

The aims and claims of the British and Foreign Blind Association, founded 1868, incorporated 1902.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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THE *Tracts 1781.*

Hims and *(1)* **Claims**

OF

THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN
:: BLIND ASSOCIATION. ::

FOUNDED 1868.

INCORPORATED 1902.



GREAT PORTLAND STREET,
LONDON, W.

Extracts from Letters

TO THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BLIND ASSOCIATION.

From a blind-deaf person after having received a gift of books from the Association:—

"Sunday after Sunday I sat like a dumb ass. I had no book to read and no one to speak to me. It made me sad and low. But last Sunday I felt happy, having books to read from which I have derived great comfort."

"The more I read, the more I love my books. When I first lost my hearing . . . (sight having gone previously) . . . I could not read so well. I did feel unhappy, but one day when my mother was out and I was by myself I sat down and wept because I could not read" (in the embossed type). "My golden books."

o o o o


From another blind reader:

" I always long for the time when that splendid magazine comes. I almost believe I could go without my Sunday dinner in order to procure *Progress*."

o o o o

From a blind man living abroad:

" for I'll tell you, The British and Foreign Blind Association is known all over the world for its good and kind deeds to the Blind."



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THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BLIND ASSOCIATION
NEW BUILDING . GREAT PORTLAND STREET W.

Claude W. Farrer.
Architect.
11 Wellington Place,
Fleet Street, E.C.

THE British and Foreign Blind Association

(Founded 1868.)

(Incorporated 1902.)

For Promoting the Education and
Employment of the Blind. :: ::

GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.

Patrons :

HIS MAJESTY THE KING.

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

COUNCIL AND OFFICERS:

Executive Council :

†A. W. G. RANGER, M.A., D.C.L., *Chairman*.

†Captain E. B. B. TOWSE, V.C., *Vice-Chairman*.

Miss ALICE S. ARMITAGE.

Mrs. VON BRAUN.

Miss L. DOUGLAS-HAMILTON.

E. ALEXANDER.

GODFREY H. HAMILTON.

†A. HENRY.

DOUGLAS A. HOWDEN, B.A.

†W. PERCY MERRICK.

M. SIDNEY PARRY.

†C. ARTHUR PEARSON.

†H. M. TAYLOR, J.P., M.A., F.R.S.,

Chairman of Technical and Book Committee.

Hon. Treasurer :

†C. ARTHUR PEARSON.

Auditors :

Messrs. JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY & Co.,
58, Coleman Street, E.C.

Bankers :

LONDON COUNTY & WESTMINSTER BANK, Ltd.,
Regent's Park Branch, 1, Marylebone Road, W.

Secretary-General :

HENRY STAINSBY.

† Blind.

Aims and Claims

OF THE

BRITISH AND FOREIGN

BLIND ASSOCIATION. ::

(Founded 1868.)

(Incorporated 1902.)



1913 THE blind are always with us. There are 34,000 living in the United Kingdom to-day who are totally sightless, and scores of thousands more who, though able to see dimly, can only read with their fingers. There are also 600,000 in His Majesty's Indian Empire, and approximately 1,000,000 under the protection of the British Flag. Until 129 years ago practically nothing was done to improve their solitary, aimless lives. In 1784 embossed books were first placed within their reach, and the emancipation of the blind dates from that time.

The 19th century has been aptly called "The First Century of Care for the Blind," but during the last three or four decades the greatest strides have been made. The British and Foreign Blind Association has taken a most prominent part in this beneficent work of improving the condition of the blind.

Through its founder, the late Dr. T. R. Armitage, it introduced into this country the well-known Braille system of reading and writing, and the Braille music notation—systems which have completely revolutionised the education of the blind, and are now universally adopted in colleges and schools. But for the introduction of Braille, the education of the blind could not possibly have reached its present high state of efficiency.

The Association is the principal publishing house of Braille books, periodicals, music, etc., in the Empire. Embossed books are necessarily costly to produce, so that in order to place them within the reach of the blind they have to be sold considerably under cost price, which involves a serious and ever-increasing annual loss. The cost of the plates for a book of average size is £25; and no matter how many copies are sold, this initial outlay has to be borne by the Association, whose output is therefore governed by the amount of charitable assistance received. It possesses 79,457 two-page plates for producing the books specified in its catalogue. During the year 1913, 6,516 plates were prepared and 164,335 books, magazines, newspapers, etc., were produced by its embossing presses. The activities of the Association may be summarised as follows :—

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION.

The Association publishes a large amount of embossed literature, including school books and a school magazine, and supplies all kinds of apparatus used in the education of the blind. It also assists in safeguarding the elementary education of blind children by gratuitously conducting the business of the College of Teachers of the Blind, the examinations of which are recognised by the Board of Education. The Secretary-General acts as Honorary Registrar of the College, which was founded on the initiative of the Council of the Association.

HIGHER EDUCATION.

The Association is now specially engaged in encouraging the higher education of the blind by issuing, at a nominal price, a carefully-selected series of embossed scientific books, profusely illustrated by embossed diagrams. This series includes volumes on "Sound and Music," "Trigonometry," "Mechanics," "Electricity and Magnetism," "Modern Chemistry," "Psychology," "Geology," "Astronomy," "Heat," etc. Others are in course of preparation. An examination

of specimen sheets of the embossed diagrams in these volumes will show the care and accuracy needed in their preparation. Of the five embossed magazines issued by the Association at less than cost price, two (*The Braille Literary Journal* and *The Braille Musical Magazine*) are devoted to higher education.

MUSIC.

Special attention is devoted to the publication of music in the Braille type, both for recreative purposes and to enable blind musicians to earn a livelihood as organists, teachers of music, etc.

EMPLOYMENT.

Although not primarily a workshop for the blind, the Association employs sixty-four blind persons as stereotypists, bookbinders, copyists, shorthand-typists, etc. Continuous efforts are made to open up new fields of work, and through the labours of the Association many have found remunerative employment.

Articles on such subjects as knitting, crochet, shoe-mending, poultry-farming, gardening, etc., have been published to encourage home industries, and these efforts have been most successful, while works on Physiology and Massage have been issued for the benefit of the increasing numbers of blind men and women who practise Massage.

Through its Secretary-General the Association is represented on the National Committee for the Employment of the Blind, and the Federation Board of the Workshops for the Blind of London. The Association takes a prominent part in all questions connected with the technical training and employment of the blind.



Specimen of Braille printing as introduced into this Country by The British and Foreign Blind Association, through its founder, Dr. Armitage, in 1868, which has made the education of the Blind possible and created an ever-increasing demand for literature.

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|---------|-------|--------|
| Vast | quantities | of | good | and | useful |
| literature | in | this | type | are | issued |
| by the | British | and | Foreign | Blind | Asso- |
| ciation, | Great | Portland | Street, | W., | |
| every | at | less | than | cost | price. |
| Who | will | assist | in | this | noble |
| | | | | | work ? |

EXPLANATION :—Where a word or portion of a word is printed in the italic type it is an indication that such is contracted.

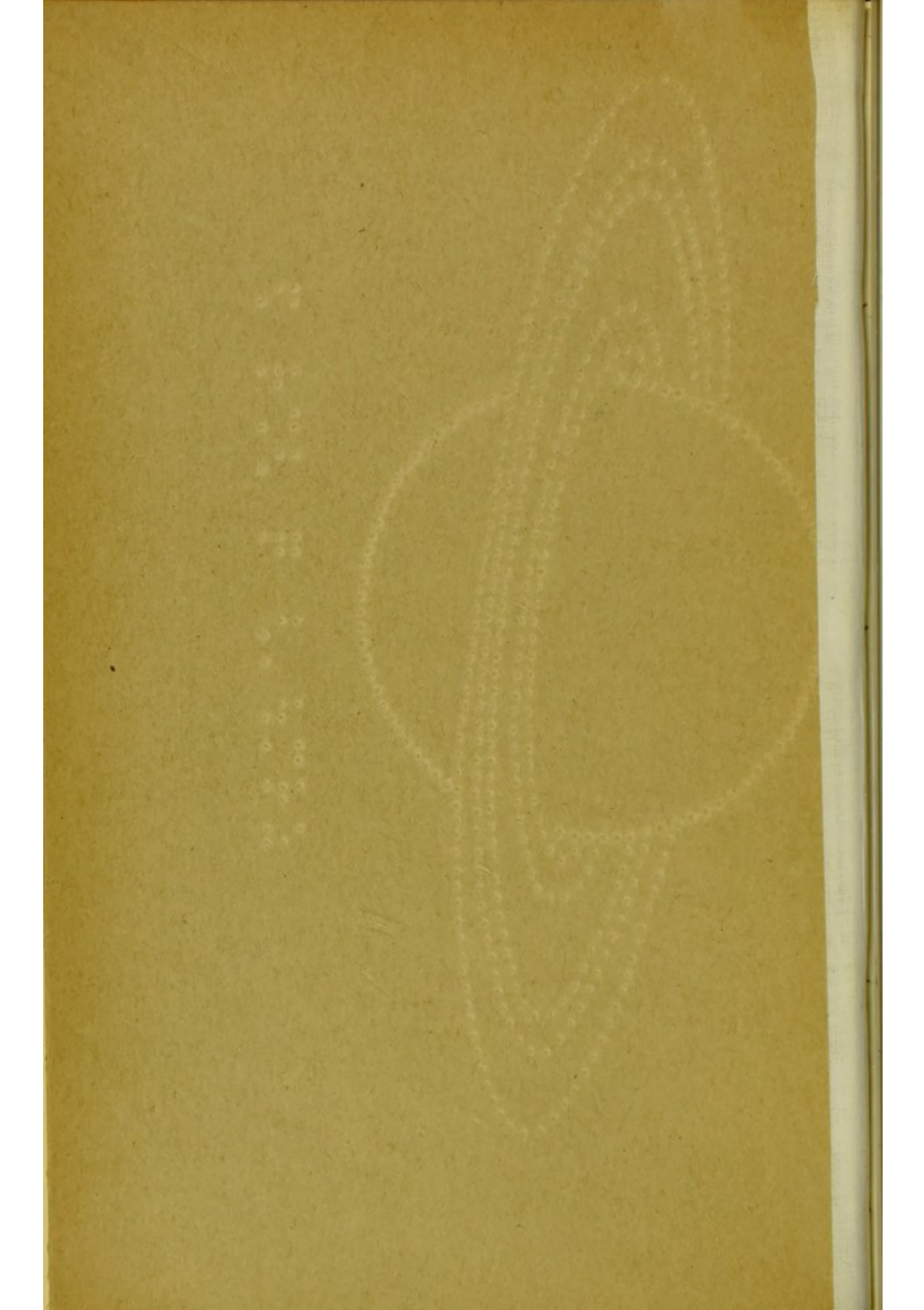
LIGHT FOR THE BLIND

through the series of Embossed Scientific Books published by The British and Foreign Blind Association, Great Portland Street, W.

"To open the fount of knowledge, to unlock the secrets of wisdom, and to give access to the gems of thought evolved throughout the ages."

THE RINGS OF SATURN.

Reduced fac-simile of the diagram forming the frontispiece of "A Primer of Astronomy," by Sir Robert Ball, LL.D., F.R.S., published in Braille by the Association.



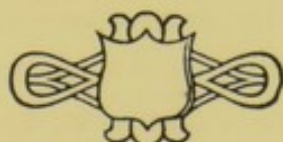
GENERAL.

The objects of the Association are pursued without regard to religious or political opinions. It investigates any question connected with the well-being of the individual and collective blind, and gives advice and assistance to the blind and to those interested in their welfare.

Gifts of books are made to the poor blind, inside and outside public institutions, and efforts are made to help the blind-deaf—there are over 400 in the United Kingdom—to whom books are an indescribable boon.

The supreme policy of the Association is to raise the blind above the level of indigence, and to assist in training and educating them to become useful, self-supporting members of the community. The Association is dependent upon charity, and earnestly appeals to the philanthropic public to help their heavily-afflicted fellows by placing the necessary funds at its disposal. Charity thus bestowed is both *reproductive* and *economical*.

Donations to the Building Fund and Annual Subscriptions for maintaining the work will be gratefully received by the Secretary-General, British and Foreign Blind Association (Inc. 1902), Great Portland Street, London, W.



New Buildings.

THE NECESSITY FOR THEM AND THE USES
TO WHICH THEY WILL BE PUT.



THE present buildings (206, Great Portland Street and 71, Bolsover Street, W.), are quite inadequate for the efficient and economical working of the Association, and absolutely bar progress. Every portion is occupied by book-plates, books, apparatus, etc. About fifty employees are engaged on the premises, and most of them work under crowded and otherwise unsuitable conditions. The buildings are old, and the lease has only some ten years to run, so that extensions are out of the question.

The new site, taken on a 999 years' lease, is 224, 226 and 228, Great Portland Street, and 59, 60 and 61, Bolsover Street. It has been arranged to erect buildings thereon to provide :—

- (1.) A publishing department for the production of embossed books, magazines, newspapers, music, etc.,—a small letterpress department will also be a necessary adjunct. The publishing department for Braille literature will be replete with the most approved machinery, some of which has recently been introduced into the present premises with most gratifying results.
- (2.) A mechanics' shop, equipped for making and repairing apparatus used by the blind, and for conducting experiments with a view to the introduction of new apparatus.

- (3.) A department for Braille manuscript work. Although this department will be less essential as the reproduction of Braille books by machinery increases, yet there will always be a demand upon the Association for manuscripts, just as in the sighted world there will always be a place for the type-writing office and the law stationer.
- (4.) Extensive fire-proof storage for embossed books ; also for book-plates. The latter are the fruit of *forty-five years'* labour.
- (5.) A show-room for the display and sale of books and apparatus for the use of the blind.
- (6.) An assembly room for meetings in connection with work carried on for the benefit of the blind by this Association and other organisations. This accommodation is much needed in London. It is proposed to erect within this room an organ which shall be a *facsimile* of the organ of the College of Organists, for the Diplomas of which College many blind persons qualify. (Separate subscriptions will be invited for this instrument.) This organ will enable blind candidates to obtain the necessary practice, which can now only be secured to a limited extent. The instrument will also provide opportunities for blind musicians to demonstrate to the public that, given a proper training, they are not less capable than the sighted.
- (7.) A permanent exhibition of books and apparatus—old and new—invented for the use of the blind. This will not merely be interesting as showing the developments which have taken place from time to time, but old apparatus, displaying, as it frequently does, great ingenuity, will furnish ideas which may be embodied in newer and more up-to-date apparatus. This exhibition will also include specimens of the best handiwork of the blind, and pictures of notable blind persons, with a brief biographical sketch of each.

- (8.) Office accommodation. This must be rather extensive, as the Association, in carrying out its two main objects of promoting the education and employment of the blind, carries on an extensive correspondence, a considerable portion of which is in Braille. The conducting of six magazines—five in Braille type—also accounts for much clerical work.
- (9.) Office accommodation and library for the College of Teachers of the Blind. The Association gratuitously conducts all the business of this College, which is recognised by the Board of Education.
- (10.) Kitchen and mess-room for employees.
- (11.) Accommodation for caretakers.



Extracts from Letters

(Continued.)

From a blind and deaf lady :

" I was deeply touched and grateful for your kind and sympathetic reference to the Deaf-Blind, of which unfortunate class I have the misfortune to be a member. I do not suppose the English language contains words which could adequately express what literature is to me. It is the one pure unspoiled pleasure that is left to the Deaf-Blind."

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From a blind, deaf and crippled man, in appreciation of the Association's new methods of Embossing :

"I have just received *Progress*, and I must congratulate you with all my heart, and thank you on behalf of the Blind for the new press you have invented, as I cannot but regard it as a gift to the world. You would laugh at me if you saw with what pleasure I am sitting and rubbing (not reading) my fingers up and down to the left and to the right in pure delight at the excellent print."

o o o o

From a cultured blind gentleman :

"I am writing this special note to tell you how often I appreciate and enjoy the literature and pictures in *Progress*."



PRINTED BY THE
BRITISH & FOREIGN BLIND ASSOCIATION
Incorporated 1908,
GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.

