

that further knowledge on this important subject will be of utility to those who have charge of the public health in factory districts. This is becoming more than ever necessary as the Sanitary Inspectors of Local Authorities have recently had cast upon them a large increase of work hitherto performed by factory inspectors, which has already led to special inspectors being detailed off for these duties in a number of districts. Many will, therefore, probably wish to qualify themselves with the knowledge of the sanitation of factories, workshops, and workplaces, with a view to obtaining factory inspectorships or inspectorships under local authorities in factory districts. It is hoped also that most employers and managers will desire to learn the practical application of sanitary principles to particular industries. The subjects embraced in this second course of lectures will be as follow:—

- (1) Coal Mining; (2) Quarrying of various kinds, Granite, Marble, Stone, Slate, Chalk, and Limestone; (3) Workers in Mercury, Phosphorus and Sulphur; (4) Chlorine and Chrome Compounds; (5) Workers in Copper, Zinc, Brass, and Tin.

The Lectures will be delivered in the Parkes Museum, Margaret Street, W., at 8 p.m. on Thursday, November 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th. It will facilitate arrangements if those who desire to attend will send their names to the Secretary, Mr. E. White Wallis, as soon as possible, when tickets would be sent to them.

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THE Mother Superior of St. Veronica's Retreat, Chiswick, sends us a report of the excellent and most successful work done there for inebriate patients. It is licensed under the Inebriates' Acts, 1879 and 1888. No alcohol whatever is admitted into the treatment. Among the medical staff are Dr. Norman Kerr, Dr. Sydney Ringer, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson, and Mr. W. Watson Cheyne.

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We have just received the Syllabus of the 1894 Survey Lectures on Geology, held in connection with the Natural History Department of the British Museum. The title of the course of twelve lectures is "The Making of the Earth's Crust." They will be delivered by Professor H. Alleyne Nicholson, M.D., D.Sc. F.G.S., in the Lecture Theatre of the South Kensington Museum, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, beginning Monday, October 1st, and ending Friday, October 26th. The admission is free. Some of our readers may like to take advantage of this opportunity of hearing Professor Nicholson's delightful lectures, but they must arrange to be in good time, as the seats soon fill up. Even apart from the information gained, and the illustrations shown, the audience itself, judging from last year, is worth study.



Our Foreign Letter.

"THROUGH NIGHT TO LIGHT."

Thus runs the motto inscribed on the arch of the large assembly hall in the new Blindenanstalt (Asylum for the blind), in Kleefeld, Province of Hanover.

So much of the moral, mental and physical health and dignity of the blind, depends on the means used to render their lives social successes, that the subject cannot fail to interest those who have sympathy with human suffering and human ingenuity in vanquishing it. The subject I choose for my letter to-day is especially interesting *now*, on account of the great improvements that have been introduced quite recently in the system of training the blind to gain in hearing, touch, and memory, a keenness and alertness that will counterbalance the want of sight, and enable them to take a self-reliant position in society. Within memory of man, the impecunious blind were virtually doomed to pauperism and demoralizing self-commiseration. To-day a range of useful professions is open to them, among them trades for women, and the prospect of brighter possibilities still is opening before us. Short-hand writing for the blind is one of the professions under discussion; linguists, who are trained to teach conversationally, already exist. Their delicate sense of slight changes of inflection seem to fit them singularly for the task. We have most of us heard of blind mathematicians, organists, and piano tuners; but that the blind are taught to model artistically, may be new to many. The subject, together with drawing for the blind, has been introduced comparatively recently, and is now taught in most of the first-class institutions, of which there are 28 in Germany and Austria.

The first institute for the blind was founded in 1806, by Valentin Hany, in Paris. A good portrait of this philanthropist hangs in the assembly-room of the institution of Kleefeld. It represents the gentle and thoughtful face, and kind sad eyes of a man grown grey amidst unselfish cares. Hany was an international benefactor. It was after his suggestions that similar institutions were founded in other countries. An institute in Petersburg, and the famous Royal Institute for the Blind in Steglitz, Berlin, the oldest in Germany, are more or less the creations of his influence. In connection with the foundation of the latter Institution (13th October, 1806), the name of Dr. Zeune ought not to be forgotten. This noble-hearted man devoted not only his time and strength to the cause of the blind, but at a time in which national calamity dried the sources of charitable contributions, provided for the needs of the Institute out of his own pocket.

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