable disposition, sympathetic with all who suffer—especially his fellows in affliction, his great object in life being to raise the social status of the Deaf

of Australasia. His companionship is much sought after and valued by the Deaf, and he is the recipient of many valuable testimonials. In conjunction with his old school-fellow, Mr. John E. Muir, whose portrait was given in our last issue, he now occupies the important position of Hon. Secretary to the Australian Deaf and Dumb Congress. Much might be written of his many kindly and benevolent deeds, but he is one who would prefer that they be not recorded. What he does is for the love of his fellow-men simply. Mr. Miller is of a retiring disposition, this publicity is thrust upon him for the sake of the success of the Congress, to show that its management is in good hands.

### The Blind, Deaf and Dumb Institution in Queensland.

The educational work of this Institution was commenced in 1893 with 16 pupils, nine blind and seven deaf. Only the manual system was taught for about four years, but in 1897 the Committee decided to introduce the combined system of instruction, and Mr. T. R. Semmens, from the Victorian Institution was appointed to the position, Miss Sharp formerly teaching both blind and deaf. For nearly another four years Mr. Semmens continued in the service of the Committee and good progress was made in the education of the deaf children. Through ill health Mr. Semmens was compelled to resign and the Committee at once took steps to get an experienced teacher from Home—and through the kindness of the London School Board, Mrs. Bryan was selected and is now in charge of the school, which numbers at the present time 24 pupils. The school is conducted on the combined system and good results have been obtained.

### Tasmanian School for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb.

On the work of the above the Superintendent, Mr. S. D. Scowan, writes: "We commenced as a Home Teaching Society for the Blind, then opened workshops for them to which we have added the educational department. Now with the erection of the last new building we have room to undertake the education of the deaf mutes. After long consideration, and corresponding with leading Institutions in England, Scotland, America, France, Germany and Australia, we have decided to undertake it on the combined system, being fully satisfied that by this only can the greatest good be done for the deaf. A deputation from our Board of Management waited on the Government here recently asking for assistance in this direction, and we have been encouraged by the reply that extra provision would be made by them for this work, so ere long we expect to open a school for the deaf. Up to the present only industrial assistance has been given. The last census returns give us the following:—Blind, 97 males, 74 females; Deaf Mutes, 41 males, 34 females. From this you can see we should have ample scope for the Institution's work in this State.

### Western Australian School for the Deaf and Dumb.

We congratulate the Committee of the Western Australian School for the Deaf and Dumb on having so up-to-date and expert a principal as Mr. Witchell. The head of the Western Institution is a man of exceptional ability who has successfully bridged the gulf which in the great majority of instances lies between the normal man, even the teacher of the deaf, and the Deaf and Dumb. He has managed to find the master-key to the intellects and hearts of his pupils and has taken the trouble (which he will never regret) to make practical use of his knowledge—knowledge that is only revealed to men who love their work in contradistinction to those who do it for a living. Here is an extract from his last report—a kindly, manly and healthy document which displays its writer's character and his grasp of the work to advantage. Writing of the School, Mr. Witchell says:—"The location of the school, its liberality of space and abundance of fresh air, combined with the attractiveness of the surroundings, all contribute towards good results. A large amount of liberty has always been accorded to the children, and it is pleasant to relate that this privilege has never been abused. Freedom to run out unaccompanied, except by companions, enables the technical and general knowledge, which is gained in the school-room, to be put to practical account and is thereby more appreciated and better striven after. I make it a practice to entrust to the children the payment of small local accounts, together with the securing of receipts and proper change, as well as the cashing of such postal notes as may be forwarded to them as pocket money by friends. I do not know a plan more valuable or better calculated to encourage the independence of thought and action, which, in these children, should be cultivated to the utmost degree consistent with care." To that we and (we make no doubt) all our expert teachers will cordially cry "Hear, hear!"



## Mr. Abraham in Adelaide.

In fulfilment of a repeatedly made promise Mr. Abraham paid a flying visit to Adelaide on the 18th of August. He was met at the Station by Mr. Samuel Johnson, M.A., Principal of the South Australian School for the Deaf, and Mr. Salas, Missionary to the Deaf. We interviewed Mr. Abraham on his return and he expressed himself delighted with all he heard and saw, and by all we can gather from other sources he had good reason to be. We are informed that space is limited in No. 3 of THE GESTURE. This account of our Chaplain's sojourn amongst our Adelaide brethren must therefore be brief. Mr. Abraham spent a good portion of his time in the School among the teachers exchanging ideas. He speaks very highly of the teachers, Messrs. Cox, Gregory and Cooper, and of course had a good word for the ladies. He thinks Mr. Johnson one of the most go-ahead Superintendents it has been his pleasure to meet—and he has met a good few too. "The Adelaide Deaf," continued our Chaplain, "are the most fortunate of our silent brethren and sisters the world over. The School is a home by the sea, the children have the same amount of liberty as they would have in their own well-regulated homes, they are taught to be obedient and good for love's sake and not by fear of punishment, they ramble about at their heart's desire, the 'you mustn't do this or you mustn't do that' do not appear to be at all needed here. Mr. Johnson is a father and Mrs. Johnson a mother to them all, and the teachers more like elder brothers and sisters. Then too the *chef* is a deaf mute, so are the housemaids and the gardeners and collectors, also the teacher of cookery, most of them ex-pupils. This employing of the Deaf is very pleasing to me. It is what I have advocated for years. I could not resist the temptation of asking Mr. Johnson if any trouble or difficulties arose from employing so many deaf. He smiled, and asked if it looked like it, and I confessed that it didn't. Neither does it." And the Church and Institute for the Adults? "Well, that's another home—a home for the Adults, a pretty building, prettily furnished and well equipped for the various purposes for which it is intended, and Mr. Salas is a dear, good fellow, a *Missionary* in every sense of the word, with a Christ-like spirit. 'What do I think of the Farm?' Well, that's *another home*, a home for the aged, the infirm, the feeble-minded and the blind-deaf. The Manager, another Mr. Cox, has Deaf and Dumb on the brain quite as bad as Mr. Johnson, and is equally enthusiastic. He and his good wife are doing a grand work. Mr. Cox is not only an expert teacher, having a genuine affection for his terribly afflicted little family, but is an exceptionally good business man, and has already made a success of the Angus-Johnson experiment. The committee and other officials of the School, the Mission, and the Farm work amicably together. The committee have seen the wisdom of engaging qualified men and paying them and respecting them as such, with a result that is ideal."

Mr. Abraham spent the evening of Wednesday, August 19th, with the teachers, with Mr. and Mrs. Johnson as host and hostess.

On Thursday he conducted the Adult Mission bible class.

Friday morning he visited the Angus Farm and in the afternoon attended the committee meeting, and was officially welcomed to Adelaide by the chairman Mr. Goode, one of Adelaide's leading philanthropists. A Tea Party followed and then a Public Meeting at which Mr. Abraham was the principal speaker.

On Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Johnson gave Mr. Abraham a grand reception at the Institution. There were over 150 deaf mute adults and children present. The afternoon was spent in games, then came tea, quite a banquet I am told, the tables being loaded with good things. The company afterwards adjourned to a large school-room where many complimentary speeches were made by Messrs. Johnson, Salas, Bostock, Gibson and Hawkins. Mr. Abraham responded. Cheers were given for Messrs. Abraham, Johnson, Salas, the teachers and others. A vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Johnson brought a very happy evening to a close.

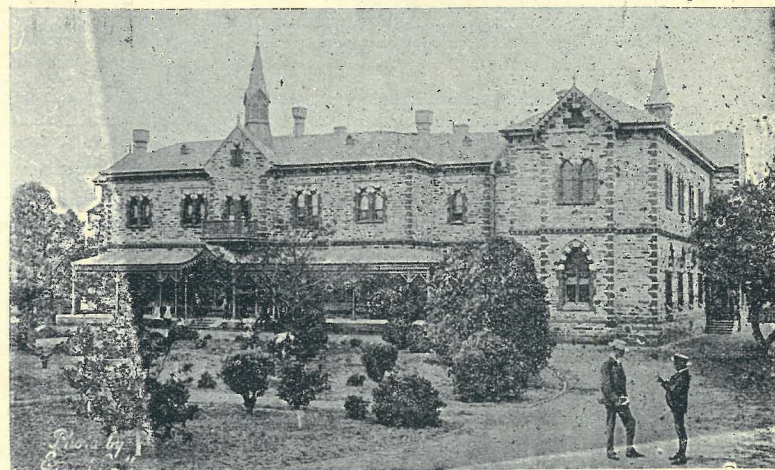
On Sunday Mr. Abraham conducted the morning service at the Institute Church, in the afternoon paid a visit to the residence of Mr. Bostock, in the evening Mr. Johnson preached and our Chaplain was one of the Congregation.

On Monday morning he was interviewed by representatives of the local press and spoke up as usual for free and compulsory education for the deaf in state schools, and for the righting of other wrongs. In the afternoon Messrs. Johnson and Salas, accompanied by a number of the deaf, went down to the station to see our Chaplain off. Mr. Salas brought a pail into which everyone dropped a silent tear or two, and then the whistle blew and the last our Chaplain saw of our good Adelaide friends was the waving of pocket handkerchiefs in the distance.

We have pleasure in presenting our readers with excellent portraits of the Collectors of the Adelaide School for the Deaf, Messrs. Gibson and Hawkins. Mr. Gibson has collected altogether upwards of £12,000 for the funds of the Institution, and Mr. Hawkins has also brought in a handsome total. Both are highly respected in a wide circle of deaf and hearing friends.

### To Subscribers.

When giving your subscription kindly see that the receipt bears the name "**Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission of Victoria.**"



South Australian Institution for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, Brighton, Adelaide.

## STORIES OF THE DEAF AND DUMB.

### The Little Deaf and Dumb Preacher.

In a small town in Germany lived a locksmith and his wife, to whom God had given one child, a girl, who rejoiced the hearts of her parents as she grew up strong and happy. But the father longed for a son, and God heard his prayer, and a boy was born to him. Now indeed there was joy in the home; but their happiness was soon saddened, for the child was found to be deaf and dumb. He was otherwise a beautiful boy, with large blue eyes. What could they do for him but pray?

"Ah, if only the Lord Jesus was here now," spoke the father once, "how would I seek Him, and bring our child to Him; how would I pray Him to lay His hand on our dear child, too, and give him hearing?"

"And I know He certainly would," the mother answered.

"But the Lord Jesus is with us, though we see Him not; let us entreat Him for our child."

At length the boy was three years old. His eyes were full of intelligence, and he seemed to understand everything around him. The God-fearing habits of his parents had a great influence over him. At family prayer the mother held the little one on her lap, his hands clasped together, and when the father asked a blessing on their frugal meal, the little child would also stand behind his stool, and would never taste a morsel before it was asked.

It was advised that the boy be placed under the care of a famous physician in a neighbouring town. The father would leave untried nothing possible for the welfare of his boy, and so very soon set out on his journey. The sun was already set when they reached their destination.

Then the father took the boy's hand, and they went together to a relative's who lived in the town. But what a different home from that which the boy had left: the relative did not believe in the Word of God, but only thought of pleasure and doing according to

his own wisdom. So long as the father was with him the child was content. He would not move from his side, and at night slept locked in his arms. But the father could not stay long; pressing business compelled his return home. His departure was very sorrowful for the child, and the father felt it no less.

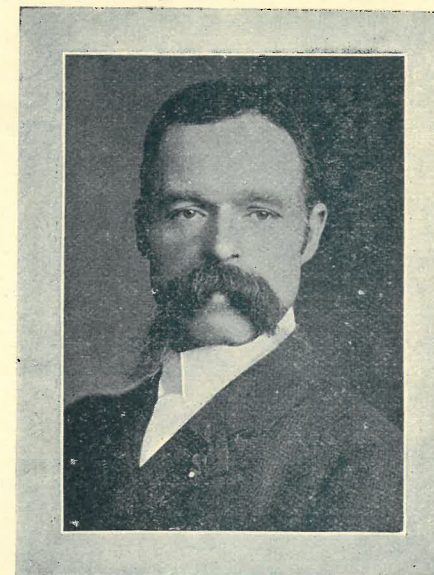
At length dinner time came. All was prepared, and the family gathered round the table, and with a good appetite began the meal. But the dumb child sat not; he stood behind his chair and waited. The others told him to sit and eat, but he understood not. His lips were speechless, but he made signs that they should pray. The people understood him, but would not show they did. Then the child ran to each, and, with a supplicating look, tried to clasp their hands together. A feeling of shame came over them. They wished to quiet him, but dared not try. Should they pray? They had never done it, but the child waited. At length the wife stood up, then the husband, and then all the others, for they did not know what else to do, and the wife prayed, with trembling voice, "Lord Jesus, come to our meal and bless it, and grant us Thy mercy."

Thus did the dumb child become a holy messenger, and, though he was speechless, witness for God where He was entirely forgotten.

But how was it with the child? Was his coming so far any use? Was he cured? No; the doctor could do nothing for him, and he remains speechless still. But later he attended a school for deaf and dumb, where he learnt reading, writing, and arithmetic, and many other useful things. Above all, he has learnt to know for himself the Lord Jesus, and to be resigned to the affliction God has laid upon him. He still lives, and is a God-fearing young man, and the joy of his old parents. He has learnt the trade of bookbinding, and can well support himself. Speaking with his sister of the old times, he said in the deaf and dumb language, smiling, "Ah, God has made me deaf and dumb that I should preach of the holy Jesus."



MR. J. A. GIBSON.



MR. C. HAWKINS.

Collectors of the Adelaide Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind.



### The Unwelcome Tap.

An uneducated young woman, completely blind and deaf, was recently brought before a number of eminent surgeons to see if anything could be done for her. Her sad condition had been produced by violent pain in the head. The only method of communicating with her was by tapping her hand, which signified no, and squeezing it, which signified yes. The surgeons concluded that her case was incurable, and in reply to her earnest inquiries she received the unwelcome tap. She immediately burst into tears, in all the bitterness of anguish. "What!" said she, "shall I never see the light of day, or hear a human voice? Must I remain shut up in darkness and silence as long as I live?" A friend who was present took up a Bible and placed it to her breast. She put her hands on it, and asked "Is this the Bible?" Her hand was squeezed in reply. She immediately clasped it in her hands, and held it to her bosom, and exclaimed, "This is the only comfort I have left. I shall never be able to look upon its blessed pages, but I can think of the promises I have learned from it." And she then began to repeat some of the promises—"Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain thee;" "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee;" "My grace is sufficient for thee," etc. She dried her tears, and became peacefully submissive to the will of God.

There are blind, deaf mutes in Victoria for whom the adult Deaf and Dumb Mission hopes, with your help, to provide a home.

### The Countess of Orkney.

The following curious anecdote is related of Mary, Countess of Orkney. She was deaf and dumb, and was married in 1753 by signs. She lived with her husband, who was also her first cousin, at his seat, Rostellan, on the harbour of Cork. Shortly after the birth of her first child, the nurse, with considerable astonishment, saw the mother cautiously approach the cradle in which the infant was sleeping, evidently full of some deep design. The Countess having perfectly assured herself that the child really slept, took a large stone, which she had concealed under her shawl, and to the horror of the nurse—who, like all persons of the lower order in most countries, was fully impressed with an idea of the peculiar cunning and malignity of "dummies"—raised it with an intent to fling it down vehemently. Before the nurse could interpose the Countess had flung the stone—not, however, as the servant had apprehended, at the child, but on the floor, where of course it made a great noise. The child immediately awoke, and cried. The Countess, who had looked with maternal eagerness to the result of her experiment, fell on her knees in a transport of joy. She had discovered that her child possessed the sense which was wanting in herself.

### The Queensland Deaf and Dumb Mission.

Everything has to have a beginning, and from the smallest acorn dropped by the wayside may spring a great oak. This is particularly true of Missions for the Deaf and Dumb, and in our case the acorn was carefully sown and watched and tended by a hand now cold in death; but though the sower of the seed is gone there are others who watch and care for the plant, and it will, please God, flourish and grow and be a blessing to all.

In the year 1897 there was not a sign of anything in the way of a mission for the Deaf and Dumb in Queensland. The children

when they left school were scattered and well-nigh forgotten. In May of that year Mr. T. R. Semmens came from Melbourne to take up the post of oral teacher at the Brisbane Institution for Deaf Mute Children. On finding that the adult Deaf were so neglected he set to work energetically and started a Sunday service, which was held in the City Mission Hall. We had eleven or twelve members to start with, who at their own expense provided Bibles, books, etc., for use at the services.

In 1899 the next step forward was taken. This was the founding of a club for the young men. Mr. Semmens, energetic and sympathetic as ever, enlisted the interest of the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A. and obtained the use of one of their rooms one night a week, and also the use of their reading room for our Sunday services at a very moderate rent. A small Committee of ladies was also formed and social meetings were organised. A cricket club organised at that time still flourishes.

Mr. Semmens left us in December, 1900, never to return. Miss Wilson took up the work as usual for the Christmas holidays, as we expected Mr. Semmens back in February, but failing health kept him away from us till God took him. Miss Wilson carried on the work as well as she could, paying most attention to the Sunday service, and waiting and praying for help. This help came at the



MR. SHOWELL,

Missionary of Queensland Adult Deaf and Dumb Mission.

end of 1901, when Mrs. James Martin, of Melbourne, was on a visit to Brisbane. She is greatly interested in Deaf and Dumb mission work, and naturally came to look us up. It was by her advice and guidance that we took our first really serious step and formed an Association of the Deaf and Dumb on the 27th of December, 1901. Under the auspices of this Association the Sunday morning services were continued and evening services instituted, also frequent meetings of a social nature, all of which served to draw the adult Deaf and Dumb closer together.

Finally, in Sept., 1902, the plunge was taken, and the organised Mission whose name heads this article was formed. Mr. S. W. Showell, of Adelaide, was appointed Missionary and Collector. Mr. Showell is the right man in the right place, and we have reason to congratulate ourselves on securing his services, though we did not seek them. A room was rented in the city in which to hold Sunday services and all sorts of meetings. It is brightly lit and well furnished and supplied with a bagatelle table, games, magazines and a "Sandow's developer" and dumbbells. Here the young men meet frequently, and a girls' meeting is held every fortnight, as well as the regular monthly night, when all the members and their friends are made welcome.

Our appeals for money met with more sympathy than we dared to hope, and we have everything to look forward to and nothing to regret in the past. If things continue to look as bright we may look for our Mission Building in the not very far distant future; but from the way things are trending a "Home" will be our first necessity.

Whatever way looked at, the acorn promises to become a goodly tree. May the Father of the afflicted guide us aright in our care for it.