

Seventh report by the directors of the Asylum for the Blind : 22d January, 1834.

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SEVENTH REPORT

BY THE

DIRECTORS

OF

The Asylum for the Blind.

22^d JANUARY, 1834.

GLASGOW:
PRINTED BY THE COURIER COMPANY,
TONTINE BACK BUILDINGS.

MDCCCXXXIV.

SEVENTH REPORT

BY THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

ADOPTING the method of the REPORT which they had the honour to issue for 1833, the DIRECTORS will, without preface, detail the state of the INSTITUTION during the past year:—

I. PUPILS.

The number admitted since the opening of the Asylum, in 1828, amounts to.....	70
Of these there have left the House.....	19
And there have died.....	6
	—25

Number at present under the Establishment,
being 3 more than last year.....45

There have been eight admissions during the year, four have left the House, and one has died.

II. EMPLOYMENT.

This TABLE will show how the Inmates are occupied:—

	Twine.	Basket & Mattress & Making.	Mats and Turning.	Rugs.	Weaving.	Knitting & Netting.	Spinning & Winding.	Total.
Men.....	7	8	1	1	8			25
Boys.....	3	3				6		12
Females.....						5	3	8
	10	11	1	1	8	11	3	45

III. SALES.

The following statement will show that a humane public are still disposed to patronize our Institution, and that our sales, during last year, have increased:—

Twine,	£265	10	8
Baskets,	244	10	11
Turned Work,	0	19	0
Mattresses,	111	13	11
Baked Hair,	119	10	9
Mats,	79	16	8
Towelling,	4	9	2
Door and Hearth Rugs,	23	18	0
Silk Purses,	28	5	0
Knitting,	31	19	5
Sacks and Sacking,	235	2	3
Hessian Sheeting,	13	4	6
Hair Mitts for Friction,	7	0	6
Netts,	6	16	0
Sundries,	17	0	9
Total,	£1,189	17	6
Total sales this year,	£1,189	17	6
Do. last year,	1,101	9	7

£ 88 7 11 which is the surplus of this year above last year.

IV. ARTICLES ON HAND.

Articles manufactured, and ready for sale at the end of last year, 1833, with their estimated value:—

Twine,	£56	2	1
Baskets,	15	9	4
Door Mats,	35	5	9
Rugs,	6	18	6
Sacks,	14	8	4
Sundries,	99	18	10
	<hr/>		
	£228	2	10

To which there falls to be added—

Value of Raw Materials on hand, £162 2 3			
Amount of Debts due the Estab-			
lishment,	142	4	0
	<hr/>		
	304	6	3
Amount of disposable stock,	£532	9	1

V. EXTENT OF PRODUCTION.

Amount of Articles sold as above,	£1,189	17	6
Amount of Articles not sold,	228	2	10
	<hr/>		
	£1,418	0	4

From which there falls to be deducted the value of the articles on hand at the commencement of the year,	269	19	1
	<hr/>		

This is the nett pecuniary value of work performed during the year,	£1,148	1	3
Counting, on same principles, the value of work performed during 1832 was,	1,155	6	6
	<hr/>		
Less in 1833,	£	7	5
		3	

VI. REVENUE.

Our Revenue is either Ordinary or Extraordinary.

ORDINARY.

Ground Annual from the City for Saint Mungo's Burying- Ground, late the Garden,	£150	0	0
From which deduct Expenses of Title and Sale,	36	0	0
	<hr/>		
Carried forward,	£114	0	0

Brought forward,	£114	0	0		
Interest of capital, in Bonds, &c.	112	16	7		
Amount of Board received,	52	13	0		
				<u>279</u>	9 7

EXTRAORDINARY.

Donations,	£282	13	1		
Contributions,	29	14	0		
				<u>312</u>	7 1

£591 16 8

Total Income, 1832,	£307	5	0		
<u>1833,</u>	591	16	8		

Increase in 1833,	£284	11	8		
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VII. EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure may be reduced to three heads—
Household Expenses, Salaries and Wages, and Charges
in the Manufacturing Establishment.

1. Ordinary Provisions,	£143	2	1		
Coals,	15	10	0		
Candles, Soap, and Washing,	13	4	7		
Incidental Charges,	40	6	3		
Stationery, Advertising, Print- ing, &c.	25	14	0		
Loss on Work done by the In- mates,	12	3	9		
				<u>250</u>	0 8
2. Salaries and Wages,				128	13 0
3. Extending Rope-Work, with Sundry Improvements and Enlargements,	315	12	0		
Tradesmen's Accounts,	18	1	0		
Implements of Manufacture,	13	0	4		
Furniture and Furnishings,	8	11	3		
				<u>355</u>	4 7
					<u>£733 18 3</u>

Total Expenditure, £733 18 3*

Total Income, 591 16 8

Deficiency for this year,				142	1 7
-------------------------------------	--	--	--	-----	-----

* This is the amount of the outlay; but the sum of £300 is, in fact, as shall be stated afterwards, only a transfer from moveable to immoveable stock: the real stock, therefore, is more than £150 increased during the year.

VIII. STOCK.

Stock in January, 1833, .	£3,721	17	3
1834, .	3,579	15	8
	<hr/>		
Deficiency as above,	£142	1	7
	<hr/>		

In regard to the above detail of Income and Expenditure for last year, the Directors beg leave to make some statements, which they hope will be satisfactory to the Contributors.

It will be seen that the Ground Annual is diminished by £36, the necessary expense of conveyance to the City; but the full £150 will be available in all time coming. This Annual Payment, estimating at 4 per cent. rate of interest, is equal to a Capital Stock of £3,750, that is, nearly £900 more than the whole original purchase-money of Spring Gardens, with all the buildings then standing. The deficiency of Stock for last year, it should be stated, only affects the amount of pecuniary funds. There has been above the sum of £300 expended on extension on the Buildings, and this is in reality an addition of Stock to our Institution as a Manufacturing Establishment.

The nett proceeds of the industry of the House greatly surpasses the rate of any similar establishment of the kingdom. In the Metropolis, for instance, the pecuniary supplies, as might be expected, are far beyond ours, but they must yield the palm to us on the score of economy and productive labour.

The accounts above stated show the results of the industry of the Inmates, in earning a livelihood for themselves; but there is another object comprehended within the intention of the Institution—to advance the intellectual and moral improvement of the Blind. This is done by a system of education, suited to their

state; and calculated to supply mental employment, as a substitute for the privations which are necessarily occasioned by the loss of sight—the principal source of human knowledge and enjoyment. What are the parts of the system of education adopted, and what progress in improvement the Inmates have made, has been often satisfactorily shown to large and respectable assemblies of both sexes, at the different Annual Examinations. An account of the examination, in 1833, will be found in an Appendix to this Report.

Into this Appendix too is introduced a lithographic drawing of the String Alphabet, the Map of the World for Geography, and the Arithmetic Board, as used by Blind Pupils. This, with the accompanying Key or Explanation, will, perhaps, be gratifying to some who take an interest in these matters.

There also follows a list of Contributions and Donations made during the year; and the Directors now, in name of the Institution, beg leave to express their acknowledgments in gratitude for the liberality of the Donors.

The Matron, Miss STOBO, the Assistant Matron, Miss ISABELLA STOBO, and the Superintendent, Mr. MATTHEW SEMPLE, have conducted themselves fully to the satisfaction of the Directors; and we, therefore, offer to them our thanks for the fidelity with which they have discharged their respective duties, for the good and prosperity of the Institution.

The health of the Inmates has been attended to by Dr. A. PANTON, one of the Directors; and the thanks of the Asylum are due to him, for his labour and gratuitous professional services.

Principal MACFARLAN has continued, during the year, his Pastoral care; sedulously and kindly dis-

charging the duties of a Christian Instructor and Minister, to this interesting part of his parish and congregation.

Mr. ALSTON, the Treasurer, is still the Foster-father of the Asylum. We can say of him, in regard to this Institution, that, to the strict letter, he fulfils the Apostolic injunction—*he is never weary in well-doing*. It is unnecessary to tender him our thanks. His useful services are known, and properly appreciated by the whole community. He has, besides, what is the best reward, the satisfaction of doing good. To have contributed so much to the happiness and improvement of a portion of our brethren, who are every where the objects of the tenderest sympathy, must afford conscious gratification to every mind under the influence of those humane dispositions, which are alike characteristic of the good man, and the genuine Christian.

The GLASGOW ASYLUM for the BLIND has still to look forward to the liberality of the Public. The late profitable disposal of our surplus ground has done much to render us independent of Annual Contributions; but, in an extensive and daily increasing population, the applicants for admission will become more numerous; and an enlightened community will perceive, that, both from political, as well as humane, considerations, there should be held out to every poor blind person in our district the ready offer of a place of refuge; where, safe from the degrading influence of vagrancy, he may have an opportunity of exercising his own industry for his own support; and of taking the benefit of suitable means for his moral and religious improvement. To accomplish these enlarged and beneficial views, the Directors hope, that, amidst

the claims of other Charities, our Institution will continue to be remembered in the same liberal manner as it has always been; and that we shall still have our due share of the gifts and legacies of our humane and pious fellow-citizens.

Which Report having been read, and the Accounts of JOHN ALSTON, Esq., the Treasurer, submitted—the Meeting, upon the motion of JOHN GIBSON, Esq., seconded by ANDREW WHYT, Esq., unanimously approved of the Report, and discharged the Managers and Treasurer.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by JOHN ALSTON, Esq., the Meeting offered their thanks to Dr. CORKINDALE, by whom the Report had been drawn up.

On the motion of the CHAIRMAN, the Meeting unanimously added their testimony of gratitude to Mr. ALSTON, not only for his services as Treasurer, but for his unwearied and fostering care of the Inmates; to the Very Rev. Principal MACFARLAN, for his special pastoral superintendence; and to Dr. PANTON for his valuable medical services.

It was then moved by Principal MACFARLAN, and unanimously agreed to, that the thanks of this Meeting be offered to the DIRECTORS of the Institution, for the instruction of the Deaf and Dumb, for their kind and useful co-operation on various occasions, and particularly in enabling the Directors of the Asylum for the Blind to exhibit, at the Annual Examination, the intercourse which can be carried on between the pupils of both Institutions, by means of artificial language, and thereby displaying, in a most striking point of view, the beneficial effects of instruction to both classes of sufferers.

MINUTE OF GENERAL MEETING.

AT the Annual Meeting of the Qualified Contributors to the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, held within the Black Bull Inn, the 20th day of January, 1834, at three o'clock afternoon, ROBERT DALGLISH, Esq., in the Chair, the following Report for the year 1833 was presented:—

SEVENTH REPORT

BY THE

Directors of the Asylum for the Blind.

THE Directors of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, now, for the Seventh time, have to present themselves with an Annual Report to the Qualified Contributors, and to the public in general; and they hope the detail of management, which they have to submit on this occasion, will satisfactorily show that the Institution, during last year, has continued to fulfil the humane purposes of the Founder, and of the liberal community by whom it has been supported.

The following Gentlemen were then declared to be Directors for the present year:—

The Hon. the LORD PROVOST of Glasgow.

FROM THE DIRECTORS OF THE GLASGOW ROYAL INFIRMARY.

Dr. Corkindale,
 Alex. Croil, Esq.
 Wm. Smith, Esq.

FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL.

Charles J. Tennant, Esq.

FROM THE COLLEGE.

The Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan.

FROM THE MERCHANTS' HOUSE.

The Lord Dean of Guild.

James Martin, Esq.

FROM THE TRADES' HOUSE.

John Paul, Esq.

George Smith, Esq.

FROM THE FACULTY OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW.

John Gibson, Esq.

FROM THE MINISTERS.

The Rev. John Forbes.

ELECTED BY THE MEETING.

Matthew Fleming, Esq.

Robt. Bartholomew, Esq.

John Alston, Esq.

Dr. Panton.

James Buchanan, Esq.

Daniel Mackenzie, Esq.

John Smith, Ygst., Esq.

Robt. Dalglish, Esq.

T. D. Douglas, Esq.

The thanks of the Meeting were unanimously voted to Mr. DALGLISH, for his conduct in the Chair.

Extracted from the Records of the Asylum, by

T. CHRISTIE, SECY.

*Contributions during the Year 1833, to the Asylum for
the Blind.*

Mrs. William Clark, Mile-End,.....	£1	1	0
Mrs. M'Gregor, of Liverpool,.....	1	1	0
John Scott, Esq., of London,.....	1	1	0
Andrew White, Esq.....	5	0	0
Andrew Grant, Esq.....	1	1	0
Charles J. Tennant, Esq.....	10	0	0
Thomas Bartholomew, Esq.....	10	10	0
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
	£29	14	0

Donations throughout the Year 1833.

Mr. Dennistoun,.....	£0	13	6
Messrs. Murrays & Co., being Fines forfeited by their Workmen,.....	2	7	4
Cash in Lobby Boxes,.....	6	0	0
Legacy from the late Colin M'Nab, Esq.....	50	0	0
Do. from the late Robert Brown, Esq., of Dunlop Street, Glasgow,.....	£200	0	0
Less Government Duty,.....	20	0	0
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
		180	0 0
A Lady, per Daniel M'Kenzie, Esq.....	5	0	0
At Examination,.....	16	12	3
Wages forfeited by Servant,.....	2	0	0
Legacy from the late John Smith, Senr., Esq.,.....	20	0	0
		<hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>	
	£282	13	1

EXAMINATION OF THE INMATES, &c.

THE Sixth Annual Examination of the Inmates of the Blind Asylum took place in the Trades' Hall, in presence of the Lord Provost, M.P., the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, a number of the Directors, and a crowded assemblage, principally composed of ladies. We have repeatedly expressed our admiration of the peculiar excellencies of this Asylum, established for the reception of that unfortunate and interesting class of our fellow-creatures—the Blind. Every person possessed of sight will allow that the want of it must be amongst the greatest of human ills—and this is just the reason why one feels such a peculiar delight in seeing the hand of charity and sympathy extended to soothe and cherish this the most benighted and solitary (but for the cherishing hand of benevolence) portion of our race.

The inmates of the Asylum were stationed on a platform at the end of the Hall, attended by Bailie Alston, the ardent patron and parent of the Institution; and who, as well during the long and pleasant nights of summer, as the dark and dreary winter evenings, is generally to be seen seated at the Asylum in the midst of his blind family, instructing them in habits of industry and virtue, and the principles of our holy religion.

“ Compared with this, how poor Religion's pride,
In all the pomp of method and of art,
When men display to congregations wide,
Devotion's every grace except the heart !”

The proceedings commenced with an excellent prayer by Principal Macfarlan.

The Lord Provost then rose, and congratulated

Mr. Alston on the numerous and respectable assembly of Ladies and Gentlemen. The occasion was indeed most interesting. If sight was the most valuable of all the senses—if it was the easiest avenue to knowledge, and the sweetest source of enjoyment—if it revealed external objects, in all their fair and diversified aspects, and gave body, form and colour to intellectual perception, nothing could be more humane, nothing could be more delightful, nothing could better fulfil the second precept of the great Christian law, than to remedy its defects and supply its loss. (Cheers.) To the blind, all the beautiful varieties of nature, and all the delicate proportions of art, appear to be irretrievably lost.

Seasons return, but not to them returns
Day, or the sweet approach of morn or eve,
Or sight of vernal bloom or summer rose,
Or flocks, or herds, or human face divine.

Such was the lamentation of Milton, but it could not now be added, in the same melancholy strain, that to them we find

— the book of knowledge fair
Presented with a universal blank.

We had seen before, and we would again witness to-day, how much has now been done to mitigate the miseries of man; to palliate diseases which cannot be cured, and to fertilize, by artificial streams, those intellectual fields which would otherwise have remained a waste and arid wilderness. (Great applause.) Let none despair—we know to what eminence the blind have attained. Not to speak of Herodotus as to history, or of Homer, Ossian, or Milton as to poetry, it was sufficient to refer to Dr. Saunderson as to mathematics, to Dr. Moyes as to natural philosophy, and to Dr. Blacklock as to general literature. It was now proper to come a little more nearer home, and a little

closer to the business of the day. To Mr. Alston, whom the Lord Provost had known so long, whom he had occasion to esteem so much, and with whom he had laboured so cordially in the same vineyard, it must be a source of the purest pleasure to see his constant and paternal cares crowned with so much success. Next to him there was another coadjutor, as to whose attention to the mental, moral, and religious instruction of the inmates, he could not speak too highly or feel too warmly. He need not say he referred to Principal Macfarlan. It was excellent to imitate the example of Him who came to open the vision of the understanding, and

“O'er the eye-balls of the blind
To pour celestial light.” (Cheers.)

The Lord Provost apologised for detaining the meeting from the interesting exhibition they were about to witness, and would conclude with his best wishes. The other day he had a call from the blind minstrels who had so often sweetened our slumbers with their serenades, and lulled us to repose by their nocturnal wakes. He had often heard them at night, but he did not know them by day, and he asked if they applied for charity.—“No,” they indignantly replied, “we have only come to *see* the Provost.” It would now be for a very short time he could be seen in that capacity—but till his heart ceased to beat, he hoped every pulsation of it would continue to throb toward those splendid and charitable institutions which had raised Glasgow to so high a grade in moral and philanthropic eminence. (Great cheering.)

Bailie Alston returned thanks for the compliment paid him. He said he would not detain his Lordship and the respectable audience one moment by making

a speech. This day twelve months they had 38 inmates; two had since left them to go home to their relatives; one had died, and five had been admitted since; so that they had at present 40 individuals. He had to entreat his Lordship and the audience to recollect, that, should any mistake occur during the exhibition, not only were the pupils blind, but their teachers also. They would now proceed.

The members of the Asylum then sung an anthem with fine effect, and one of the teachers, himself blind, proceeded to examine the younger pupils in orthography, which was succeeded by questions from the Shorter Catechism, branching into explanatory questions illustrative of their knowledge of what they had so faithfully stored in their minds. This was followed by a recital of the Third Chapter of St. Mark's gospel, acquired by their own reading, by means of their curiously constructed substitute for print, specimens of which were produced, which Mr. Alston remarked they could peruse with the same fluency with which any person in the room would read in their own manner—an observation fully borne out by subsequent examples. Their manner of reading and writing on twine was next exhibited, and several intricate questions in arithmetic were solved with a promptness and dexterity truly astonishing. The pupils were afterwards examined in geography, grammar, and Roman history. Throughout every department of instruction they exhibited the most marked proofs of attention, industry, and intelligence; and such as would reflect credit on any seminary of young people of the same years who struggle under no such disadvantage. One of the most interesting parts of the exhibition was the method of communication between the members of

the Asylum and two of the pupils of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. Several questions on subjects of a familiar nature were written on a slate by different gentlemen in the room, and put by a deaf and dumb boy to a blind boy, who audibly repeated and answered them to the audience. The following questions were put by a deaf and dumb girl, and answered by a blind boy:—*Q.* By what do we get a knowledge of surrounding objects?—*A.* By the organs of sense, which are five in number; the nostrils, the organs of smell; the tongue and palate of taste; the ears of hearing; the eyes of sight; the hands of touch.—*Q.* What are the organs of sense often called?—*A.* These senses are often called the *external* senses; while knowing and reflecting have sometimes been called the *internal* senses.—*Q.* What are the objects of smell, touch, and hearing?—*A.* The object of smell is odour, which is either agreeable or disagreeable; the objects of touch are all objects around us; the object of hearing is sound, which is either loud or low, musical or harsh.—*Q.* What is music? &c. &c.—*Q.* Were you born deaf?—*A.* Yes; and one of my sisters, now at school. After a few other promiscuous questions, Mr. Leslie, one of the blind teachers, put several questions to the blind boy regarding objects of sight, who answered by having recourse to the vision of his deaf and dumb companion. He then desired the boy to ask the little deaf and dumb girl,—How did you lose your hearing? to which she, unassisted, replied in writing, “I lost my hearing from measles and fever when I was eight months old, and my mother lost her sight lately. I was very sorry for this affliction. If she spoke to me, I could not hear her voice; and when I wrote to her, she could not see. I am very glad

now that I can converse with her by the sense of touch, as I have been doing with the blind boy." A thrill of sympathy, followed by a murmur of applause from every heart in the room, succeeded this artless and affecting little narrative of a domestic affliction, which the triumph of art had done so much to alleviate. One of the boys then recited a few appropriate stanzas by Cibber; and two of his young compeers closed the whole, by playing several airs very sweetly on the accordean and flageolet, one of whom was rewarded by his kind friend, Mr. Alston, with the present of a flute, with which the poor little fellow was led to his seat, in great glee.

Principal Macfarlan then spoke as follows:—"My Lord Provost. The notice which, at the commencement of this day's business, was taken by your Lordship of my attention to the institution on behalf of which we are assembled, and the expression of kind feeling with which that notice was received by this most respectable company, demand my most grateful acknowledgments. In taking the charge which I have done of the Asylum for the blind and its inmates, I conceive that, far from exceeding, I have come short of my duty. At the first establishment of this institution I was a manager of the Royal Infirmary, from which it in some measure emanated, and was consequently led to take an interest in its progress; and when it was afterwards set down within the limits of the parish under my charge, it became a sacred and important duty to devote to the welfare and instruction of a body of parishioners so singularly situated, whatever portion of time and talent could be applied to their service. I need not say to those who have witnessed this day's exhibition, how gratifying has

been the progress of the institution. I trust every Lady and Gentleman will see that this is not a mere show, nor an empty and useless display of petty acquisitions. Let them only consider the long, weary, hours of langour, listlessness, and inactivity of body and mind spent by the uneducated blind—the limited extent of their attainments and gratifications. Let them contrast these with the energy, the intelligence, the diversified information, the constant and useful employment of body and mind which characterise those who have now appeared before them; and I think they must admit, that much indeed has been done to alleviate the heaviest of human privations, to ameliorate the religious and moral condition, and multiply the enjoyments, of an interesting portion of our fellow-sufferers in human infirmity. I would particularly apply these remarks to the communications which we saw carried on between the blind on the one hand, and the deaf and dumb on the other. Should any one individual be disposed to regard this as a mere wonder—an object only of curiosity, I entreat them to correct the mistake. That intercourse is at once a proof of respectable intellectual attainments, and an exercise of those attainments by which they are further developed and improved. Let me only remind the meeting of the striking fact mentioned by my respected friend, the Treasurer of the Asylum,—the intercourse kept up between the deaf and dumb child now on the platform, and her mother, recently deprived of sight, by means of the finger alphabet. If I am not misinformed, there is also present a blind child, who, through the same medium, is enabled to hold communication with a grandmother, whom years and infirmity have deprived, in a great measure, of the

sense of hearing. These instances show how the closest and dearest ties of domestic affection may be cherished and indulged, under the most unfavourable circumstances, through the acquirements made under the systems of instruction, adapted to the varied wants of the unfortunate, in the benevolent institutions whose fruits we have now witnessed. There is yet another topic to which, even at the hazard of exhausting the patience of the meeting, I must be permitted to advert. The solemn and blessed declaration of Scripture is, that the merciful man shall be in everlasting remembrance. It would be discreditable and ungrateful to meet on such an occasion as the present, without calling to mind the munificence of the late Mr. John Leitch, who, having been himself visited with deprivation of sight, bequeathed those funds to which the Asylum is indebted for its prosperity and comparative independence. I hope his conduct will be regarded as an object not only of gratitude but of imitation; that the use which has been made of his benefaction, and the results to which it has led, will induce others whom Providence has blessed with prosperity to do so likewise; to bestow what of their means they can spare, without injustice to themselves and their families, in providing for the relief of distress, the alleviation of infirmity, the improvement of the outward condition, and the mental cultivation, of their suffering fellow mortals."

Mr. Alston begged to be permitted again to return thanks. The proceedings of this day had afforded him the greatest gratification. They had now 40 inmates in the Institution, who were all comfortably kept; but indeed it was not themselves merely, but their wives and families who depended on them for sup-

port. All they wanted to keep them going was a fair share of public patronage in the way of purchasing the goods they manufactured. The public might depend on being supplied with a substantial article, and at as low a price as it could be procured any where else.

This finished the business, when Principal Macfarlan pronounced the benediction, and the audience retired.

From the anxiety to get over the business in a reasonable time, the following address, by John Leslie, the teacher, was most unfortunately omitted to be delivered :—

“ My Lord Provost,—After the lively interest that has been manifested by you and this respectable meeting in this day’s exhibition, it would argue a great want of correct feeling on our parts, did we not express our heartfelt gratitude to those who have manifested such an interest in our welfare, especially to the Directors of this Institution. The young in this Institution are not only trained to habits of industry, but receive that education which not only fits them, in some measure, for mixing in society, but opens and prepares their minds for receiving yet larger measures of knowledge, as opportunity may offer in after life; and, which is perhaps the greatest advantage of all, affords them subjects for sober reflection in their hours of solitude. If we look at the circumstances of those who are farther advanced in life, we shall find that they have no less cause for unbounded gratitude. They have no longer the painful reflection to endure, that they are a burden to their friends, who, in many cases, might be unable to bear it; and thus they would be thrown on the precarious bounty of the passing

stranger. And even if their circumstances did not reduce them to these straits, still they would be a prey to all the ennui and listlessness which is inseparably connected with a life of inactivity; but in this institution they are taught to earn for themselves an honourable subsistence; their minds are no longer a prey to carking care for the present, or anxious doubts for the future.—We feel on an occasion like the present our thanks are especially due to the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, whose unwearied and unremitting attention to our spiritual welfare can never be forgot; and to Mr. Alston, whose fatherly care of the Institution generally, and kind attention to each of its inmates in particular, have endeared, and will ever endear, that Gentleman to the hearts of all in the establishment. I shall not trespass further on your patience, but will conclude by expressing a hope that the inmates of this Institution will long continue to enjoy their advantages, and that they will ever express their gratitude by a right improvement of their privileges.”

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
Total number of Blind Persons admitted into the Asylum for the Blind since the commencement, together with the causes of their blindness, so far as known :—

Blind from their Birth.....	10
In consequence of Inflammation.....	16
_____ Scarlet Fever.....	1
_____ Small Pox.....	13
_____ Typhus Fever.....	1
_____ Opacity of the Cornea.....	1
_____ Vitriol thrown on the Eyes.....	1
_____ Amaurosia.....	3
_____ Cataract.....	3
_____ Accident.....	8
From causes not known..	9
Total.....	66

The following articles, manufactured by the Blind, are exhibited for sale at the Asylum, of the best quality, and charged on the lowest terms, viz.:—

Baskets of various kinds, and made to Pattern.	Hearth and Door Rugs, Table Rugs.
Door Mats, do. do. do.	Fringed Rugs for Parlour Doors.
Twines, do. do. do.	Articles of Needle Work, Reticules, Silk Purses, &c. &c.
Mattresses made and repaired.	Stockings and Pansoufles.
Hair Friction Gloves.	Turned Snuff Boxes.
Towelling, &c.	Small Nets, &c. &c.
Curled Hair for Upholsterers.	Sacks and Sacking.

Orders are received at the Asylum for any of the preceding articles, of whatever size or quality required.

 The Public are respectfully requested to visit the Institution betwixt the hours of 11 and 4, Saturdays excepted.

EDUCATION

AT THE

ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,

GLASGOW.

THE STRING ALPHABET

Is formed by so knotting a cord, that the protuberances made upon it may be qualified by their shape, size, and situation, for signifying the elements of language. The letters of this Alphabet are distributed into seven classes, which are distinguished by certain knots, or other marks: each class comprehends four letters, except the last which comprehends but two. The first, or A class, is distinguished by a large round knot; the second, or E class, by a knot projecting from the line; the third, or I class, by the series of links, vulgarly called the "drummer's plait;" the fourth, or M class, by a simple noose; the fifth, or Q class, by a noose with a line drawn through it; the sixth, or U class, by a noose with a net-knot cast on it; and the seventh, or Y class, by a twisted noose. The first letter of each class is denoted by the simple characteristic of its respective class; the second by the characteristic, and a common knot close to it; the third by the characteristic, and a common knot half an inch from it; and the fourth by the characteristic, and a common knot an inch from it. Thus, A is simply a large round knot; B is a large round knot, with a common knot close to it; C is a large round knot, with a common knot half an inch from it; and D is a large round knot, with a common knot an inch from it, and so on. The Alphabet above described is found by experience to answer completely the purpose for which it was invented. To this Alphabet the greater part of the Gospel of Mark, and the 119th Psalm, and other passages of Scripture and historical works, have been added; and they are wound round an horizontally revolving frame, and pass from the reader as he proceeds.

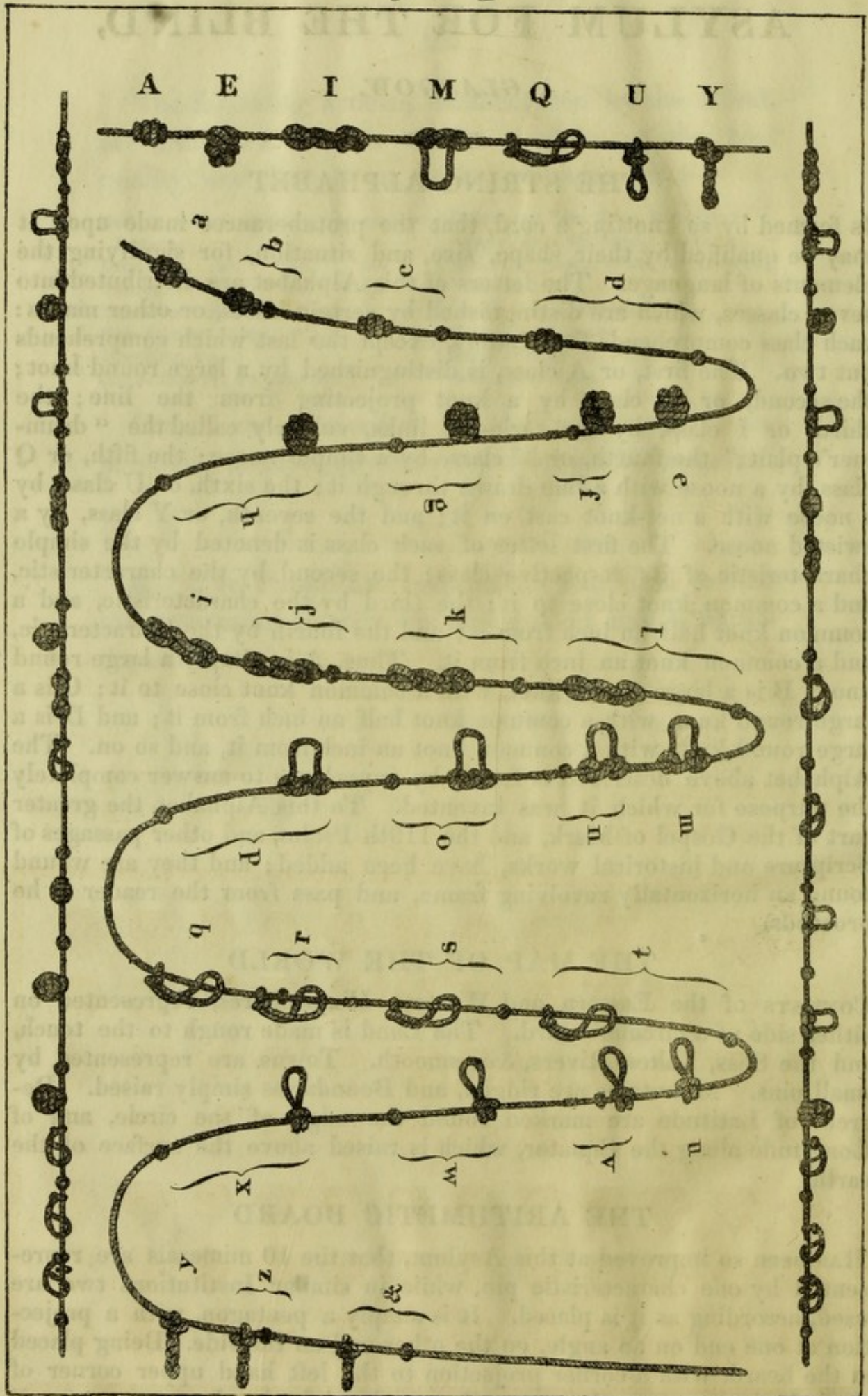
THE MAP OF THE WORLD

CONSISTS of the Eastern and Western Hemispheres, represented on either side of a circular board. The Land is made rough to the touch, and the Seas, Lakes, Rivers, &c., smooth. Towns are represented by small pins. Mountains are ridged, and Boundaries simply raised. Degrees of Latitude are marked round the edge of the circle, and of Longitude along the Equator, which is raised above the surface of the earth.

THE ARITHMETIC BOARD

HAS been so improved at this Asylum, that the 10 numerals are represented by one characteristic pin, while in similar Institutions two are used, according as it is placed. It is simply a pentagon, with a projection at one end on an angle, on the other end on the side. Being placed in the board, with a corner projection to the left hand upper corner of the hole, it represents 1; proceeding to the right hand upper corner, it is 3; the next corner in succession is 5; the next seven, and the last 9. In like manner the side projection, by being turned to the sides of the hole progressively, give 2 4 6 8 0.

The String Alphabet.



The Map of the World.



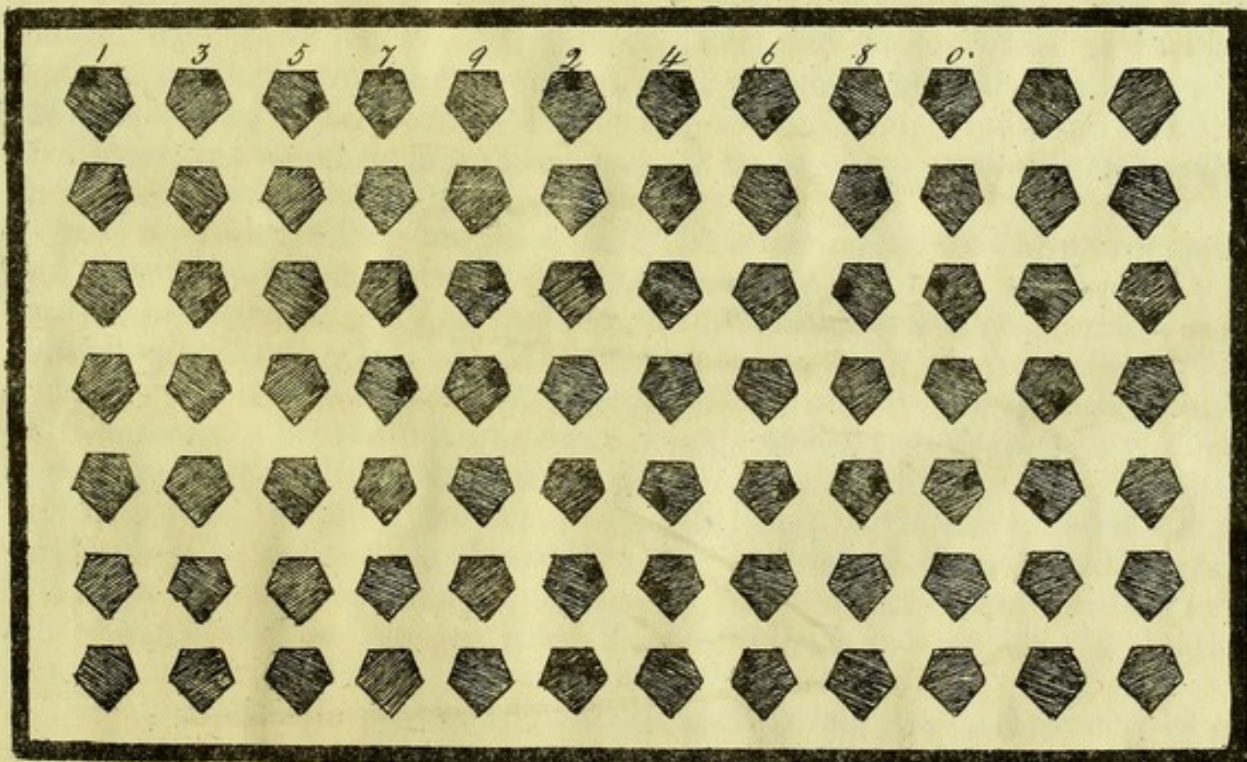
A pin showing the projection on the side.



A pin showing the projection on the angle.



The Arithmetic Board.



Drawn by one of the pupils in the Deaf & Dumb Institution.

