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Statements of the Education... the Blind

1894

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ILLUSTRATIONS OF EMBOSSED PRINTING.

IT IS AN INCUMBENT DUTY TO ENLIGHTEN  
THE MINDS, OF THE BLIND, THOUGH WE  
CANNOT OPEN THEIR EYES WE CAN TEACH  
THEIR HANDS TO SERVE THE PURPOSES OF  
EYES, AND BY MEANS OF THE POWER OF  
TOUCH, WE POUR IN THE LIGHT OF IN-  
FORMATION ON THE EYES OF THEIR UNDER-  
STANDING ON A SYSTEM KNOWN TO ALL.

GLASGOW 17 DEC 1841.

MR ALSTON'S IMPROVED METHOD  
OF WRITING FOR THE BLIND.

[REPRINT, 1894.]

1894

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# Some Books and Papers about the Blind

REPRINTED BY

Messrs. SAMPSON LOW, MARSTON & COMPANY

LIMITED

St. Dunstan's House

FETTER LANE, FLEET STREET, LONDON

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1774

THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND. A LETTER  
IN THE EDINBURGH MAGAZINE AND REVIEW  
for NOVEMBER, 1774. Price 1s.

1793

TRANSLATION OF AN ESSAY ON  
THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND by M. HAUVY.  
Dedicated to the King of France in 1786. Price 1s.

1801

HINTS TO PROMOTE BENEFICENCE, &c., by  
Dr. LETTSOM, with an account of the Blind Asylum at  
Liverpool. Price 1s.

1819

TRANSLATION OF AN ESSAY ON  
THE INSTRUCTION AND AMUSEMENTS OF  
THE BLIND by Dr. GUILLIÉ. Published in Paris, 1817.  
Illustrated, 5s.

1837

RECENT DISCOVERIES FOR FACILITATING  
THE EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.  
By JAMES GALL, of Edinburgh. Illustrated. Price 2s.

1842

THE EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENTS, &c., AT  
THE ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND, GLASGOW.  
By JOHN ALSTON. Illustrated. Price 2s.

1861

TRANSLATION BY REV. W. TAYLOR OF  
THE MANAGEMENT AND EDUCATION OF  
THE BLIND. By J. G. KNIE, of Breslau. Price 1s.

ENEUCOON R. L. \* \* \*



[REPRINT, 1894.]

STATEMENTS  
OF THE  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENTS,  
AND  
INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS,  
ADOPTED AT THE  
ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND,  
GLASGOW.

WITH A SHORT ACCOUNT OF ITS FOUNDER, AND GENERAL  
OBSERVATIONS APPLICABLE TO SIMILAR  
INSTITUTIONS.

*WITH LITHOGRAPHIC ILLUSTRATIONS.*

SEVENTH EDITION, TO WHICH HAS BEEN ADDED AN  
APPENDIX.

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MARCH, MDCCCXLII.

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*The Profits arising from the Sale of this Publication go towards the Funds.*

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1894.

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STAMFORD STREET AND CHARING CROSS.

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## PREFACE TO THIS REPRINT.

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THE truly wise gladly add to their store of information, by observing the success, or failure, of others ; especially by noticing the causes which led to it : this reprint is therefore issued, with the desire that the experience recorded sixty years ago may be found useful.

It is not generally known that much careful attention has been given to the education and training of the Blind in this country for more than one hundred years, and that many books and papers have been written on the subject. As long ago as November, 1774, there was a paper in the “Edinburgh Magazine and Review,” and in the year 1793 a translation of the Essay by Haüy, dedicated to the King of France, was printed in London. In the year 1801 Dr. Lettsom published his “Hints,” with an account of the School for the Blind at Liverpool. In 1819 an illustrated translation of the Essay of Guillié was issued by a London publisher ; and in the year 1837 James Gall, of Edinburgh, published his book, “The Education of the Blind,” with illustrations.

Before forming an opinion respecting results, the amount of capital employed, in addition to skill and labour, should always be taken into account. And it should be remembered that

want of permanent success in some cases arose from want of funds ; while other schemes have become popular owing to the large amount of money expended upon them, the patronage of influential persons, and the publicity given to them by “the Press.”

It is well known that Blind children can be trained to do almost anything ; but comparatively few of the Blind are children. It is therefore after school age that help is most needed ; and when any plan for helping the Blind is under consideration, the wants of adults should receive very careful attention.

NOVEMBER, 1894.

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TO THE DIRECTORS OF THE GLASGOW ASYLUM  
FOR THE BLIND.

GENTLEMEN,

Having had numerous applications for statements of the manner in which our Asylum is managed; and finding it impossible to give a proper view of its system in the short compass of a letter, I have endeavoured in this new Edition, succinctly, to draw up the following account of the Education and employment it affords, and of its Internal Arrangements, including all the improvements to the present time. Should this attempt merit your approbation, and prove in any way beneficial to similar Institutions, the labour will be more than compensated to,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant,

JOHN ALSTON.

GLASGOW, 22nd March, 1842.



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# EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.



## PRELIMINARY REMARKS.

It seems strange that in the mind of any one there should exist a doubt respecting the expediency of educating the Blind, or that it should be supposed enough has been done for them, when their bodily wants have been supplied.

They are rational and immortal beings, and capable of all the enjoyments which others feel from the cultivation of their moral and intellectual powers. It therefore becomes not only a reasonable but incumbent duty, to employ every means for cultivating the moral and intellectual faculties of the unfortunates deprived of sight, and storing their minds with general knowledge.

Should it be objected that they are incapable of receiving instruction through the same means by which it is communicated to others, the objection only proves the necessity of endeavouring to devise such methods of conveying instruction as may be best suited to their particular circumstances.

The ear has been happily called the vestibule of the soul, and in the annals of the Blind, those who have become illustrious by their mental acquirements confirm the remark; for they show that few intellectual studies are inaccessible to them. It has always been observed, and has received a kind of universal assent among those who have associated much with them, that in certain branches of study they have a facility which others rarely possess. But in order to assist them, it is necessary that the other senses should supply the want of the eye. If, for instance, we wish

to teach them the art of reading, letters must be prepared palpable to their touch. If we wish to communicate to them a knowledge of the surface of the earth, globes and maps must be prepared, with the divisions, &c., &c., in relief. Knowledge obtained in this way must, of course, be acquired much more slowly than that acquired by sight; but this very circumstance should excite to more vigorous efforts for the removal, as far as possible, of every obstacle that retards its progress.

The invention of characters in relief was amongst the earliest measures adopted for the instruction of the Blind; and it is worthy of remark, that the letters chosen were of the Illyrian or Selavonian alphabet modified. This alphabet was preferred on account of the square form of the letters, which it was thought would be more obvious to the touch than the Roman character; but it was soon abandoned, the square or angular form of the letters not having afforded the advantages that were expected from it.

Moveable letters were next tried, which were placed in small tablets of wood, and made to slide in grooves; and moveable leaden characters were afterwards cast for the use of the Blind at Paris, but the work was attended with difficulties and expenses which the inventor was not prepared to meet.

Large pin cushions were also brought into use for the Blind, on which characters were formed with inverted needles. Various other attempts were made in wood and metal, till the time of M. Hauie, of Paris, in 1784, who invented the art of printing in relief for the use of the Blind.

No successful efforts were subsequently made to improve the method of printing, and it is but of a very recent period that any other means were generally adopted for their improvement, except by oral instruction.

The inefficiency of a method of communication so disproportioned to the end in view, and in which the pupil was rendered totally dependent on the instructor, by being debarred from acquiring any portion of his education by his own exertions, suggested the propriety of attempting to form a system of notation

as a substitute for reading, which should, in some measure, supply the desideratum, and enable the scholar to co-operate with the teacher.

Various were the methods that were adopted, and amongst the rest, the ingenious system of writing on twine; but this was found to be by far too intricate ever to be generally useful, and was superseded by the invention of printing with arbitrary characters in relief, sometime ago revived in this country by Mr. James Gall, of Edinburgh, and Mr. Lucas, of Bristol; but this plan also involved many serious difficulties both to the Blind reader and their teacher.\*

I had long been convinced that arbitrary characters, however ingeniously constructed, threw unnecessary obstacles in the way of the Blind, and that an assimilation of the alphabet of the Blind to that of the seeing, would, from its great simplicity, not only be free from all objections, but that, in the case of those who, having lost their sight after they were familiar with the Roman alphabet, it would be attended with manifest and peculiar advantages,† while its similarity to the common printing would enable Blind children, at a distance from any institution, to attend an ordinary school without giving more trouble or

\* See Specimen of the Alphabets prepared for the Blind.

† The Glasgow Institution affords an interesting illustration of this at the present time. There is a young woman in the Asylum, who, after being educated in the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, lost her sight, and thus became totally deaf, dumb, and blind. Having left the Deaf and Dumb Institution previously to the latter calamity befalling her, she remained for a considerable time with her relations in a state of utter helplessness, incapable of any rational intercourse with the external world, and sunk in the deepest despondency. She was accidentally discovered by her former benefactors, and placed in the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, the inmates of which have been taught to communicate with the Deaf and Dumb; and she may be seen daily receiving instructions from one of the more advanced Blind children tracing by the touch the shapes of the relieved Roman characters, which she still remembers (and greatly prefers to the angular character, which she also understands to some extent), and then indicating them by spelling the words on the fingers of her blind companions. The restoration of this interesting individual to intercourse with the rational world is a source of exquisite pleasure to herself, and of gratification to all connected with her.



inconvenience to the teacher than any of his other pupils, having this farther advantage—being common to the seeing and the Blind, the former cannot only judge of the correctness of the latter's reading, but are qualified to assist them in the process wherever they are, at any period of their life.

In my first experiments, I adopted the Capital letters of the Roman alphabet, merely depriving them of the small stroke, at the extremities, as suggested by the late Dr. Fry, of London, to the Society of Arts, in Edinburgh, when one of the competitors for their Gold Medal for the best alphabet for the Blind. But it was found that letters cut after that model were too broad to be easily deciphered by the sense of touch. Having therefore made numerous improvements on the size and sharpness of the type, and to obviate the sameness of some of the letters by adding the hair-strokes as will be seen in A. R. and N., &c., &c. I brought out several elementary books as my first specimen of printing for the Blind, in January, 1837, from two founts of types, with which I have now finished the New Testament (the whole Scriptures were completed in Dec., 1840), with the Scotch metrical version of the psalms and paraphrases, and English Grammar, also other elementary books, including Musical Catechism, with Tunes, &c., &c. The whole of my experiments were submitted, in detail, to the Blind themselves, and to my being guided by their judgment I attribute much of whatever success has followed my exertions.

The advantages of a literature for the Blind, so simple, practicable, and so easily taught, are obvious to every one. Deprived of the delights of vision, the Blind are naturally inquisitive, and thrown more than others upon their mental resources for enjoyment, they will thereby soon become convinced of the benefits of this mode of instruction: it will afford them profitable and pleasurable occupation in their solitary hours.

It is therefore an incumbent duty to enlighten their minds by unfolding to their touch the pages of that blessed volume, the principles of which afford the best security for their happiness here, and the surest foundation for their hopes of eternity. Thus, though we cannot open the eyes of the Blind, we teach their





hands to serve the purposes of eyes—by means of the power of touch, we pour in the light of information on the eyes of their understanding. To the outward eye, the page of nature is still a blank ; but we thus illuminate the inner man, not with the light of science only, but with the far more glorious light shed abroad by the Sun of Righteousness, who brought life and immortality to light by the Gospel ; they having these advantages over the seeing, that, in the darkest hour of the night they can finger over the pages of their Bibles, and hold communion with their God.

“Our hands can read, our finger trace,  
The page of truth and love ;  
And thus we joyfully embrace  
The message from above.

“Then let us willingly record  
His praise, who maketh known  
To our benighted hearts His word,  
And seals it as His own.”

After I had successfully introduced types adapted to the Blind, it was apprehended, that from the expense attending this mode of printing, it might be limited in its operations. But at the annual examination of the inmates of this Asylum, on the 25th of October, 1836, I presented to a numerous and respectable assembly the first specimens of printing from the Roman alphabet for the use of the Blind : and being satisfied that the demand for the Blind must, for a long period, be necessarily so limited as to hold out no adequate inducement to a publisher, I stated, that my object was, if possible, to raise a fund distinct from that of the Institution, to be devoted exclusively to the printing of Books for the Blind, and to their diffusion, at a cheap rate, throughout the country. With this view I made my first appeal to the ladies of Glasgow and its neighbourhood, who are ever eager to respond to the call of benevolence ; and I am proud to acknowledge, that, to their generous exertions, I owe the origin of the Printing Fund, which has already enabled me to provide a Press and two founts of Types. My next application for assistance was made to the



different Institutions for the Blind and other benevolent Societies : and I am happy to say, that their aid and co-operation have been cheerfully granted. These Institutions receive copies of the books at nett cost, so as to enable them to supply the poor at a moderate charge, or gratuitously, as they may see proper ; all profits go to the Printing Fund.

The printing for the Blind being in relief, it is obvious that these books must always be considerably larger than those for the seeing, and that any attempt to reduce them to ordinary dimensions must be followed by a corresponding sacrifice of their adaptation to the touch of the reader. I am satisfied, from experience, as well as from the opinion of those with whom I have corresponded, and who have given much of their attention to the subject, that it would be injurious to reduce the size of the letters below that of our type of Great Primer, on which the New Testament is printed.

It has been asked by many, what has to become of those advanced in life and engaged in trades, whose sense of touch cannot be so acute as that of the young ? My answer is, that just as seeing people, when advanced in life, require glasses to aid their sight, so must the Blind have a larger type to suit their sense of touch. To meet this, I have adopted the large Double Pica type, on which the elementary books are printed, and the difficulty referred to has been completely obviated.

The invention of such letters forms a new era in the history of literature, and no limits can be set to the benefits which future generations may derive from it.

Perhaps the best statement of the progress of the pupils, and the advantages derived by them from this Institution, may be obtained from the Report of the last Public Examination, as it appeared in the *Scottish Guardian* newspaper, Glasgow, 10th May, 1838.

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## PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

*Extracted from the "Scottish Guardian" of May 10, 1838.*

## PRINTING FOR THE BLIND.

THE Tenth Annual Examination of the inmates of the Asylum for the Blind took place on Monday afternoon, in the Trades' Hall, in presence of a vast assembly of ladies and gentlemen. The Lord Provost presided, and amongst the Directors and friends of the Institution present were, the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, the Rev. Dr. M'Leod, Rev. Mr. Gibson, of College Church, Rev. J. B. M'Craa, of Dublin, Bailie Campbell, Bailie Bain, Mungo Nutter Campbell, Esq., of Ballimore, William Leckie Ewing, Esq., William Smith, Esq., of Carbeth-Guthrie, John Smith, Esq., of Crutherland, Henry Knox, Esq., William Buchanan, Esq., James Bogle, jun., Esq., John Thomas Alston, Esq., of Liverpool, Bailie Martin, of Greenock, and several other gentlemen from a distance. The meeting was opened with prayer by Principal Macfarlan.

Mr. Alston, of Rosemount, the Honorary Treasurer, and the ardent and persevering friend of the Blind, conducted the examination with the assistance of the teachers. Before proceeding to the business of the day, Mr. Alston stated that on the 25th October, 1836, when he had last the pleasure of appearing before a similarly numerous and respectable audience, he submitted some specimens of printing for the Blind, and appealed to them for the support necessary to carry forward his undertaking, when he pledged himself that he would enable the Blind to read as well as those who have the use of their sight. The present meeting had been expressly called for the purpose of affording them an opportunity of judging whether that object had been attained. There were sixty-five Blind persons before the assembly, and he bespoke indulgence for them in the progress of the examination.

Having formerly described minutely the routine of these agreeable meetings, we do not deem it necessary on this occasion to enter at large into the proceedings. The exercises were commenced with an anthem. The junior class was next examined in orthography and the Shorter Catechism. Then the same class gave specimens of their reading in the elementary books printed at the Institution Press, which evidently afforded lively satisfaction to the meeting. Mr. Orme, who prepared the beautiful music-book which Mr. Alston has printed for the Blind, afterwards examined several of the children in musical notation, and his pupils showed a readiness and exactness which really did great credit to him and to themselves. What rendered their proficiency more remarkable, was the fact that the book they were so familiar with had not been above four weeks out of the press. After being exercised for some time on the tune "Kilmarnock," the whole of the inmates united in singing that beautiful and popular piece in a very effective manner. Mr. Alston requested permission, on account of the limited time, to withdraw from the programme the exercises in geography, arithmetic, and grammar, the company being sufficiently acquainted with the attainments of the children in these branches of their education, and he pledging himself that they were at least not falling behind their former proficiency. The first multiplication table printed for the Blind was here produced. The more advanced class next came forward with their New Testaments lately completed, and read whatever passages the Lord Provost desired, with a degree of fluency and accuracy which surprised and delighted all who witnessed it. There was no doubt about the completeness of the triumph over difficulties that once seemed insurmountable—there could be none ; but to add to the other proofs, Mr. Alston broke up the seal of a parcel, and produced printed copies of Locke's opinion of the Bible, which had been thrown off from the Institution Press, and retained under seal in order that they might be submitted to the Blind for the first time at the meeting. This was accordingly done—the children were put upon their mettle for the honour of being allowed to read it ; and a girl

having rapidly fingered the words, and announced she was ready, read it to the audience with perfect ease.

The next exercise was one of a peculiarly interesting character. A young woman, deaf, dumb, and Blind, read a portion of the New Testament, and afterwards wrote in presence of the meeting the subject she had read. Her manuscript was read by Principal Macfarlan, amidst the approbation of the meeting. Mr. Alston expressed himself in terms of characteristic benevolence in regard to this interesting individual, remarking that had his labours been productive of no other effect than to restore her to intercourse with society, and communion with God and her Bible, he would consider all the expense, as well as his own labours, more than compensated. (Cheers.) As an instance of the ease with which any Blind child may be taught to read by his friends or teacher in ordinary circumstances, Mr. Alston brought forward a boy belonging to the Town's Hospital of Paisley, who, according to the statement of Mr. Brown, the teacher in that institution, did not know a letter four months ago ; and the meeting had an opportunity of hearing him read with the utmost facility and correctness. Many other proofs could be given the same as this.

Mr. Alston having finished the examination, left it to the audience to decide whether he had implemented his engagement with his supporters. (Applause.) They had witnessed the examination of the pupils—they had heard a boy reading who had been taught at a common school, and if they wished farther proof of the success of the system, he would refer them to the testimony given in other quarters on the subject. In an advertisement in the London papers last month respecting the School for the Indigent Blind, St. George's Fields, there was an announcement that, "in addition to the usual instruction the pupils are now taught to read by means of printing in raised or embossed letters, according to the plan of Mr. Alston of Glasgow." At the seventh meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Liverpool in September, 1837, the report given in on the best mode for teaching the Blind, gives a decided preference



to this system of Mr. Alston ; \* and at a Public examination of the Yorkshire School for the Blind, in York, on Thursday, the 11th January, the Rev. Mr. Taylor, superintendent of the school, explained the means employed for teaching the Blind to read, and gave decided preference to the alphabet furnished by Mr. Alston, which was adopted in the Yorkshire School. The same system was now in active and successful operation in Norwich Institution. A gentleman who had visited the Glasgow Institution, wrote him respecting a young girl, whom his daughter is instructing, as follows :—"You will be glad to learn that the poor Blind woman at Leeds has, under the instructions of my daughter, made great proficiency. She can read the large type well and pretty well the small type." They have sent for new books. (Loud cheering.) In a letter dated Jan. 18 from the Institution Philadelphia, there is intelligence so gratifying that he could not withhold it. There were fifty pupils in the Institution. One of the late vice-presidents, Mr. Birch, had bequeathed an income nearly equal to their utmost wants. The object of their present letter was to inform Mr. Alston that they had lately established a printing-press. The letter goes on to state with respect to the printing :—"Understanding that you adopt the same characters, it appears to our Board of Management that both Institutions will gain by an interchange of volumes," &c. Mr. Alston stated that he had made a shipment, the first of the kind ever made from this country, of 150 volumes, ten full copies of the New Testament, and fifty single copies of the Gospels, besides multiplication tables and other books. He had also a most gratifying letter from the Bristol Asylum or School of Industry. In a letter to

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\* "In December last the Society of Arts for Scotland presented Mr. John Alston the Silver Medal of the Society, bearing the following inscription :—"To John Alston, Esq., of Rose Mount, Hon. Mem. Soc. Arts, and Honorary Treasurer to the Asylum for the Blind at Glasgow, awarded 26th December, 1838, for his Tables, with wood-cut illustrations, and his Musieal Catechism, with Tunes, printed in relief, and exhibited to the Society on the 16th and 30th May, 1838 ; and for his zealous, energetic, and benevolent exertions for the Education of the Blind." And subsequently two Honorary Medals were voted to Mr. Alston for his continued exertions in behalf of the Blind."

Mr. Alston, the writer says :—" One of the pupils sends her best thanks to you for your exertions, and says she esteems the books she has got more than all the world, and if she were possessed of ten thousand pounds, she would freely give it in such a cause." The same pupil writes from Providence Cottage, Bristol, that she had derived great benefit from hearing the Scriptures in the Bristol Asylum, and adds—" but never did I anticipate the arrival of this glorious day when I should peruse the sacred pages for myself ;" and she proceeds, " I doubt not that the Holy Spirit will explain and apply unto the hearts of many of my fellow-sufferers, and hundreds will have cause to bless God through time and eternity for your benevolent exertions." (This individual was above 40 years of age when she acquired the art of reading ; she has now perused the Scriptures.) Mr. Alston again submitted that he had given sufficient proof of the success of his plan. (Great applause.) He had only one other request to make, and in the presence of the ladies, who had done him such essential service in the furtherance of the cause, he had no apprehensions that it would not be complied with. He was anxious that the Psalms should be added to the New Testament—and the Blind were anxious too—and he was desirous to be enabled to meet the expense of this undertaking, which would not be great. The Trustees had done him the honour to assign him the premium of £8 from Coulter's mortification for inventions, which he had dedicated to the fund for printing the Psalms. The importance of this addition to the works already completed, warranted him in hoping that the public would extend the assistance they had already afforded him. (Cheers.)

The Lord Provost said he was sure there could be but one feeling, that of gratification, arising from the examination they had witnessed this day. It had been a most interesting exhibition, although mingled somewhat with melancholy at seeing so many of our fellow-creatures deprived of one of the greatest blessings—the use of their eyes. But it was gratifying to have seen that by the exertions of one benevolent individual they had been in a great measure enabled to extend their enjoyment of life. They



had been enabled to read for themselves, as had been most satisfactorily proved by what we had witnessed to-day, the Scriptures of truth ; and he was sure he spoke the sense of this meeting when he proposed their thanks to Mr. Alston for his exertions in behalf of these individuals. (Cheers.) May he be long spared to continue his exertions in their behalf. (Cheers.)

Principal Macfarlan, having been requested by the Lord Provost to address the meeting, said, since his Lordship had done him the honour of calling upon him, and as he had been pretty closely connected with the progress of this Institution since its commencement, he held it to be his duty to say a very few words explanatory of the principles on which they had endeavoured to proceed ; the details they had already seen. Their object certainly is in the first place to afford to all within the walls of the Institution, old as well as young, the elements of knowledge, and especially that most important of all knowledge, an acquaintance with the Gospel of Christ. This they had for a length of time attempted to do by oral instruction and various other expedients ; but at last they had succeeded, by the blessing of God, in making the young read the Scriptures, as they had this day seen and heard. They likewise endeavoured to furnish them with the elements of general knowledge ; and on former occasions the meeting must have remarked their proficiency in geography, arithmetic, and grammar. They had also endeavoured to teach them in the school of industry various employments, by which they are enabled to earn the means of subsistence by their own exertions, instead of becoming a burden on society. They had added music and many other subsidiary branches of education to their instruction ; and although the former might appear at first sight unnecessary, it enabled them to pass soothingly many, many a weary hour ; to pass in innocent recreation those hours when labour must be intermitted, and when the absence of such occupations would leave them in a more melancholy condition than can well be conceived. It was on the Continent, he thought, that the idea was first struck out of teaching the Blind to read by embossed letters. A great many ingenious plans had been

invented for this purpose ; but it at last occurred to their Treasurer to adopt the simple Roman capital alphabet, with some modifications ; and it was found by experiment to be as easily learned and discriminated by their touch as any other set of letters, and to have the peculiar advantage of being equally adapted to ordinary schools, and of being similar to the letters which the Blind may have learned to read before losing their sight. He would refer to two instances in illustration of this. There was the boy from Paisley, whose master had stated that he had become familiar with the books within the last four months ; here was a proof that by the use of these characters any schoolmaster with a moderate share of patience and perseverance may teach a Blind person to read with perfect accuracy. The other case is that of the young woman who labours under the singular complicated deprivation of being deaf, dumb, and Blind. She lost her hearing and became dumb when only four years old. She lost her sight when more advanced in life ; and the loss preyed on her temper, her health, and spirits ; but, by the mercy of God, she was brought here to this Institution, and into contact and intercourse with the Blind, who have learned to communicate with her ; and, by her own declaration, her life has been converted from melancholy and languor into the greatest enjoyment. There was no medium by which she could have communicated with others, had she not before losing her sight been accustomed to read ; but she found the characters familiar to her recollection, and, as has been seen, she reads without difficulty. It would not be considered pedantic and ultra-professional in him to remark, that this was not only a singular blessing, but they had witnessed a most important philosophical experiment. Dugald Stewart and Sir James Mackintosh, men whose names were high in scientific reputation, had regarded it as impossible to convey knowledge to those who are born deaf, dumb, and Blind ; but here is an experiment which shows that study and perseverance may suggest the means of conquering what at first sight might appear an impossibility. (Great applause.)

The Rev. Principal having pronounced a benediction, the

meeting broke up, evidently much pleased with what they had seen and heard. From the important educational improvements introduced into the Asylum since the last public examination, the proceedings were peculiarly gratifying and rendered this the most interesting meeting of the kind ever held in Scotland. The instrumental band diversified the exercises by performing a number of musical pieces in a very creditable style.

Having thus proved before so many competent witnesses the entire fitness of the system of reading in which the Blind are instructed, and having now had two years' experience of it in our Asylum, I may be permitted to say, that with these facilities, it is surely incumbent on all who take an interest in the Blind, to adopt the means thus placed at their disposal for their moral, and religious, and intellectual education.

This system of printing, and indeed the idea of educating the Blind by any kind of typography, are alike new, and there may still be differences of opinion respecting its adaptation to adults. But there can be but one opinion with regard to its fitness for the young, an opinion founded on experience, that if the same attention is given to the instruction of the Blind in reading that is bestowed on the seeing, the progress of the former will scarcely, if at all, be inferior to that of the latter; for as they are not liable to be distracted by external objects, their attention is wholly engrossed with the work they have to do.

If it is of importance to educate the seeing in early life, it is of much more importance to put the young Blind under proper moral training; for the neglect of the early education of the indigent Blind has led to the wandering, mendicant habits of thousands, who, had a little early care and attention been bestowed upon them, would have become useful both to themselves and to society. The surest method of suppressing public begging by the Blind, is to train them when young to habits of industry, by which they can provide for themselves.

The mode of instructing them is the following:—After the pupils have acquired a knowledge of the shape of each letter of the alphabet, they are taught orthography; they next proceed to



the study of etymology ; the derivation of words and their relation to each other are particularly explained. After they have attained this, words of two and three letters may be submitted to their touch. They should then be made to feel the words with two or three of their fingers, placing a finger on each of the letters ; by this means they will be able to decipher two or three letters at once, which by practice will give a dexterity and fluency to their reading ; their finger nails to be kept short to prevent them from injuring the surface of the letters. By this system of tuition, the memory and the understanding, as well as the sense of touch, become the channels through which instruction is conveyed. The Blind have in general retentive memories, those best grounded in the knowledge of grammar make the most expert scholars.

At present there are above thirty individuals, whose ages vary from ten to thirty-two years, who can read, and the attainments of some of them would bear a comparison with those who have their sight of the same age and time under tuition.\*

I may here notice a question that has been often put, and is considerably agitated at present, viz. :—How long will the Blind take to learn to read ? and do they read with fluency ?

I have known some young persons learn in a few days ; others take a much longer time. The same differences obtain in schools for the seeing. But I am led to think that were the experiment made upon an equal number of the Blind and of the seeing, from the same age and class of society, with the same attention on the part of the teacher, the Blind would lose nothing by the comparison.

As to reading with fluency, we have several who read as freely as the seeing ; but my wish has always been to get them not so

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\* I may mention, till we had full occupation for a teacher, for some time we got a person two hours a day, making the hours to suit his time, which answered both our purposes. Now we are enabled, besides the classes for the young, to have a class for the adults, who, being in advanced life, without having acquired the art of reading, meet in the evenings thrice a week, when appropriate books for their improvement are read to them.

much to read quickly, as to understand what they do read ; and this I hold to be the main object. Where there is a desire to learn, I have never known our teacher experience much difficulty in making fluent and intelligent readers.

In evidence that this is also the case in other Institutions for the Blind, I may mention the following facts :—I have visited the Institutions in England, most of them three times. On my first visit, in May, 1837, with a view of introducing this system, there were not ten persons who knew letters ; now there are some hundreds who can read our books most distinctly, from the child of eight to adults of upwards of sixty. So generally has it come into practice, that of late the young are instructed before they come to our Institution, either by their parents or at the common schools, which is now nothing uncommon.

But there is another advantage not to be overlooked. That is on the Sabbath days ; when they are prevented from attending church by unfavourable weather, they read the Bible and other books now provided for them, the same as the seeing ; and in the evenings, instead of being congregated together, and instructed orally by their teacher, as was the practice before the introduction of this system of printing. Now each pupil has his book and lesson assigned them ; the whole retire to their apartments, and peruse the lessons. At the hour fixed, they assemble in the school-room or chapel, and repeat what they had learned. To the seeing, nothing can be more delightful than to contrast the advantages they now possess, and their former situation. As books are expensive, we give a volume to one of the Blind, viz. Genesis, when that is read through, then we give the next volume and so on ; by this means the whole can be reading the different portions of the Bible without interfering with one another.

The importance of furnishing this interesting class of our fellow-creatures with the means of moral and intellectual improvement, appears in a striking light, when we consider the proportion generally.

We have unfortunately no statistics of their number in this country ; but in the kingdom of Belgium, Government statistics

of the Blind were made in 1835, the result of which was that there were 4117 blind in a population of 4,154,922—establishing the ratio of 1 to 1009. Of this great number 960 were Blind from the effects of ophthalmia.

It is worthy of observation, the same Government, with a benevolent liberality deserving to be imitated by others, have enacted that every indigent Blind and dumb person, belonging to the country, shall be educated at the expense of the State.

In the Prussian dominions, in 1834, there were 9575 for 13,509,927, being 1 to 1410.

From a careful investigation, by Mr. Zeum, of Berlin, it appears that the number of persons affected with blindness is less in the temperate latitudes, and increases either as we advance to the Line or to the Pole. In the one case the reflection of the rays of a burning sun producing the same effects on the eye-sight as those from a snow-covered plain on the other. The ratios of these remarkable observations are thus given in round numbers by Mr. Zeum :

From 20 to 30 Deg. Lat., 1 Blind to each 100 Inhabitants.					
30 to 40	„	1	„	300	„
40 to 50	„	1	„	800	„
50 to 60	„	1	„	1400	„
60 to 70	„	1	„	1000	„

Great Britain being situated between 50 and 60 degrees of latitude, and the population is allowed to be fully 25,000,000, then we have a population of Blind persons nearly 18,000.

Having thus ascertained what may be the probable amount of the number of the Blind in this country, let us next examine what has been done for their amelioration. The following are the Institutions for the Blind in this country, with the numbers each contained, according to their last Reports :—

London Institution contains	...	...	...	...	...	130
Liverpool	„	...	...	...	...	108
Edinburgh	„	...	...	...	...	80
Glasgow	„	...	...	...	...	80
Bristol	„	...	...	...	...	60



Exeter Institution contains	...	...	...	...	...	10
Norwich	„	...	...	...	...	50
Dublin, Richmond	„	...	...	...	...	39
Do. Molyneaux	„	...	...	...	...	30
York	„	...	...	...	...	30
Belfast	„	...	...	...	...	11
Manchester	„	...	...	...	...	30
Newcastle	„	...	...	...	...	20
						<hr/> 668

Thus, in a Blind population of nearly 18,000, there are only 600—at most, not 700—in all the Institutions in this country where any provision is made for their instruction in mechanical arts, and for their moral and intellectual training. Before the introduction of the mode of printing in the Roman letters in relief, in January 1837, there were only very few who knew letters, and the greatest proportion of these were in the Glasgow Institution. Fortunately this is no longer the case; for in London, Edinburgh, Bristol, Norwich, York, and Newcastle, there are many who will bear a comparison in their attainments with persons of the same age, who have all their faculties.

It is earnestly to be hoped that the success which has attended the introduction of this system into these Institutions will induce others to adopt the same; so that, all acting upon the same mode of printing and teaching, it may be the more effectual for the general benefit of the Blind, and may carry into practical operation what we aim at, their moral and religious interest.

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## EDUCATION.

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### RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

THE teacher regularly instructs the children in the principles of religion, and is diligent in communicating information to those under his charge, adapted to their capacities, taking notice of the

different events therein recorded ; illustrating them as regards nations, as well as individuals, and setting before his pupils the inestimable superiority of virtue and religion over immorality and vice.

The very Rev. Principal Macfarlan has paid great attention, since the opening of the Asylum, to the spiritual interest of the inmates, by attending on them every Saturday, when the questions put by him, and the answers received, generally prove to his satisfaction the intelligence and diligence of the teacher as well as that of his pupils.

Family worship is performed morning and evening, the teacher or one of the Blind reading out the line in the singing of the Psalm ; reading a chapter in the morning, sometimes by one of the Blind, and another in the evening. The teacher, who acts as the chaplain, offers up the prayer, which concludes the exercises for the day.

#### SABBATH-DAY EXERCISES.

On the Sabbath, after breakfast, and before the inmates prepare for church, they are assembled in the school-room, when one of the Blind reads a chapter, and each boy and girl repeats a Psalm or hymn. Afterwards they are attended to church—the boys by the Superintendent, and the girls by the Matron. Those farthest advanced in their education take the Psalm-book with them to church, and find out the Psalm with most of the seeing. In the evening, each has his book.

It is most encouraging to perceive with what ease the pupils acquire the task assigned them. They will repeat six, eight, and twelve verses with great correctness. At the hour fixed, they all assemble in the school-room before the teacher, and repeat the task which they have learned ; afterwards they read a chapter, and closes the exercises with prayers. At eight o'clock they retire to bed ; each is taught a prayer, and enjoined to repeat it every morning and evening.

## READING ON STRING.

## PLATE I.

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. In this alphabet, the greater part of the Gospel of Mark, and the 119th Psalm, and other passages of Scripture, and historical works have been executed. The string is wound round a horizontal revolving frame, and passes from the reader as he proceeds.\*

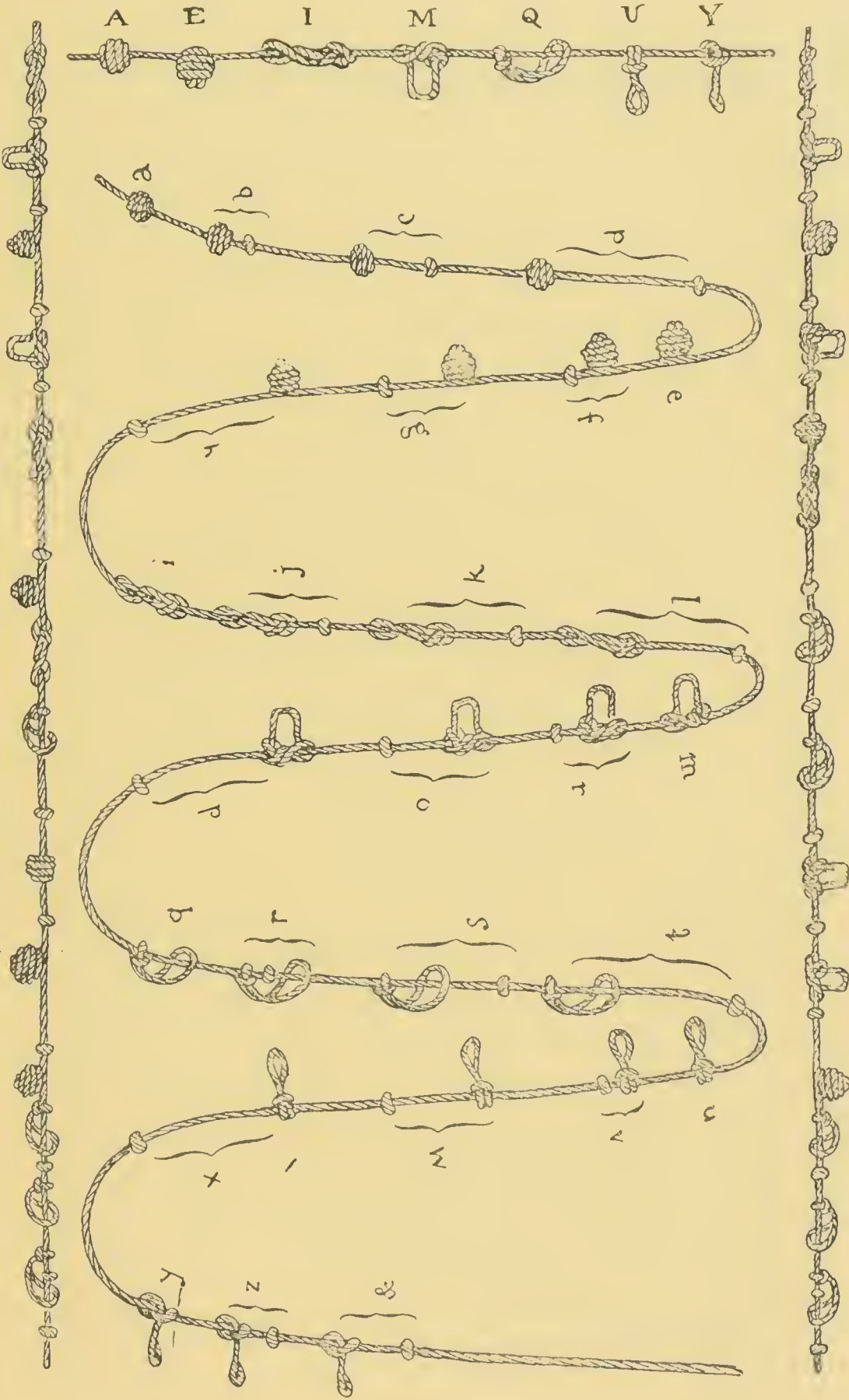
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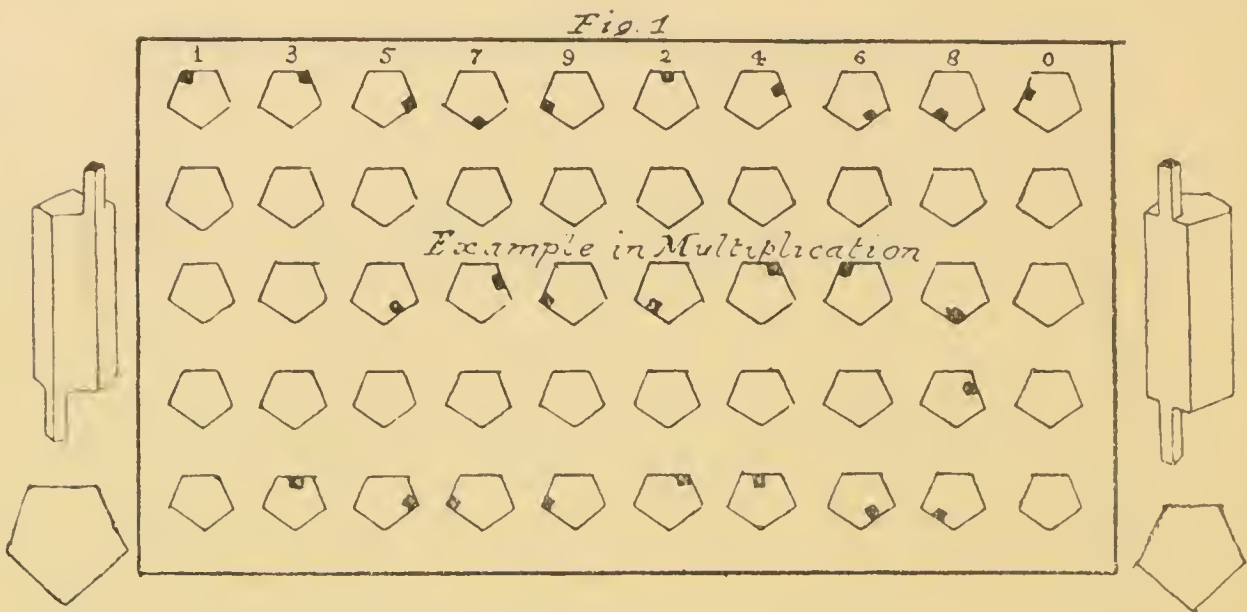
\* On each side of the string alphabet in the plate, the names of two gentlemen, as they would appear on knotted twine, may be easily deciphered by referring to the alphabet.



No. 1. FORMER METHOD OF TEACHING BY THE STRING ALPHABET.

Specimens of String Writing.





THE TERRESTRIAL GLOBE.





## ARITHMETIC.

## PLATE 2, FIG. I.

The arithmetic board has been so improved at the Glasgow 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, and at the other end on a side. Being placed in the board, with the 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 7, and the last 9. In like manner the side projection, by being turned to the sides of the hole progressively, 2, 4, 6, 8, 0. The size of the pentagon, and a drawing of the pin, showing the projections on the side and angle, are given along with the board. In the drawing of the arithmetic board, an example in multiplication is represented, which may be deciphered by reference to the figures above. The original invention of this board was the united work of Dr. Moyes and Dr. Sanderson.

## GEOGRAPHY.

## PLATE 2, FIG. II.

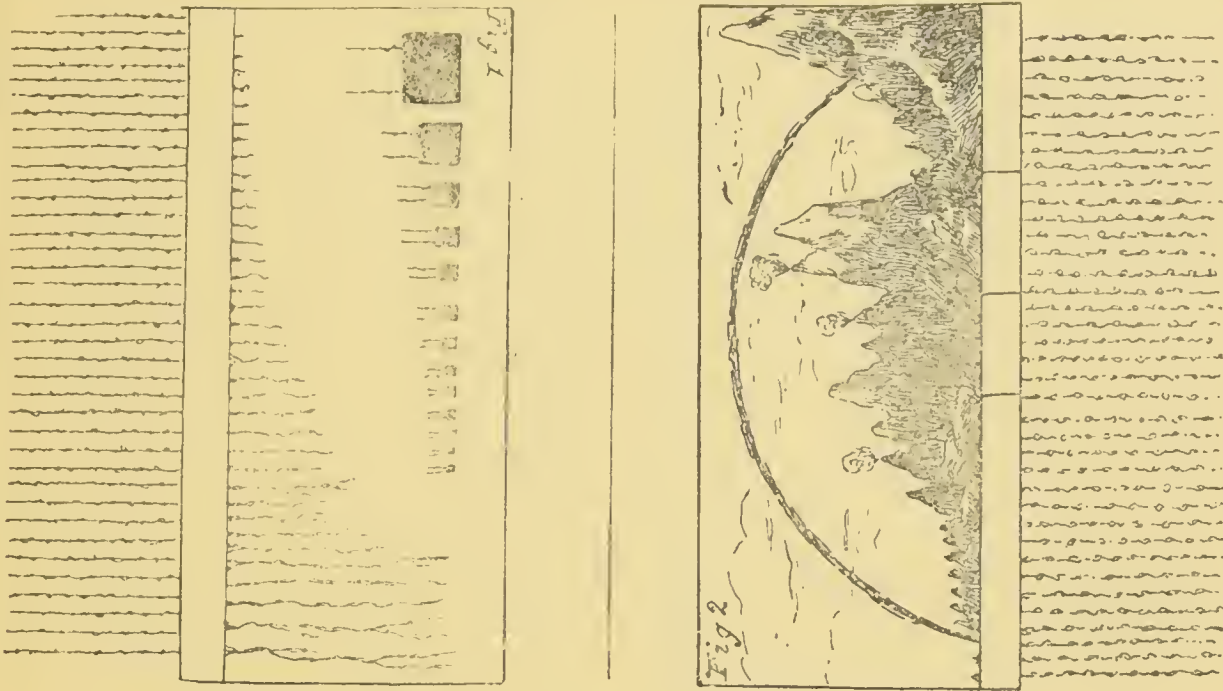
The terrestrial globe, which is made of oak, measures about nine and a half feet in circumference, and weighs 147 lbs. The weight of the brass meridian is 57 lbs., and of the wooden horizon and supports 48 lbs., making in all  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. Notwithstanding its great weight, the whole is so nicely constructed as to render it easy, comparatively speaking, to give the poles any elevation which may be required with regard to the horizon. The water is made smooth, and the land is distinguished from it by being slightly elevated, and its surface rendered rough by a coating of fine sand, painted in oil of various colours, in order to distinguish to the eye the political divisions. These divisions are also surrounded by a slight prominence, for the purpose of enabling those for whom the globe is more particularly intended to grope their way. Rivers are denoted by smooth and slightly

raised sinuous lines, traversing the rough land in their proper directions; mountains by a series of elevations indicating the position of the range; and towns by a small brass knob. The equator is divided into  $360^{\circ}$ . The point where the first meridian crosses it is marked by a round knob. A different mark is placed at every 100, and the intermediate degrees are also distinguished in an appropriate manner. An hour circle is fixed at the North Pole; and an Analemma, of an ingenious construction, showing the sun's declination, stretches equally on each side of the equator. In short, this globe has all the usual appendages of such pieces of apparatus, only so modified as to enable the Blind to solve geographical problems, and *feel* their way upon it, with as much precision as those who have eyes and can *see* their way upon globes of the usual construction.

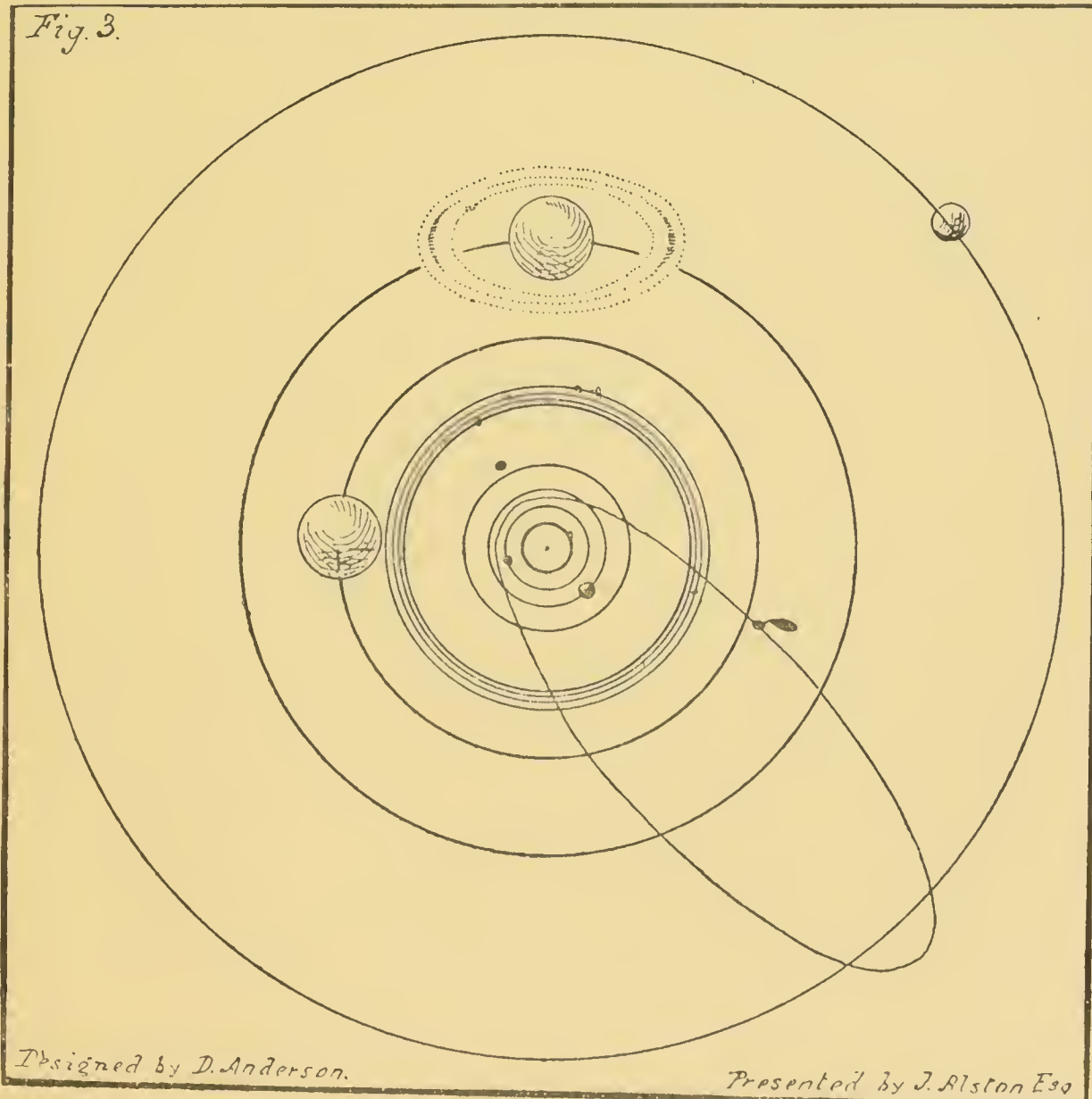
Maps of Great Britain, Europe, Palestine, and all the divisions are laid out by cords to divide separate kingdoms and districts, and the names of the places printed in relief, is pasted on alongside of the printed names; by this means the map answers both the seeing and the Blind, and the seeing know whether they are right or not. In addition to the maps in relief, and the terrestrial globe by which the Blind are enabled to acquire with facility an intimate knowledge of the relative situation and magnitude of the principal features of our earth, whether physical or political, the following models have been added to their teaching apparatus, and are well adapted to accomplish the end for which they were intended :—

PLATE 3, FIG. I,

contains, on a rectangular board, a representation in relief of the comparative lengths of the principal rivers in the world, reckoning from the Forth and Cylde up to the mighty Amazon. From the knotted cords appended below the mouth of each river the Blind are enabled to read the names of the rivers, the places of their rise and termination, and their lengths in miles. The principal towns on the rivers are denoted by small brass knobs. Upon the same board a method is adopted for enabling the Blind to acquire by the sense of touch a correct idea of the relative bulk of the



SOLAR SYSTEM,  
Showing the comparative magnitude of the Planets, and their relative distance  
from the Sun.



Designed by D. Anderson. Presented by J. Alston Esq





different political divisions of the earth. The countries are represented by elevated squares, the comparative areas of which correspond with those of the countries ; and their numerical areas, as well as their respective populations, are also expressed upon knotted cords.

PLATE 3, FIG. II,

is another rectangular board, containing in relief a representation of the comparative heights of the principal mountains in the four quarters of the earth, ascending gradually from elevations with which the inmates of the Asylum are familiar (such as Gad's Hill), to the loftiest peak known, viz. Dhaulagiri, or the White Mountain, one of the Himmaleh range, which is at least five miles above the level of the sea. In this model of the elevations upon our globe, and the level of the sea can be distinctly felt : the line of perpetual snow or congelation on the equator is rendered sensible by the mountains being rougher from that line upwards by means of a coating of sand ; a tangible rainbow is represented, bestriding the mountains, and Gay Lussac's balloon can be felt soaring in the air at the height of 22,990 feet above the level of the sea, being the highest altitude of balloons. The names of the mountains, the parts of the world in which they are situated, and their elevation in feet, can all be ascertained by consulting the knotted strings which are attached to a suitable part of the board.

ASTRONOMY.

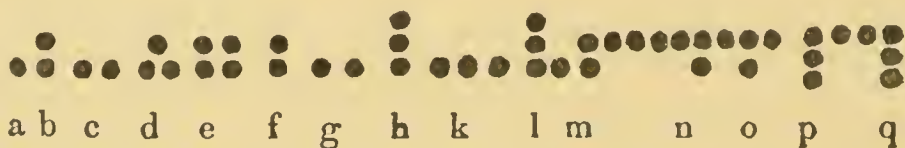
PLATE 3, FIG. III.

Having by such means elevated their minds to a somewhat adequate idea of the grand features of our globe, they are next directed to the relation in which it stands to the other parts of the system, of which it forms but an insignificant portion. This is effected by a delineation of the solar system upon a board six feet square. A ball in the centre of the board denotes the situation of the sun, and around that ball are represented in relief, by means of cords, the orbits of the different planets at their proportional distances from the sun. On each side of these orbits

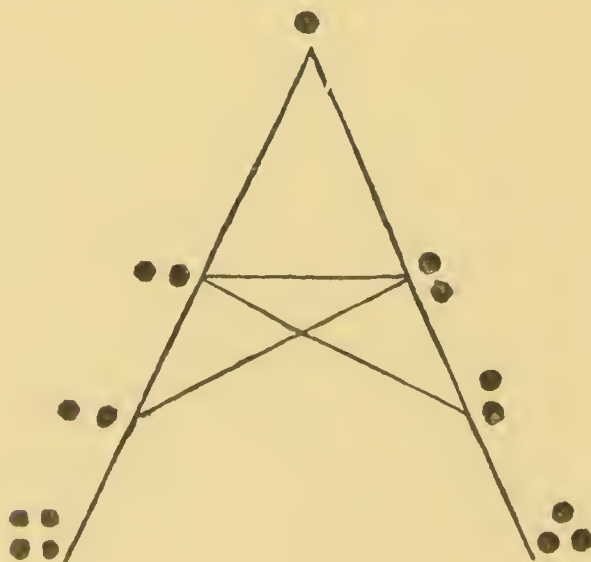
is fixed a ball. These balls exhibit the relative magnitude of the primary planets, the great terrestrial globe of the Institution being assumed as the size of the sun. This is judicious, as all the pupils are quite familiar with its bulk. In this scheme of the solar system, the eccentric, elliptic orbit of a comet is represented.

### GEOMETRY.

There is a species of what may be termed ocular geometry, with which all except the Blind are more or less conversant, and which is of vast importance in the ordinary affairs of life. As a knowledge of the relations of geometrical quantities is by the Blind derived solely through the sense of touch, the field of their investigation must necessarily be very limited, and their ideas equally circumscribed. To remove this grand desideratum as much as possible, and at the same time to habituate them to close and connected reasoning, it was deemed proper to introduce them to the elements of Euclid through the medium of diagrams upon strong paper, the lines and letters standing out in relief from the surface. This is accomplished by simply fixing a thick thread upon the paper by means of glue, with split peas at the angles to represent the letters. The split peas are thus arranged :



The following is the Diagram of the 5th Prop. of Book 1st :—



## ESTABLISHMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

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### MALE DEPARTMENT.

#### THE SUPERINTENDENT.

THE Superintendent, who resides in a house attached to the Asylum, takes charge of the male department, together with the general management of the work. He gives orders for the different articles for the manufactures ; makes the sales ; keeps an account of the work done by the workmen, from which a statement of their earnings is made ; pays their wages every Saturday ; and gives his assistance generally, wherever it is required. From the very correct manner in which the account books are kept, the cost price of all the articles manufactured is exactly known, as well as the profit or loss on each department. From the great increase of the inmates, workmen who see are appointed to take charge of the weaving, basket, and twine-spinning departments : their wages are charged on each of these departments. The two who act as porters, when not out with messages, are employed about the establishment ; their wages are charged on the manufacturing.

#### WORK BY THE MALE ADULTS.

The male adults are employed in the weaving of sacking cloth, making baskets of various kinds, spinning twine, making and repairing mattresses, making door mats, hearth rugs, door and table rugs, with fringed rugs for parlour doors.

The wages are regulated in these departments by the amount of work performed. They are allowed the same rate that other workmen have for the same kinds of work. It being ascertained that a man can make 7s. or 8s. per week, he receives that as his weekly wages. At the end of every four weeks a statement of his earnings is made up from the work-book, and whatever he has earned over that sum is paid him ; and as a reward to industry, he receives 1s. per week of premium. Having now



enabled these men to earn 9s. or 10s. weekly, the premium is only given to new beginners for the first year ; but, if the weekly amount be not kept up, or the work be badly done, there is no premium allowed.

Ever since this regulation has been adopted a marked improvement has taken place both in the quantity and quality of the work produced. At the monthly settlement, the over-earnings which some of them have had to receive have amounted to 6s., 10s., and even 12s. It is the practice also in this Institution that as soon as a person has acquired a proficiency in one trade he is instructed in another ; so that if there be over-stock from the one occupation he can betake himself to the other. It is therefore not uncommon that the same person is at different times employed in two or three departments.

The delight exhibited by the Blind workmen and families when they return with the fruits of their labour may be easily conceived. A spirit of industry is not only excited and kept up (very different indeed from their former habits), but an opportunity afforded of enjoying all those blessings resulting from the endearing relations of home, which they never could enjoy were they (as is the case in some Institutions) maintained within the establishment.

On the 19th December, 1839, I gave into the funds of the Institution, from the sale of the Statements of Education of the Blind, £40, together with all the books remaining on hand, with a request, that as we had no provision for the Blind by our charter, when any of them were unwell, that the Directors would allow a sum annually for that purpose. In consequence of this, it was recommended to the General Meeting that the sum of £10 annually should be given, agreeable to my request, which was confirmed.

Thereafter a Society was formed, with regulations for their government ;—all Blind inmates receiving wages pay into the fund every four weeks, on the day that the over-earnings is paid, each male 6*d.*, and each female 3*d.* When confined to bed and unable to work, each male receives 6s. per week, and each female



# Trades carried on in THE GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

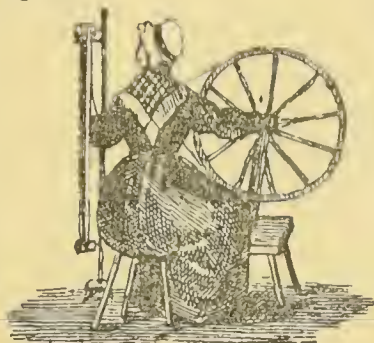
N<sup>o</sup> 4

Fig I



Net Making.

Fig. II



Winding.

Fig III.



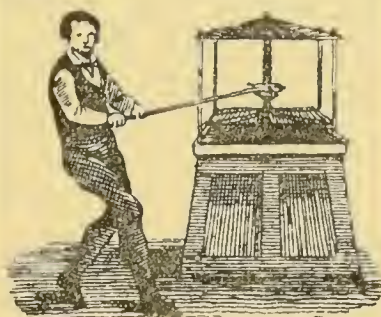
Sewing.

Fig IV.



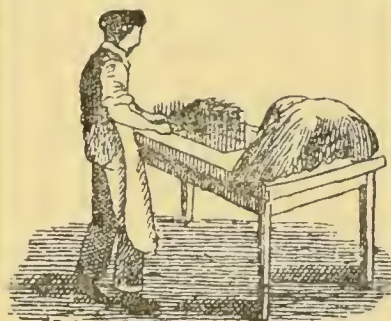
Knitting.

Fig V



Sack Printing.

Fig. VI.



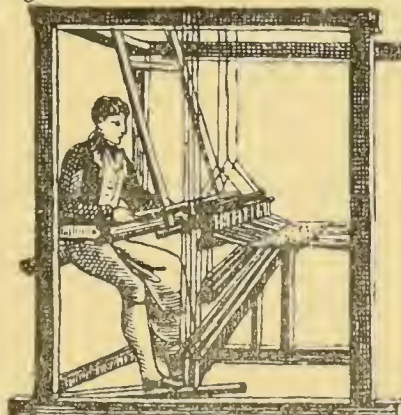
Flax Dressing.

Fig VII



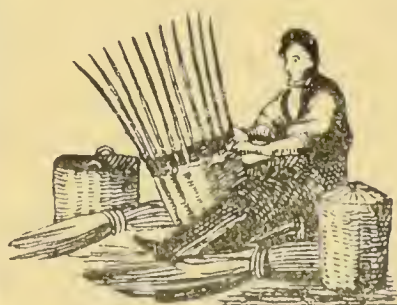
Mattress Making.

Fig VIII.



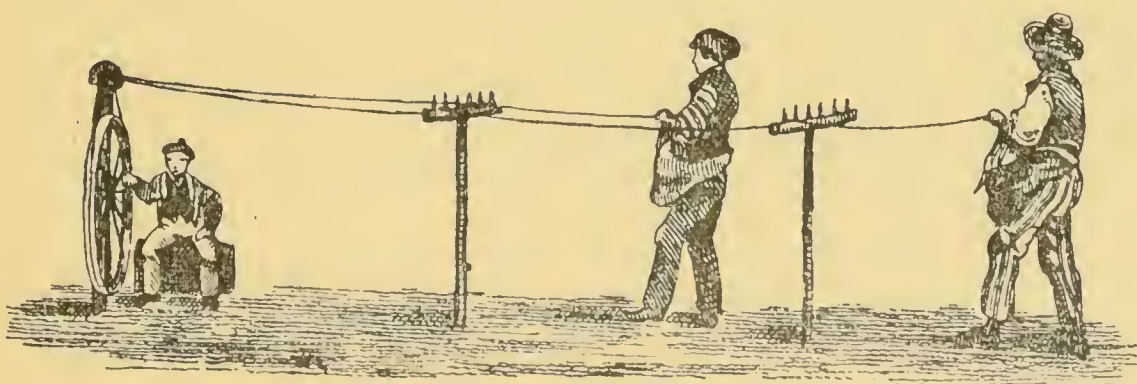
Weaving.

Fig IX.



Basket Making.

Fig X.



ROPE MAKING.



4s. If confined for three months, the aliment is reduced ; the male to 4s., and the female 3s. On the death of any member or their wives, the sum of £3 is allowed to the survivor for funeral charges ; and if a child, £1. As yet the funds have been sufficient for all demands ; but if at any time there should be a deficiency, the participators are so convinced of the advantages of the Society, that if it should at any time fall short, they cheerfully agreed to add to their monthly contributions. The Superintendent keeps the accounts, makes up the statements of the funds yearly, in December, when they make choice of one of their number to act as preses, with a committee, to visit those that are confined and unable to work.

#### BOYS.

Boys from ten to sixteen years of age reside in the establishment ; and during the time they are not attending their classes (sufficient time for recreation being allowed), they are employed in making nets for wall-trees, sewing sacks, and such work as they are found capable of doing, till their education is finished, and they have acquired strength sufficient to be put to regular trades in the Asylum, it being the great object of this Institution to give the pupil a regular education, and afterwards to instruct him in a trade so as to enable him to earn his bread by his own industry, both of which, with very few exceptions, have been fully attained.

#### FEMALE DEPARTMENT.

##### MATRON.

The Matron is allowed an assistant ; both reside in the house, and have the charge of the domestic arrangements of the Institution, superintending the education of the female department, providing the articles necessary for the different branches of female work, provisions for the house, and other matters connected therewith. They also conduct the sales of the female work, and every day pay over the amount of cash to the Superintendent.



## WORK BY THE FEMALE ADULTS.

Females are admitted into the Institution above 18 years of age as day-workers. They come in at 10 o'clock and remain till the worship is over in the evening. They are employed in sewing, knitting, netting, spinning, and winding of pirns for the weavers. They dine in the Asylum, and are allowed regular weekly wages.

Their apartments are separated from those of the males, and no intercourse whatever is permitted. At worship they sit in a part of the chapel by themselves. It is found advantageous to have an elderly woman who has sight to take charge and work along with them, as they are in apartments separate from the children ; and those who have not relatives in Glasgow reside with this person, the rent of whose house is paid by the Directors, and who is responsible for their conduct when absent from the Asylum. A like arrangement is made for the adult males.

## GIRLS.

The girls, like the boys, reside in the Asylum ; assist in the household work, and, in addition to their general education, they are instructed in knitting silk purses, stockings, and caps. From the neat manner in which these are executed they command a ready sale.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

The implements employed for the different kinds of work that are carried on by the inmates of the Glasgow Asylum are of the strongest materials, as those who use them labour under difficulties that other workmen have not to contend with, and thereby the machines are more liable to be broken. The raw materials for manufactures are all of the best kind, otherwise the work could not be so well executed. In spinning twine, not only is it necessary to have a person who has sight to superintend the spinners, and ball the twine and prepare the flax, but the wheel-boys, who are seeing, should be active in assisting. In the weaving and



other departments of labour pursued it is necessary to have, in an Institution of this kind, persons who have sight, of good acquirements in various kinds of work, and of considerable ingenuity ; but their number must be regulated by the number of the inmates.

With respect to the kinds of work most suitable for such an Institution, circumstances of locality and experience alone can determine ; but in general, the making of sacking cloth, making baskets, spinning twine, making mattresses and door mats are those which can be taught to advantage.

The result of these different branches carried on in our Asylum for the year 1841, is as follows. The amount of the cost of the materials is always included in the amount of sales :—

	SALES.		
	£	s.	d.
Baskets, including the foreman, employs men and boys—27 ... ..	698	17	1
Twine spinning (six wheels) employs 9 men and boys, 6 seeing wheel boys, 1 foreman, 1 flax dresser—17...	716	18	3
Door mats (making). These are wrought in the loom, employs 1... ..	188	11	6
Mattress making employs only 1 man and occasionally another, with one woman to assist in sewing ...	128	5	9
This, owing to the high price of hair and other materials, shows a large amount of sale, while few are employed; a mattress may cost from £3 to £4, and only a few shillings of the work done by the blind.			
Weaving of sacks employs 22 weavers, with 9 women to wind the pirns, besides gives employment to 14 others, in sewing the sacks, belonging to families of those employed about the Institution, and 1 foreman—in all 45 ... ..	£1,790	15	6
Deduct sacks on hand at last balance ...	374	6	0
	————— 1,419 9 6		

This shows the exact amount of industry. In this department, when experienced workmen leave the Institution to work at home on their own account, their places are supplied by young persons that have finished their education. When this is the case in any branch the amount of sale will vary.

I consider weaving the most advantageous, as giving the greatest amount of employment at the least expense, which is the

great object aimed at in all Institutions ; and in general these goods, from the superior quality of the yarn, last longer than other ordinary sacks of the same description. Attention to the quality of the yarn, with salvage of a stout quality, very much assists the weaver, and always commands a sale.

The females can be instructed in many useful branches of industry, such as knitting, spinning, netting, &c., as well as household work ; in proof of which, it may be stated that several of the girls, after having acquired the usual branches of education taught, have been engaged as domestic servants in the Asylum, and perform their work to the satisfaction of the Matron. Other young women have made such progress as to be able to take charge and assist in the education of others.

To several of the boys, who were admitted into this Institution, their training has been of the most important benefit. After going through the usual course of education in reading, English grammar, arithmetic, music, and geography, and being of sufficient strength, they were put to regular trades. During the time the boys reside in the house, to encourage them to habits of industry, they receive 2*d.* per shilling on all they make ; and after they leave the house and are working as out-workmen, many of them earn from 8*s.* to 10*s.* per week. This is noticed to exhibit the great advantage of admitting the young to such Institutions early, they thereby acquire a proficiency in their trade that those who are further advanced in years can never attain to.

Several of the Blind men are employed in calling on the customers of the Asylum, in Glasgow and suburbs, to deliver and solicit orders. It is common for adults, who reside in the distant parts of the city, to come to their employment without a guide, and no accident has happened to any of them in going or returning.

In farther proof of their capability of walking without an assistant, a young boy of fourteen years of age, whose parents resided six miles from Glasgow, was in the habit of visiting them. He was accustomed to leave the establishment without an attendant, traverse the whole length of the city, finding his way through the Calton, Bridgeton, along Rutherglen bridge, through that

town, and to his father's house. This he did with as much correctness as if he had been in the full possession of vision.

The advantages, however, arising from an Institution of this kind accrue not only to its inmates, but to the community at large. There are, at this date, in the Asylum, eighty individuals enjoying comforts they could have not otherwise obtained ; nineteen of them are married, heads of large families ; and thus, besides being comfortable themselves, all those connected with them participate in the benefits.

John Leitch, Esq., of this city, was the benevolent founder of the Blind Asylum. He himself had suffered under a partial infirmity of sight, and bequeathed the sum of £5000 towards opening and maintaining the Institution.

Much as has already been done, a great deal more is capable of being done ; and many persons have contributed, and many, it is trusted, will still do so—imbued with the spirit that actuated the founder—by legacies and donations. It still requires additional support, that it may extend its accommodation to many destitute persons deprived of sight, and yet unprovided for in this district of Scotland.

Hitherto this Institution differs from all others of the same kind known to its managers. It solicits no annual subscriptions, but depends for its support entirely upon contributions and legacies of the pious and benevolent. The patronage of the public, also, does much on its behalf by purchasing its manufactures.

A hundred and fifty-four Blind persons have been admitted into the Asylum since it was opened in January, 1828, who have been educated and employed in the manner already described.

By the constitution of the Asylum a contributor of £10 is constituted a member for life ; and a donation of £50 from an individual, or £100 from a parish, entitles either to recommend a child to the Asylum. Contributors of £10 and upwards, uniting to the amount of £50, have the like power to recommend.

The table annexed exhibits the progress of the industry of the inmates and the amount of proceeds since its commencement. When experienced workmen leave the establishment they are



replaced by younger ones ; the change in different kinds of work may also make a difference in the amount ; and thus it may happen that there may be more labour and exertion on the part of the inmates, while the amount of sales may not be so large. The price of the materials as well as the wages are all included in the amount of sales.

The different articles are made of the best materials, and sold at the same prices with others in the regular trade.

### 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 is known.

Blind from their Birth	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
In consequence of Inflammation	...	...	...	...	...	...	43
"    "    Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Small Pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	24
"    "    Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Nervous Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Opacity of the Cornea	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Vitriol thrown into the eyes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Amaurosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
"    "    Cataract...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
"    "    Cataract, also Deaf and Dumb	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Accident...	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
"    "    Vomiting of Blood	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Measles...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
"    "    Apoplexy	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
From causes not known	...	...	...	...	...	...	18
							<u>154</u>

### ABSTRACT STATEMENT

OF THE MANUFACTURING DEPARTMENT, AND WAGES.

				£	s.	d.
Manufacture Sales for 1828	...	...	...	213	10	7
"    "    1829	...	...	...	642	14	0
"    "    1830	...	...	...	665	16	11
"    "    1831	...	...	...	887	11	5
"    "    1832	...	...	...	1,101	9	7
Carried forward				£3,511	2	6



					£	s.	d.
				Brought forward	3,511	2	6
Manufacture Sales for 1833	...	...	...		1,189	17	6
„ „ 1834	...	...	...		1,303	0	1
„ „ 1835	...	...	...		1,953	16	3
„ „ 1836	...	...	...		2,514	15	2
„ „ 1837	...	...	...		2,472	1	0
„ „ 1838	...	...	...		2,846	11	3
„ „ 1839	...	...	...		3,207	7	10
„ „ 1840	...	...	...		3,408	11	11
„ „ 1841	...	...	...		3,625	4	0
Total	...				<u>£26,032</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>

## WAGES PAID BLIND PEOPLE, ETC.

					£	s.	d.
Wages paid for 1828	...	...	...	...	127	19	0
„ „ 1829	...	...	...	...	274	11	7
„ „ 1830	...	...	...	...	351	8	7
„ „ 1831	...	...	...	...	405	10	2
„ „ 1832	...	...	...	...	428	4	9
„ „ 1833	...	...	...	...	503	6	11
„ „ 1834	...	...	...	...	547	14	10
„ „ 1835	...	...	...	...	621	2	7
„ „ 1836	...	...	...	...	807	13	3
„ „ 1837	...	...	...	...	832	16	1
„ „ 1838	...	...	...	...	865	0	11
„ „ 1839	...	...	...	...	964	13	9
„ „ 1840	...	...	...	...	1,024	4	3
„ „ 1841	...	...	...	...	1,079	11	5
Total	...	...	...	...	<u>£8,833</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>1</u>

TO  
THE LORD PROVOST, CHAIRMAN, AND DIRECTORS  
OF THE GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

---

MY LORD AND GENTLEMEN,—Permit me shortly to lay before you a statement of the Printing Fund, which is kept apart from the other funds of the Institution.

In my humble endeavours to have books printed in raised Roman letters for the use of the Blind generally, and in particular for the children attending our own Institution, and being satisfied that for a long time the demand must be limited, and the returns from that source necessarily small, I made my first appeal for aid to the ladies of Glasgow and neighbourhood in October, 1836, and I am proud to acknowledge that to their generous exertions I owe the origin of the Printing Fund.

My next application for assistance was made to the different Institutions for the Blind and other benevolent Societies, and I am happy to say that their aid and co-operation have been cheerfully granted. These Institutions have got books at nett cost, so as to enable them to supply the poor at a moderate charge or gratuitously, as the case may be; and all the Institutions in England and Scotland, with a single exception, are now teaching their children on this system. All the profits arising from the sale of books are applied to the Printing Fund.

With this assistance I was enabled to purchase a printing press, with two founts of types, and all the implements necessary for carrying on the printing in one of the apartments of the Institution. After considerable difficulty and exertion, I brought out several elementary books in January 1837, and in March 1838, I completed the New Testament in four volumes. I then brought out a Musical Catechism, with tunes adapted to the touch of the

Blind ; and in like manner Æsop's Fables, with wood-cuts, all which are much prized by them.

Another desirable object remained to be accomplished, and that was to print the metrical version of the Psalms as used in Scotland, so as to enable the Blind to unite in public and private in singing the praises of God. Notwithstanding the kindness of many friends in purchasing books, my fund was by this time sunk in the publications on hand ; and in order to attain my new object I issued a circular from the Institution Press, making known my difficulty to a number of benevolent individuals, who responded with alacrity to my application, and whose generosity, which I acknowledge with gratitude, enabled me to print the Psalms and Paraphrases in two volumes. In June, 1839, I made application to Her Majesty's Government to assist me in completing the printing of the Bible—of which see Appendix.

To those advanced in life who labour under the difficulties of a decayed sense of touch—to encourage them—premiums are given when they acquire the art of reading ; and it will be further gratifying to our generous donors to know that their kindness enables us to supply all the children in the Institution with books free of expense. These volumes are now habitually read by all the children in the Institution, and those farther advanced are permitted, as a mark of distinction, to take their Psalm-books to church.

The liberality of our friends has also enabled me to procure a new fount of types, cut in a superior style, with which I have completed the printing of the Bible.

To a generous and an enlightened public I am under many obligations for the assistance they have at all times cheerfully given to my humble but earnest endeavours to render the Institution and the printing scheme available to the end for which they were intended. And I am also deeply indebted, my Lord and Gentlemen, to your indulgence and encouragement in prosecuting the great object I have had in view, of enabling every Blind child in the country to read the inestimable truths contained in the Word of God.

That this important object may be speedily and satisfactorily achieved, must be your sincere desire, as I assure you it is that of,

My Lord and Gentlemen,

Your very obedient Servant,

JOHN ALSTON.

GLASGOW, 21st March, 1842.

## ABSTRACT STATEMENT

OF PRINTING FOR USE OF THE BLIND.

<i>There have been Published—</i>					Copies.
First Lesson Book	...	...	...	...	400
Second „ „	...	...	...	...	400
Church of England Catechism	...	...	...	...	600
„ „ Liturgy	...	...	...	...	600
Church of Scotland Catechism	...	...	...	...	150
History of the Bible	...	...	...	...	150
Second Edition, enlarged...	...	...	...	...	200
Selections from Eminent Authors	...	...	...	...	300
„ „ „ with Music	...	...	...	...	500
English Grammar...	...	...	...	...	300
Remarks on the Bible	...	...	...	...	400
Multiplication Tables	...	...	...	...	300
Fables, with wood-cuts	...	...	...	...	400
Lesson on Prayer ...	...	...	...	...	250
„ Natural Religion	...	...	...	...	450
Musical Catechism, with tunes	...	...	...	...	800
Ephesians and Galatians, double pica	...	...	...	...	100
Ruth and James ...	...	...	...	...	100
Psalms and Paraphrases, in 2 vols.	...	...	...	...	300
Carried forward					6,700



				Copies.
	Brought forward			6,700
The Whole Bible, in 15 vols.	...	...	...	3,300
The New Testament, in 4 vols.	...	...	...	100
St. Matthew's Gospel	...	...	...	400
St. Mark's	„	...	...	150
St. Luke's	„	...	...	150
St. John's	„	...	...	150
The Acts	...	...	...	250
Acts, with the other portion of the Epistles	...			150
Psalms in the Metrical Version, used by the				
Church of England	...	...	...	210
Introduction to the Sciences	...	...	...	200
Tod's Lectures, 3 vols. (200 each)	...	...	...	600
Description of London	...	...	...	200
Description of Birds, with wood-cuts	...	...	...	650
Outlines of Natural History, with wood-cuts	...	...	...	250
Map of England, Wales	...	...	...	
Total	...	...	...	<u>13,460</u>

## APPENDIX.

No. I.

## LETTER

*From the very Reverend Principal Macfarlan.*

COLLEGE, GLASGOW,

22nd March, 1842.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAVE repeatedly had occasion to bear testimony to the religious knowledge, generally speaking, of the inmates of the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind. Their aptitude to learn, their willingness to receive instruction, and the information which most of them have attained on the sacred truths of the Gospel, place them, in my opinion, at least on a level with those of the same age who have enjoyed the blessings of sight and the ordinary advantages of education. It gives me now very sincere satisfaction to add, that they have received an inestimable benefit from the introduction of learning to read, in the Roman letters, and in embossed characters, as an ordinary exercise in the Institution. The enlarged acquaintance with the Scripture which many of them has thus been enabled to attain, the facility which this attainment gives to their progress in biblical and all useful knowledge, and the occupation, equally interesting and improving, which it provides for their hours of intermission from labour, especially on the Lord's day, are advantages which it is not possible to appreciate too highly, and which have not failed to produce marked and progressive improvement on their mental enjoyments and intellectual character. Trusting that a steady perseverance in this excellent system will continue to be attended with results still more favourable, in proportion as it is better understood, and brought to bear on a greater variety of subjects,

I am, my dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

D. MACFARLAN.

JOHN ALSTON, Esq., &amp;c. &amp;c.

## LETTER

*Addressed to the Right Honourable Lord John Russell.*

GLASGOW,

19th June, 1839.

MY LORD,

ON the 8th Nov. 1837, I took the liberty of transmitting to your Lordship, for presentation to Her Majesty, the Gospel of St. Luke, in raised Roman letters, as specimen of printing which I had brought forward for the use of the Blind. On the 13th your Lordship was pleased to let me know that you had forwarded the Book to its destination, and, on the 26th Dec., I was favoured by the information from Mr. Glover that Her Majesty had most graciously received my humble present.

Since that time I have continued this mode of printing for the Blind. I have finished the whole of the New Testament, and published many other books, as may be seen from a catalogue at the end of a Pamphlet herewith sent. In the same Pamphlet there is a letter addressed by me to the Directors of our Blind Asylum, along with a state of the funds belonging to the printing establishment, stating that I have received pecuniary aid from several Institutions for the Blind, as well as from other benevolent Societies in the United Kingdom,—encouraged by the favour of these Strangers, and by the liberal aid of the benevolent in my native city and neighbourhood, I have ventured on an attempt to print the Old Testament, and I now humbly beg leave to forward to you as an offering for the acceptance of Her Majesty the first part containing the Book of Genesis, and along with it the Liturgy of the Church of England in the same character.

The Old Testament will contain 15 volumes, the same as the one sent—and 250 will cost, for paper and printing alone, about £1,000 in expense. Before engaging farther in such an undertaking I visited all the Institutions for the Blind in England and Scotland, viz., Liverpool, Manchester, Exeter, London, Norwich, York, Newcastle, and Edinburgh, and they all, with the exception of Liverpool, agreed to take some copies according to their circumstances of the whole books as they were brought out from the press. All these Institutions, except Liverpool, make daily use of the books already printed, and they are found to answer their purpose completely, and receive all the books at nett cost. My object in making these statements to your Lordship is, that I may humbly but earnestly solicit your Lordship, that you may be pleased to recommend to Her Majesty, to vouchsafe some grant from the Royal Bounty in aid of this good work. I am not begging for the Institution in our city, the liberal munificence of my fellow-citizens have amply provided for all its wants, and have enabled me to improve the condition of the inmates to the full satisfaction of every benevolent mind. The printing here has now become, as appears from the above statement, a national office, as it affords the means by which the Blind in the United Kingdom, amount-

ing as is generally calculated at nearly 18,000 of Her Majesty's subjects, besides others in all parts where the English language is used, may of themselves have access to the sacred treasures contained in the Scriptures, and may read the Bible as easily as those whose sight is entire. The advantage of such a privilege to persons whose bereavements have always and in all places excited the tenderest sympathy need not be here dwelt upon, a favourable view of it will be amply secured by the innate affectionate feelings of the royal breast.

My Lord, I beg most respectfully to refer you to my highly respected friend and townsman, James Oswald, Esq., late member for Glasgow, and with much respect,

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's

Most obedient Servant,

JOHN ALSTON.

TO THE RT. HON. LORD JOHN RUSSELL.



## REPLY

*To the foregoing Letter addressed to Lord John Russell.*

TREASURY CHAMBERS,

11th Sept., 1839.

SIR,

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury having received a communication from the Secretary of State for the Home Department, upon the subject of the steps taken by you, connected with the Printing of the Bible in raised Type for the use of the Blind throughout the Kingdom, their Lordships have commanded me to express to you their great approbation of your philanthropic exertions for so meritorious an object, and they have been pleased to direct that an Issue of Four Hundred Pounds be made to you from Royal Bounty, for the purpose of assisting you in the prosecution of the work.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J. G. PENNINGTON.

JOHN ALSTON, ESQ., Glasgow.

GLASGOW, 9th March, 1841.

*To Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.*

MADAM,

IN June 1839 I had the honour, through the Right Honourable Lord John Russell, to present for your Majesty's acceptance the first Volume of the Bible, printed in Raised Roman Letters for the use of the Blind, and to express a hope that your Majesty would be pleased to aid me in printing the whole Bible for their use. That application was forwarded by the Right Honourable Lord John Russell to the Lords of your Majesty's Treasury, when it met with a cordial reception. It is now my most pleasant duty to present to the Royal Library a complete Copy of the entire Bible, the first that has been printed for the use of the Blind. A blank has thus been filled up in Christian Literature by which the whole Word of God is put into the hands of a class who are supposed to amount to about 20,000 of your Majesty's subjects, and to whom the Holy Scriptures have hitherto been a sealed book. I have also printed other books for the Blind to the extent of 11,000 Volumes; specimens of the first Book of the Sciences is sent along with the Bible for the inspection of your Majesty.

It may be gratifying to your Majesty to know that when I visited all the Institutions for the Blind in May 1837, there were not ten Blind in England who knew letters, and that now there are several hundreds who can read these books.

When your Most Gracious Majesty's illustrious Grandsire was pleased to express a wish that every individual in the British Dominions might be able to read the Bible, his benevolent desire cannot be supposed to have at that time contemplated the Blind, and it may be pleasing to your Majesty now to be informed that it now has been realised in a manner equally unexpected and gratifying to a class of your Majesty's subjects so numerous and so interesting as the Blind.

Will your Majesty also be graciously pleased to permit me to present to your Majesty specimens of Knitting by the female Blind at the Glasgow Institution, where they are acquiring habits of industry and economy which will enable them to maintain themselves in future, instead of being burdens as heretofore on their friends or the community.

I am,

Your Most Gracious Majesty's

Most humble and most obedient Servant and Subject,

JOHN ALSTON.

*Lord Normanby's Reply to the Letter addressed to Her Majesty  
the Queen.*

WHITEHALL,

17th April, 1841.

SIR,

I HAVE had the honour to submit to Her Majesty the Copy of the Holy Bible prepared by you for the use of the Blind, together with your smaller Works upon Science and the articles manufactured by the Blind in the Asylum at Glasgow.

Of these latter Her Majesty was pleased to admire the neatness of their manufacture and the perfection which had been attained in this branch of handy-work.

But Her Majesty has commanded me especially to convey to you Her sense of the great benefit conferred by you upon that portion of Her subjects whom it has pleased the Almighty so severely to visit, by placing within their attainment the knowledge of those sacred truths from which they can derive their best consolation under their affliction in this world and their sacred hope in that which is to come.

Her Majesty is pleased to accept the volumes which you have transmitted, and to express Her hope that so charitable an undertaking may be amply blessed.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

NORMANBY.

TO JOHN ALSTON, ESQ., Glasgow.

*Extract from the "Polytechnic Journal."*

## ON ALPHABETS FOR THE BLIND.

FROM MR. GALL'S LITERATURE FOR THE BLIND.

"Those who interest themselves in behalf of the blind are frequently led into error by attaching the idea of 'community' to that heavy affliction. The reason of this is that the blind are only seen by the public when they are congregated together in their schools and asylums, for the purposes of labour and instruction. But no idea can be more fallacious or more distant from the truth. The blind, in at least twenty-nine cases out of every thirty, are to be found insulated and alone, concealed from the public eye, and thinly scattered among the seeing population in separate, and often in distant localities. Separate schools for their use, accordingly, while thus divided will always be impossible; and they must, therefore, in almost every instance, depend either upon the local teachers of their district or upon their parents or friends for assistance to learn. A known alphabet gives the blind at all times the full benefit of these local conveniences; while an arbitrary or unknown character would render them almost useless, because few would be found willing to learn to read such a character themselves, merely for the sake of teaching it to an individual," p. 36.

"From the very circumstance of the blind being scattered widely over the country, from their being insulated and alone, unable to procure well-qualified teachers, it becomes necessary that the character employed in their books should be of the most common kind, such as every one can read, even such as a little child is first taught to read, from some real or supposed simplicity. No other character can penetrate into the lonely habitations of the blind, nothing but what is equally plain to the gentle and the simple, to the educated and uneducated person, can meet the exigency of their case."

## MR. LUCAS'S SYSTEM.

"The late Mr. Lucas, of Bristol, invented a stenographic character for the blind, which has met with a certain amount of encouragement. Directions accompany it which explain the system of abbreviations for prefixes and affixes, the signs, and tables of words and contractions, and which develop the doctrine of signs on which the characters are founded. The following extract from the 'Penny Cyclopædia,' Article BLIND, is stated by Mr. Lucas to contain a fair exposition of his principles:—

"The alphabet is composed of thirteen simple characters, and thirteen formed from the roots of these with a crotchet-head to each. There are ten double letters from the same roots, distinguished also by the crotchet head; these also represent the nine figures and the cypher, whether used as numerals or ordinals; in all, thirty-six characters are employed. The advantages



attending the use of stenographic characters seem to be in the saving of types, paper, and labour, thus materially diminishing the cost of books for the blind. The disadvantages attending the system we are speaking of appear to consist chiefly in the confusion which the learner must feel in having but one character employed in various offices, as in the double letters, numerals, and ordinals, and in the necessity that every person should be a stenographer who communicates with the blind by writing. These difficulties are not very great for persons to overcome who have never been accustomed to a written language.

“The manner in which the characters of Mr. Lucas are employed may be seen in the following commencement of St. John’s Gospel, only that we give the extract in Roman letters instead of using stenographic characters:—

t gospel b st jon, chap. 1.

in t bgini ws t wrd a t w ws w g, a t w ws g. t sam ws n t bgini w g. l thins wr mad b him, a wo hm ws nt a thin mad tht ws mad. in him ws lif a t l ws t lit f mn.

“It will be observed that the repetition of numerous letters is avoided; particles are represented in most instances by their initial letter, and when a word, having been once mentioned, recurs immediately, it is represented by its initial letter also.

“We cannot but think that the general adoption of a stenographic system would tend to dissociate the blind from the seeing population, and from correspondence with their friends. An undoubted defect in Lucas’s system is the confusion which must arise from having letters and figures represented by the same sign. Thus, the characters which form the word FAT also form 304; and the passage, FAT BULLS OF BASAN, might be read 304 BULLS OF BASAN. POOR PEOPLE might be read 6,991 PEOPLE.

“Pages 25 to 28 of Lucas’s ‘Book of Instructions’ are occupied with lists of words to be committed to memory. We find that one stenographic sign may represent a number of words which possess no similarity and have no relationship to each other. The sign for A may represent, and, any, after; G, good, God, against; P, up, upon, patience, put; Q, queen, question, quiet; X, except, example, exercise; ll may represent I, one, once, first, altogether; ss, 2, two, twice, second, synopsis; and so on with other words. Thus a child must be guided by the sense of the passage he is reading, a stretch of mental exertion which it is unreasonable to look for in a child. These obstacles render a stenographic system harassing, and nothing but a strong determination on the part of the reader can overcome them. When they are all overcome we may readily allow that the reading may be swifter than in the case of long-hand, but then arises the question, where shall the blind find stenographic teachers?”

#### MR. FRERE’S SYSTEM.

“We ought not to omit all mention of a second stenographic system, which threatens to be extensively carried forward: the author and inventor of it is Mr. J. H. Frere, who resides in or near the metropolis. We possess specimens

of all the books that have been printed for the blind; those of America, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Bristol, are well and beautifully executed; but those we have seen of Frere's are, we are sorry to say, positively discreditable. The system is professedly founded on Gurney's short-hand, as Lucas's is on Byrom's. If we could transfer to our pages the directions for learners, or 'Memoria Technica,' which accompany the books of Frere, we should be sure to amuse our readers."

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### MR. ALSTON'S ALPHABET.

"We have now to speak of Mr. Alston's labours in the cause of relief-printing, and as this gentleman has done more than all others in perfecting the art, with that active benevolence which is his great characteristic, it will be our duty to make most honourable mention of him. It is owing to his exertions that the thousands of volumes now in circulation throughout the country have been brought out, and made available to the needs of the solitary blind. It is his practical knowledge which has given such permanence to the art that it can never again be lost nor even fall into disuse.

"Mr. Alston's labours were commenced during the competition for the medal offered by the Society of Arts, and they were consequent on the request of the Edinburgh committee made to him, as well as to the directors of other institutions for the blind, that he would turn his attention to the subject, and state his opinion to the Society. Though as thoroughly qualified for the race to be run as any of the competitors by the daily occupation of several hours snatched from his extensive commercial interests, and devoted to the affairs of the Glasgow Asylum, it had not occurred to him that he could be of any service in this particular department of usefulness till the circumstance of the above-named communication from the Society of Arts. From the trials previously made among pupils of the Glasgow Asylum, he was convinced that arbitrary characters, however ingeniously contrived, threw unnecessary obstacles in the way of instructing the blind, and that the closest assimilation the characters for the blind could be made to bear to the commonest of the known alphabets, would be the most desirable consummation should it be found, on trial, that such an alphabet could be made so tangible as to allow the blind to read it with tolerable rapidity.

"With these views, when the forms of all the competing alphabets were submitted to him, he was struck with the simplicity of form which Dr. Fry's alphabet presented, and immediately conceived the idea of making such alterations in it as to render it suitable for his object. Dr. Fry's alphabet is the SANS-SERIF, of type-founders,—plain Roman capitals, merely deprived of the small strokes at their extremities. Mr. Alston was aware that all the seeing who had had the commonest education would read this at once, and consequently anyone might become a teacher of reading to the blind; that it would be attended with a manifest and peculiar advantage in the case of those who became blind after they were familiar with the Roman alphabet that a blind child with a book of this character might become a pupil in an ordinary school, without any greater inconvenience to the teacher than the



seeing pupils ; and his reasoning was confirmed by the knowledge, that in some of the German schools for the blind the Roman character had been adopted with success.

“In his experiments with the pupils at Glasgow he found that Dr. Fry’s characters were too broad and obtuse to the touch, that their extent of raised surface added to their bluntness, and delayed the finger in deciphering their form. This disadvantage was at once evident and the remedy was quickly applied. The faces of the letters were rendered thin and sharp, so as to present a wedge shape, from the surface of the paper to the surface of the letters. The advantage of this change was manifest : the children read the letters with much greater ease and satisfaction. He next had the letters considerably reduced in size, found that they were then fully adequate to his purpose, and then began to consider how he should turn his experiments to account for the good of the blind. The expense of a fount of types seemed formidable, and he did not feel warranted to resort to the funds of the Institution for so extraordinary an outlay. An appeal was made to the ladies of Glasgow for assistance, and to their generous exertions the Printing Fund of the Glasgow Asylum owes its origin.

“The success which attended Mr. Alston’s efforts was a new assurance to the Society of Arts that they were right in regarding the stenographic, the arbitrary, and the angular modifications of the Roman alphabets unfavourably.”

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#### STATEMENT OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

“Upon the whole—looking to the terms of the Society’s advertisement, and the other circumstances above referred to—the committee beg to state that, in their opinion, the late Dr. Fry’s communication is entitled to ‘the Society’s Gold Medal, value twenty sovereigns,’ being the prize offered ‘for the best communication on a method of printing for the blind,’ &c. In suggesting further premiums to some of the other candidates, whose labours have apparently been greater, and whose general observations may seem even more interesting than those of the late Dr. Fry, it may be proper to mention that the principal prize should be divided, but that these honorary premiums should be provided for, separately, out of some other fund.” They then proceeded to point out some modifications which they think are required to be introduced into Dr. Fry’s alphabet, in order to make it the most practical set of characters for the use of the blind.

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#### EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION.

“The Rev. Mr. Taylor, of York, made a report on the different Modes of Printing for the Blind, prepared at the request of the Association. He mentioned several methods which had hitherto been adopted for this purpose. Haüy, in 1784, first invented the art of printing in relief, and in 1831 or 1832

Mr. Gall, of Edinburgh, introduced a triangular alphabet. At Boston the art has been carried to great perfection, several books have been printed in modified *ITALICS*, with good and sharp impressions. The cost of a copy of the New Testament there was £2 10s. Other methods had been recommended, including arbitrary characters, contractions, fretted type, and a modification of the capitals of the Roman alphabet. Mr. Taylor, however, was strongly in favour of that adopted by Mr. Alston, of Glasgow,—viz., the adoption of the Roman capitals deprived of the small strokes at their extremities, and cut with very sharp and thin faces. He objected to the use of what printers call the ‘lower case’ letters; and in reference to the result of certain examinations of the pupils in their proficiency in particular systems, he observed that the test of the merits of those systems was not the proficiency of the cleverest pupils, but of the bulk of them, and its adaptation to those who, as the vast majority of the blind must, would have the sensibility of their fingers impaired by labour. Several specimens of the different kinds of printing were handed round. Arbitrary characters he considered decidedly objectionable, as cutting off, in a great degree, the means of communication between the blind and others. For instance, at school, if the common type be used, the blind could learn with other children, and get assistance from them. He was opposed to the use of contractions, and to printing on both sides of the page, as, in his opinion, they tended to create confusion.”—*ATHENÆUM*, No. 518.



FIFTEENTH REPORT

BY THE DIRECTORS OF THE ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

GLASGOW, 17<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY, MDCCCXLII.

At a General Meeting of the qualified contributors to the Glasgow Asylum for the Blind, held within the Black Bull Inn of Glasgow, upon the 17th day of January, 1842, at Three o'clock Afternoon,

JOHN SMITH, LL.D., Esq., of Crutherland, in the Chair,

The following Report was presented from the Directors from last year :—

I. PUPILS.

The number admitted since the opening of the Asylum, in 1828,	154
Of these there have left the house . . . . .	57
And there have died . . . . .	17
	— 74
	—
Number at present in the Establishment . . . . .	80

There have been nine admissions—one died, and eight left the House during the year ; the number of Pupils, therefore, is the same as the former year.

II. EMPLOYMENT.

This Table will show how the Inmates are employed.

	Twine.	Baskets.	Mattresses.	Mats.	Rugs.	Weaving.	Knitting and Netting.	Spinning and Winding.	Total.
Men .....	5	13	1	1	1	18	—	—	43
Boys .....	9	4	—	1	—	4	2	—	16
Women .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9
Girls.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—	21
Porters .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
	14	17	1	2	1	22	23	9	91

Thus the Manufactory consists of eighty blind people, and eleven not blind, viz., five men, five wheel boys, and a woman.

## III. SALES.

Twine...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£698	17	1
Baskets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	716	18	3
Mattresses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	78	19	0
Baked Hair	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	49	6	9
Door Mats	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	138	11	6
Door and Hearth Rugs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	9	8
Female Work	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	127	2	0
Sacks...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1790	15	6
Friction Mitts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	11	9
Nets	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	12	6
<hr/>										
Total sales for the year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£3625	4	0
Total sales for last year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3408	11	11
<hr/>										
Excess in favour of this year...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£216	12	1

## IV. ARTICLES ON HAND

Articles Manufactured at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	£460	1	10
To which there fall to be added—							
Value of Raw Materials on hand	...	...	...	...	£689	11	3
Debts due to the Asylum	...	...	...	...	954	17	4
					<hr/>		
					1644	8	7
<hr/>							
Amount of Manufacturing Capital	...	...	...	...	£2104	10	5

## V. EXTENT OF PRODUCTION.

Amount of sales during the year	...	...	...	...	£3625	4	0
Value of Articles Manufactured on hand	...	...	...	...	460	1	10
<hr/>							
£4085 5 10							
Deduct Value of Articles on hand at the beginning of the							
year	...	...	...	...	463	16	3
<hr/>							
Value of articles wrought up during the year	...	...	...	...	£3621	9	7
Value of articles wrought up during last year	...	...	...	...	3407	1	3
<hr/>							
Increase this year	...	...	...	...	£214	8	4

## VI. REVENUE.

Our Revenue is either Ordinary or Extraordinary.

## ORDINARY.

Ground Annual of St. Mungo's Cemetery ...	£150	0	0	
Interest on Capital ... ..	96	2	0	
Amount of Board from Pupils ... ..	137	1	5	
Manufacturing gain on work ... ..	1	13	6	
	<hr/>			384 16 11

## EXTRAORDINARY.

Donations ... ..	£43	14	6	
Contributions ... ..	198	2	0	
	<hr/>			241 16 6
Total Income for 1841 ... ..	£626	13	5	
Total Income for 1840 ... ..	1251	6	5	
	<hr/>			
Less this year ... ..	£624	13	0	

## VII. EXPENDITURE.

The Expenditure may be reduced to three heads. — 1. Household Expenses. 2. Salaries and Wages. 3. Charges on Manufacturing Establishment.

1. Ordinary Provisions ... ..	£332	8	11	
Coals ... ..	33	5	0	
Candles and Soap ... ..	21	14	3	
Incidental Charges ... ..	94	15	8	
Stationery and Printing ... ..	40	8	0	
	<hr/>			522 11 10
2. Salaries ... ..	...	...	238	1 0
3. Tradesmen's Accounts ... ..	214	8	9	
Implements for Manufactory ... ..	34	5	10	
Furniture, &c. ... ..	21	3	6	
	<hr/>			269 18 1
Total Expenditure ... ..	£1030	10	11	
Income during the year ... ..	626	13	5	
	<hr/>			
Less this year... ..	£403	17	6	

VIII. THE STOCK.

Amount of Stock, January, 1841	...	...	...	...	£3711	14	7
Less income	...	...	...	...	403	17	6
					<hr/>		
					£3307 17 0		

Dr.			BALANCE.			Cr.		
To Heritable Bond	...	...	£2500	0	0	By Cash due Printing Account...	£74	17 8
To Cash in hand	..	...	14	5	6	By do. do. Glasgow and Ship		
To Manufacturing Stock	...	...	2104	10	5	Bank Company	...	1231 0 0
						By do. do. Sundries	...	5 1 2
						By Stock	...	3307 17 1
			<hr/>			<hr/>		
			£4618 15 11			£4618 15 11		

It is hoped that the above statements, which are given in the same form and order as formerly, will be satisfactory to this General Court, showing that the Institution still maintains its former prosperity.

It will be observed that the Extraordinary income has been less this year. Donations and contributions must vary in different years; and though a deficiency may happen, it is not from any want of regard on the part of the public for the prosperity of the Institution. It will be seen that the sales of this year exceed the sales of the former year by more than two hundred pounds, and that the extent of production exceeds that of the former year to nearly the same amount; but notwithstanding this excess, a very small sum, as the profit of the manufacturing department, is carried to the ordinary revenue, and the salary of the Superintendent, as formerly, is taken as a part of the ordinary expenditure. The reason of this falling off can easily be given, and will be considered as satisfactory—the price of the raw material in most of the articles manufactured is much higher, and yet the articles themselves, in their finished state, could bring no higher price, and it would, on many accounts, be altogether inexpedient to keep the goods on hand.

In the expenditure for this year the sum of above two hundred pounds is charged on the head of Tradesmen's Accounts. A considerable part of this outlay has been expended in making improvements in the Buildings of the Institution. Such alterations have been made in the interior, that accommodation is provided for one hundred ordinary inmates, as well as for a few parlour Boarders; while at the same time some alterations are introduced to give facility for the different manufacturing processes. By the removal of the partition between the Chapel and the School-room, a spacious Hall is formed. This has been finished with as much taste and elegance as a due regard to economy would allow; and it is hoped it will be found useful for various purposes; among others, for the Annual Examination of the Pupils, being more convenient than any other place remote from the Institution.

The education of the Pupils in Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Grammar, Music, and other Branches, has been carried on during the year with the usual success. In proof of this we appeal to the occasional visits of strangers; and particularly to the Annual Examination which took place on the 17th December last, when a very numerous and highly respectable



assembly of Ladies and Gentlemen expressed their entire satisfaction in no ordinary terms.

In reference to the Honorary Treasurer, John Alston, Esq., of Rosemount, the Directors candidly confess, and they are sure that this General Court, as well as the public at large, will cordially join in the acknowledgment, that the Institution is yearly under deeper obligations to him. But the gentleman himself is at present daily receiving reward full and ample in the estimation of a Christian philanthropist. He has in his own mind the conscious satisfaction that he is devoting his time and exertions, and that successfully too, to ameliorate the condition of his fellow-men in their forlorn state; and at the same time wherever he goes, he finds that sympathy for this bereavement is so deeply rooted in our common nature, that every one owns for himself a share of the public debt of gratitude which is due to the zealous benefactor of the Blind.

The Matron, Miss Lamond, and the Superintendent, Mr. Matthew Semple, as well as the Teachers, have discharged their respective duties to our satisfaction, and we therefore take this opportunity of returning them our thanks.

Dr. David Gibson has, during the year, acted as Medical Attendant to the inmates; and we therefore respectfully tender to him our acknowledgments for his gratuitous and important services.

Principal Macfarlan, in addition to his duties as a Manager, has continued to discharge with kindness and assiduity his pastoral superintendence in the Asylum; regarding the inmates as part of his parish and congregation.

To Andrew Buchanan, Esq., of Mount Vernon, we beg leave to tender our thanks for a donation of coals. The Glasgow Water Company continue to supply the Institution with water, for which we again return them our grateful acknowledgments.

Which Report having been read, and the accounts of John Alston, Esq., the Treasurer, examined, were unanimously approved of, and the thanks of the Meeting to the above Gentlemen were tendered accordingly.

The thanks of the Meeting were given to Dr. Corkindale, by whom the Report was prepared; and on the motion of Matthew Fleming, Esq., seconded by John Gibson, Esq., the thanks of the meeting were given to Messrs. R. Freeland and J. Bogle, for their services as secretaries.

On the motion of Robert Freeland, Esq., seconded by Wm. Leckie Ewing, Esq., Robert Jamieson, Esq., was unanimously elected Secretary.

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

#### President :

THE HON. JAMES CAMPBELL, LORD PROVOST OF GLASGOW.

#### Honorary Vice-Presidents :

HENRY MONTEITH, Esq., of Carstairs.

ARCHIBALD STIRLING, Esq., of Keir.

JAMES EWING, Esq., LL.D., of Levenside.

JAMES OSWALD, Esq., of Auchincruive, M.P.

*From the Directors of the Glasgow Royal Infirmary*—ROBERT DALGLISH, Esq.,

JAMES SOMMERVILLE, Esq., PROFESSOR RAMSAY.

*From the Town Council*—WILLIAM WILSON, Esq.

*From the College*—THE VERY REV. PRINCIPAL MACFARLAN.

*From the Merchants' House* — WILLIAM GRAY, Esq., DEAN OF GUILD;  
ANDREW WINGATE, Esq.

*From the Trades' House*—GEORGE DICK, Esq., CONVENER; ROBERT HOOD, Esq.

*From the Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons*—JOHN GIBSON, Esq.

*From the Ministers*—THOMAS BROWN, D.D.

*Elected by the Meeting.*

John Alston, Esq.

John Smith, Esq., LL.D.

James Bogle, jun., Esq.

William Leckie Ewing, Esq.

Robert Freeland, Esq.

William Campbell, Esq.

Mathew Fleming, Esq.

William Leechman, Esq.

James Hutchison, Esq.

The thanks of the Meeting, upon the motion of the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, were tendered to the Chairman.

John Alston, Esq., Treasurer.

Robt. Jamieson, Esq., Writer, Sec.

Miss Catherine Lamond, Matron.

Mr. Matthew Semple, Superintendent.

Mr. William Finlay, Teacher.

Mr. John Orme, Music Master.

David Gibson, Esq., M.D., Surgeon.

The Males work ten hours per day; but when any particular articles are wanted, they are permitted to work twelve hours.

None of the Females who are not attending classes work more than seven hours in summer, and six in winter. Those attending classes work three hours each day, and none of them more than two hours at a time.

## GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

### ANNUAL EXAMINATION.

(From the *Scottish Guardian* of December 21st, 1841.)

THE twelfth annual examination of the inmates of this excellent Institution took place in their new hall in the Asylum, on Friday, December 17, in presence of a numerous and a select assemblage of ladies and gentlemen. The Lord Provost presided. Amongst the company were Lord Belhaven and Lady Belhaven, who came to town from Wishaw House expressly to be present, Sir Archibald Campbell, of Suecoth, Lady Campbell and Miss Campbell, the Very Rev. Principal Macfarlan, the Rev. Dr. Hill, Professor of Divinity, the Rev. Dr. Fleming, Professor of Moral Philosophy, the Rev. Mr. Gray, Professor of Oriental Languages, the Rev. Dr. Muir, of St. James's, the Rev. Mr. Menzies, of Martyrs, the Rev. Mr. Smith, of Catheart, John Smith, Esq., LL.D., Wm. Angus, Esq., LL.D., Rev. Mr. Almond, Mr. Leekie Ewing, Dr. Doyle, from Dublin, Mr. John Ker and party, from Greenock—in addition to strangers from Kilmarnock, Campbelton and other parts of the country.

A number of improvements have taken place in the Institution since the last occasion of this kind. The interior has been altered so as to accommodate a hundred inmates, besides a few parlour boarders; and increased facilities have been given by the improvements for carrying on the various kinds of manufacture. The partition that formerly separated the chapel from the school-room has been removed, and the whole thrown into one spacious hall of fifty-five feet in length. The hall is tastefully fitted up, being painted oak colour. At the head of the room is the fine organ, on the right of which is suspended the admirable portrait of the Treasurer and father of the Institution, and on the left is placed a tablet inscribed with the name of the founder (the late Mr. Leech, of Kilmardinny), donations from the corporations, together with a list of legacies, including the Government grant for printing the Bible for the Blind at the Institution press.

After a sacred piece had been sung by the children, accompanied by a blind girl on the organ, Principal Macfarlan opened the meeting with prayer. The examination embraced the various branches of education pursued in the Asylum, such as reading, arithmetic, geography, grammar, &c., and the proficiency made by the children was highly satisfactory. In turning up passages in their books, especially in the Bible, and in the ease with which they read them, without more than a moment's previous warning, they exhibited a readiness and dexterity which could be surpassed by few blessed with the use of their eyes. Their rapid solution of questions in arithmetic and geography was equally surprising. The exercises were diversified by pieces of vocal music, accompanied on the organ, which had a very pleasing effect. The interesting woman who is deaf, dumb and blind, showed the method by which she communicates with her blind companions, all of whom can converse with her by means of the finger alphabet of the deaf and dumb; and she also exhibited specimens of her writing. In the course of the proceedings, Mr. Alston brought forward for the first time a very recent improvement which he has introduced into the educational department. It is a substitute for writing suited for the use of the blind; and cannot be better explained than by



quoting the following description which has just appeared in Mr. Alston's supplementary statement to the Directors dated this month:—

“Although we apply the word **WRITING** to a method of teaching the blind to communicate with each other and their friends at a distance, it is not the writing which is used by the seeing. Numerous plans have been suggested for this purpose. In a work published in Vienna in 1818, by Mr. Klein, Director of the Institution for the Blind in that city, the author gives specimens of a mode of printing in the Roman character which resembles letters perforated through the paper with a pin point, and is read on the rough surface on the other side. I am not, however, aware how the details of the process are managed. A beautiful specimen of this writing was sent to me last year, from Paris, where the system is also introduced. In turning my attention to this improvement, with the view of attempting to render it useful here, I adopted a set of wooden instead of metal types, with the face of the letter formed of brass points; but, as the delicacy of the finger might be impaired by touching the sharp metal points forming the face of the type, the letter is also impressed in relief on its side, and the type required is thus easily ascertained without injury to the fingers. A full set of types being completed, they are arranged in a drawer or case, sub-divided into compartments for the respective letters, each compartment being labelled in relief to guide the person using it to the letter he requires. In another drawer contained above in the same case, there are a series of grooves or lines exactly fitting the breadth of the types; and in these grooves the words are arranged with suitable spaces. The whole being fixed in a very simple manner, the paper is put upon the types, and pressed down with the thumb, covered with a piece of leather, or, what answers the purpose better, a piece of soft elastic cork. The object being to produce a distinct impression on the upper side of the paper, this is accomplished with the utmost ease, simplicity and accuracy. The whole apparatus does not exceed twelve inches by nine, and from three to four in depth, and may be conveniently placed on the knee by the fireside, and employed either for amusement or correspondence. It can be purchased for fifteen shillings, and the types at 1s. 6d. per dozen. The impressions produced in this manner can be read as easily by the seeing as the blind.”

A blind girl, with less than a week's practice, showed the working of this simple apparatus; and most of the company were proud to possess themselves of specimens of so novel and useful a mode of communication.

Without dwelling on the details of an examination which gave the public renewed assurance of the progressive efficiency of the Institution, we may simply add, that the whole afforded unmixed delight to the numerous and respectable audience, who testified their satisfaction by the intense interest with which they watched each successive step of the business of the day. At the conclusion,

Lord Belhaven said—My Lord Provost, this being, I regret to say, only the first time I have visited this Institution, I hope to be permitted to express the gratification which I feel at the scenes we have witnessed this day. I am quite sure that I express the sentiments of every stranger present, when I say that a feeling of gratitude must exist in the minds of those whom I may be permitted to call the pupils of Mr. Alston, towards that excellent man; and that the same feeling must be shared by every one present, and not only by all who are here, but by the inhabitants of this city, and the people of this



great country. (Applause.) And I hope and trust, my Lord Provost, that Mr. Alston may long continue to follow out this great work, which, I believe, he has been the first person to introduce; and would say to him that we owe him a debt of gratitude which no language of ours can express, for his efforts in behalf of the blind; but he has that high consolation which can only belong to him who zealously, and honestly, and faithfully does his duty to his country and his God. (Applause.)

Being called upon by the Lord Provost,

Sir Archibald Campbell said—I had a strong inclination, my Lord Provost, before your Lordship did me the honour to call upon me—indeed, I could hardly refrain from expressing the very high gratification which I, in common, I am sure, with every person present this day, have felt at the wonderful exhibition we have witnessed since we met together. It is unnecessary for me to say that it is in a great measure to be attributed to the great exertions of the gentleman who takes charge of this Institution. We owe a debt of gratitude to him, and to those who act under him; and we should also give due praise to the persons themselves who have profited by the instructions they have received in this Institution. By means of the various branches of education to which their attention is turned, these young persons have been brought from darkness into light; and enabled to amuse themselves, and not only to amuse themselves, but to improve their minds with those useful works which tend so much to their benefit; and thereof we should not refrain from expressing our high sense of the value of such an Institution, and congratulating Mr. Alston and the Directors on the manner in which its affairs are managed and on the success which has followed their exertions in bringing these individuals into the advantageous situation in which they now stand. (Cheers.)

The LORD PROVOST said it was creditable to the city of Glasgow to have such an Institution, equally so that there had appeared on this occasion so respectable an assemblage as the present. It is a very flattering compliment, continued his Lordship, to be countenanced on such an occasion with the presence of Lord and Lady Belhaven and Sir Archibald and Lady Campbell. (Cheers.) But, in fact, on all occasions, we find our friends in the country, the nobility and gentry, crowding around us when the interests of benevolence require their countenance and aid. (Applause.) We must all have been very much pleased with the proofs of the efficiency of the Institution which we have received since we came together. Lady Belhaven has just shown me a letter from America pointing out a recent discovery in connection with the education of the blind; and one of which we were not previously aware; but Mr. Alston has proved to us that that discovery is already in full operation in the Glasgow Institution. (Applause.) His Lordship concluded by thanking Lord Belhaven, Lady Belhaven, Sir Archibald Campbell and Lady Campbell, for the honour they had done the Institution by their presence.

Principal Macfarlan concluded the proceedings by pronouncing the benediction.

The ladies afterwards went into the warehouse, and examined the beautiful specimens of manufacture which were there exhibited.

Lady Belhaven paid the most minute attention to the whole proceedings and remained for some time after the company dispersed, questioning the teachers and their pupils in the kindest manner.

## No. IX.

The following Books are printed at the Glasgow Institution Press in raised, Roman letters, for the use of the Blind, by JOHN ALSTON, Honorary Treasurer, and on Sale at the Asylum; and Sold by JOHN SMITH & SON, Glasgow; SMITH, ELDER & Co., London; JOHN JOHNSTON, and at the Asylum for the Blind, Edinburgh; WM. M'COMBE, Belfast; J. ROBERTSON & Co., Dublin; GALT & ANDERSON, Manchester, &c.

## THE BIBLE, 15 VOLS., £8.

Vol. 1, Genesis, 10s.  
 Vol. 2, Exodus and Leviticus, 13s.  
 Vol. 3, Numbers, 9s.  
 Vol. 4, Deuteronomy, 7s. 6d.  
 Vol. 5, Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, 10s.  
 Vol. 6, Samuel, 11s.  
 Vol. 7, Kings, 11s.  
 Vol. 8, Chronicles, 11s.  
 Vol. 9, Job, Ezra, and Nehemiah, 9s.

Vol. 10, Psalms, 13s.  
 Vol. 11, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, and Esther, 8s. 6d.  
 Vol. 12, Isaiah, 10s.  
 Vol. 13, Jeremiah and Lamentations, 11s.  
 Vol. 14, Ezekiel, 10s.  
 Vol. 15, Daniel, to the end, 11s.  
 These sold separately, or in whole, as may be wanted.

First Book of Lessons, 1s.  
 Second Book of Lessons, 2s.  
 The Epistles to the Ephesians and Galatians, 3s.  
 Selections of Æsop's Fables, with Wood-cuts, 2s.  
 Lessons on Religion and Prayer, 1s. 6d.  
 Lessons on Natural Religion, 2s.  
 The Four Gospels — Matthew and Luke, 5s. 6d. each.  
 John, 4s. 6d.  
 Mark, 4s.—bound separately.  
 The Acts of the Apostles, 5s. 6d.  
 Musical Catechism, with Tunes for the use of the Blind, 3s. 6d.  
 English Grammar, 5s.  
 The New Testament, bound, £2, in 4 vols  
 The Psalms and Paraphrases, in 2 vols, 16s.; neatly bound in cloth, 20s.  
 Psalms in the Metrical Version, used by the Church of England.  
 The Morning and Evening Service of the Church of England, 2s. 6d.  
 The History of the Bible, large 2s.

The Church of England Catechism, 1s.  
 Church of Scotland shorter Catechism, 2s. 6d.  
 Selections from Eminent Authors, 1s. 6d.  
 Selection of Sacred Poetry, with Tunes, 2s.  
 Introduction to the Sciences, with beautiful Maps, Solar System, &c., &c., 3s. 6d.  
 Todd's Lectures to Children, familiarly Illustrating Important Truth, in 3 vols., 2s. 6d. each.  
 Statements of Education, Employments, &c., &c., at the Glasgow Asylum, 2s.  
 Beautiful Map of England and Wales, Description of London, 3s.  
 Remarks on the Bible by an Old Author, 6d.  
 Description of Birds, with Wood-cuts, 6d.  
 Arithmetic Boards.

## IN THE PRESS.

Outlines of Natural History, with Wood-cuts, 2s.




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

House Baskets of various kinds.	Hearth and Door Rugs.
Mill Baskets and Hampers, made to any pattern.	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 Pansouffles.
Hair Friction Gloves.	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.

By the constitution of the Asylum, a Contributor of £10 is constituted a Member for Life; and a Donation of £50 from an Individual, or £100 from a Parish, entitles either to recommend a Child to the Asylum. Contributors of £10 and upwards, uniting to the amount of £50, have the like power to recommend. As there are no Annual Subscriptions, Donations and Legacies to any amount will be thankfully received.

 The Public are respectfully requested to visit the Institution.

## No. XI.

The following letter, from a blind woman aged forty, who lost her sight when she was five years old, affords a most gratifying example of the facility with which the art of reading can be acquired by a person of mature years, besides deciding the question of the superiority of the raised Roman letters to the shorthand system. The letter was written by a boy of ten years of age to the dictation of the woman whose name it bears :—

PROVIDENCE COTTAGE, NEAR BRISTOL,

*April 13, 1839.*

“SIR,—I beg to inform you that I still feel a heart overflowing with gratitude to the divine source from whence every good and perfect gift proceeds, and who hath raised you up as an instrument in his hands benevolently to come forward and to communicate to us the means of reading that Word of God which never fails to preserve us from all error and to direct us to all truth. The attainment of such an exalted privilege a short time ago I could not entertain the slightest hope of; but Jehovah has proved that he has all power in heaven and in earth, and that he can open rivers in high places and fountains in the desert; and, Sir, I present to you my heartfelt thanks for having favoured me with so large a portion of the Holy Scripture. To them I daily repair for strength, wisdom, and consolation; nor am I disappointed, for I find in them all I want for life and death—for time and for eternity. And if, Sir, any class of the human race needs personal

access to the Scripture more than another, it is the Blind, for they are frequently deprived, although in perfect health, of attending divine service for the want of a guide. Here I speak feelingly, having known many such mournful instances; and for such whose hearts are panting after the sanctuary, to be able to read the Holy Scriptures and other Scriptural books would be of the utmost importance, for it would convert their prison into a sanctuary, and render their burthen comparatively light; and, Sir, I cannot forbear expressing my decided approbation of your system, believing it to be most conducive to the benefit of the Blind, and that for the following reason:—A few months previous to the arrival of your alphabet at the Asylum in Bristol, I was favoured with Mr. Lucas's alphabet, which I received with joy and thankfulness; but, alas! after considerable attention, I remained unacquainted with its nature, nor was there any person among all my friends able to give me the least information, and, being myself much debilitated by weakness, I was totally incapable of attending their establishment, and therefore was compelled to relinquish all hopes of success. But, Sir, as soon as I was happily favoured with your alphabet, I in a short time became acquainted with the letters, as the most inferior scholars and even children were able to give me information; and, Sir, during the past summer, I sent one of your spelling-books to a female residing in a country village, and although born Blind and totally destitute of the formation of letters, she became acquainted with several of the letters during the few moments the bearer remained with her, and she hoped to succeed, depending upon the instruction of one of her neighbours. Dear Sir, had I sent her a shorthand spelling-book it would have been utterly useless unless I had sent to her a shorthand teacher, which would have been a moral impossibility. Other reasons I could state, but I hope, Sir, this will be sufficient to prove the superiority of your system, and that our benevolent friends will come over every mountain of prejudice, and help us by assisting you, Sir, in your noble undertaking.

“I remain, Sir,

“Your humble but ever benefitted Servant,

“ELIZABETH ALLPORT.

“JOHN ALSTON, ESQ.,

“*Hon. Treasurer to the Asylum for the Blind, Glasgow.*”

### THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

are to be minutely answered in words at length, on behalf of every Person applying to be admitted into the ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND at Glasgow; and a Certificate of the facts of the Case, and of Moral Character, must be added, upon personal knowledge, from a Clergyman, two respectable Householders or Elders, and a Medical Practitioner:—

1. Where do the parents or friends reside? What is the name, age, parish, present residence, and maintenance of the applicant?

2. Are the parents or friends, or the parish to which the applicant belongs, ready to pay the sum required for instruction or Board?



3. Is the applicant of sufficient intellect to receive instruction? and willing to obey the Rules of the Institution made or to be made?

4. Is the applicant free from epileptic or other fits, and from any disorder which may be prejudicial to those already in the Asylum?

5. Has the applicant had the small-pox or the cow-pox?

6. Has the applicant ever wandered about as a beggar, or played on a musical instrument in the streets or ale-houses?

7. What is the nature of the blindness of the applicant? Is it partial or total? How long has the applicant been Blind?

### No. XIII.

#### *Articles of Clothing for Inmates of the Asylum for the Blind.*

MALES.	FEMALES.
1 Sunday Suit, with Hat.	1 Cloak.
1 Suit for Week Days.	1 Sunday Gown.
3 Shirts.	2 Week Gowns.
1 Shirt for Sabbath.	2 Flannel Petticoats.
3 Pairs Stockings, Coloured.	2 Upper do.
2 Neckcloths, do.	1 Bed Gown.
2 Pocket Handkerchiefs, Coloured.	3 Shifts.
2 Night Caps, do.	3 Pairs Stockings, Coloured.
2 Pairs Shoes.	2 Neckkerchiefs, do.
	2 Pocket Handkerchiefs, do.
	2 Pinafores.
	3 Night Caps.
	1 Pair Stays.
	1 Bonnet.
	1 Pocket.
	2 Pairs Shoes.

Each Boy and Girl to have a Chest to keep their Clothes in, which must be kept in good repair, and when worn out replaced by their friends. Every article to be plain and substantial.

# REGULATIONS

## FOR THE

### GLASGOW ASYLUM FOR THE BLIND.

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#### *Head I.—Superintendence.*

1. The Institution shall be under the charge of a Matron, a Chaplain, and a Superintendent, with such Servants as the number of Inmates may render necessary.

2. The Matron shall reside in the House, see it kept in proper order, provide Board for the Pupils who live in the Asylum, have the control of the Domestic Servants, superintend the work of the Female inmates, conduct them to Church on the Lord's-day, and attend to their behaviour there.

3. The Chaplain shall attend in the Asylum every morning and evening for half an hour, for the purpose of conducting Family Worship; and on Saturday to give the Pupils instruction in the principles of Religion.

4. The Superintendent shall reside at the Lodge, take charge of the whole premises, check every disorder or impropriety, procure such materials for work as shall be ordered by the Directors, and attend to the personal cleanliness of the Boys residing in the House. He must also conduct the Boys to Church, and attend to their behaviour on the Lord's-day.

5. Instructors shall be provided for the various branches which it may be found proper to teach; and Blind persons are to be preferred as such, in all the departments which they are capable of filling.

6. One of the Directors, in turn, is to visit the Asylum, and make a weekly report.

#### *Head II.—School of Industry.*

1. All Blind persons capable of working, who have a residence permanently or occasionally in Glasgow, or its immediate neighbourhood, so as to sleep and take their meals in their own or their relations' houses, and whose characters and circumstances shall be approved of by the Directors, may be admitted into this branch of the Institution.

2. Every person who has not previously learned some branch of industry practised in this Institution, shall, when so admitted, have the option of paying, at entrance, the sum of £2 5s., or of working three months without receiving wages. The wages are to be, at first, 3s. 6d. per week, and to be increased in proportion to their earnings.

3. All persons admitted into the School of Industry shall behave orderly and peaceably, observe the hours, and comply with the Regulations of the Asylum.

*Head III.—School of General Instruction.*

## BOYS.

1. No Boy shall be admitted under ten, or above sixteen years of age.
2. Each Boy shall pay the sum of £6 6s. at his admission, and annually, during his abode in the House.
3. Each Boy will receive his Board, Washing, and Lodging, in the House; his parents or friends being required to provide him with Clothing, according to the List annexed.
4. Besides Religious Instruction and Elementary Education, each Boy shall be taught such branches of Trade, carried on in the House, as may be suited to his capacity and inclination.

## GIRLS.

1. Girls shall be admitted into the House appropriated for their reception, in the same manner as Boys, on paying £6 6s. for each year they remain in the Asylum.
2. Girls shall receive Board, Washing, and Lodging, at the same rate as the Boys; and be instructed in the various branches of Female Industry, and in the Principles of Religion, and the Elements of General Knowledge.

*Head IV.—Terms of Admission.*

1. No person shall be admitted to work, nor any Boy or Girl received to reside in the Asylum, till the Directors be satisfied as to their health, character, and qualifications.
2. Each Contributor to the amount of £50, or upwards, shall, for each £50 subscribed, be entitled to have one Boy or Girl, recommended by him, received into the Asylum. Contributors of £10 and upwards, uniting to make up the sum of £50, shall have the same privilege.
3. Every Corporation, Parish, or Public Body, subscribing £100, or upwards, to the funds of this Institution, shall be entitled to have at all times in the House, for each £100 so subscribed, one inmate, in conformity with the limitations in the third head.
4. The period of education in the Asylum is to be three years; but those young people who have conducted themselves properly during that time, may be continued in the House, at such a Board as the Directors shall judge equitable.

*Head V.—General Rules.*

1. Family Worship shall be performed every morning, from 1st March to 1st November, at Half-past Six, and from 1st November to 1st March, at Eight in the morning; and every evening at Seven o'clock.
2. The Hours of Working shall be from Seven in the morning till Seven in the evening, an hour being allowed for Breakfast, and another for Dinner.



Hours for recreation shall also be allowed occasionally, according to the age and health of the scholars.

3. Every Individual admitted into the Asylum, whether merely during working hours, or as an inmate, shall be regular in keeping the hours of the House, and especially in attending on Family Worship.

4. Females who reside out of the House shall commence their work at Ten o'clock, and receive their Dinner with the inmates. For such as have no relations to reside with, the Directors have provided a house in the neighbourhood, and pay a woman to take charge of them.

5. The strictest attention must be paid to cleanliness, both in the persons of the inmates, and in every part of the House.

6. The inmates of the House, in turn, shall do as much of the work of the House as they are capable of performing.

7. No intercourse shall be permitted between the Male and Female branches of the Asylum; nor shall the boys and girls enter the buildings appropriated to each other's use, except when they are assembled for Family Worship or Religious Instruction.

8. Every instance of inattention to hours, improper language, disorderly conduct, indecency, or immorality, shall be reported to the Treasurer, who shall report the same to the Committee of Directors if necessary; and punished by admonition, forfeiture of earnings, or in cases of gross delinquency or repeated misconduct, expulsion from the Asylum.









