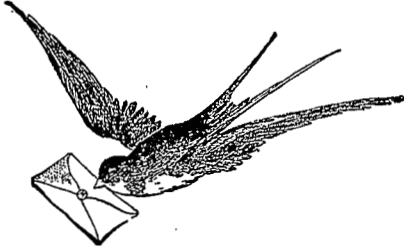


instantly pulled it out, and found it totally insensible. Blank despair seized her for a second, but, calling to mind the instructions she had heard given at the "Homely Talks on First Aid," in the neighbouring village, by Miss Vines, lecturer to the National Health Society, she immediately resorted to the directions given for artificial respiration, and after a severe struggle she succeeded in restoring the child to life.



Our Foreign Letter.

"THROUGH NIGHT TO LIGHT."

(Continued from page 283.)

THE Director explained how, starting from the theory that sense of touch must take the place of sense of sight, one system had grown out of the other, until the last gave greatest facility to the blind reader, and allowed him to follow the letters from point to point with considerable ease. Among the collection were works on theological, literary, and historical subjects, works on natural history and geography, story books and periodicals.

The production of books for the blind is far more costly than that of our own printed pages. A Bible cannot be bought under £5, and then it is sold at a loss to the producers, as a matter of charity. A book costing a few pence, in ordinary type, will cost three times that number of shillings in point-writing.

The behaviour of a number of philanthropic German ladies is well worthy of imitation, and might be recommended to those who pine to utilize their energies, and have, as yet, not found the way to do so. These ladies learned point-writing and then copied suitable books for various asylums. Once produced in point, the MS. is easily copied by pupils of the asylum.

"Are the blind, as a rule, fond of reading?" I asked.

"They devour books. You ought to see with what eagerness they look out for this paper." He raised a weekly copy of the *Daheim* ("At Home," a pleasant German family paper).

We passed on to classes for demonstration lessons. Here walls and cabinets were full of plaster-casts of beasts and birds of various description, from a cow to a monkey. The central wall was occupied by a pretty forest scene, also in plaster-cast, representing waving trees and a group of deer.

"All you see represented here," said the Director, "is exactly one-seventh of the actual size of the natural object. The figures are given to the children to handle, and the explanation given appeals to their sense of form."

Presently, we saw the modelling room, where a number of animals and articles of various kind were in course of manufacture. The head of a cow, executed by a blind boy, was surprisingly characteristic. One

boy had modelled his own hand. The details were minutely given, down to slightly raised veins and nails. The collection was considerable and extremely varied, including animals, ornaments, vases, heads, a figure of a man, overcoat, top hat, and all complete, fairly correct and ridiculous in its realism. The boys, I was told, delight in the work.

The centre of the room was occupied by a large piece of work, that the master of the modelling-room had on hand. It illustrated the physical features of the globe, and promised to illustrate its subject very lucidly.

In another class-room geometrical problems were taught and drawing lessons given. The problems were worked out by the point system mentioned before. They graduated from easiest to the advanced. Some of the problems set were far from primitive, and are attempted by the select leaders of mental gymnastics among the pupils. Talent for mathematics is, however, not uncommon among the blind. Drawing, also a progressive innovation of the last ten years, is carried on by necessarily elaborate contrivances. Some of the instruments used resembled brass-dented combs, each tooth representing some special curve or line. The pupils are taught to measure and draw mathematically correct figures by aid of these combs and stiletos. As in other cases, the drawings are executed on the point system. It is impossible to give on paper an idea of the ingenuity of a contrivance that, while acting as a guide, leaves margin for individual effort of brain and hand, the very circumstance that makes drawing a valuable adjunct of general education.

Some of the pupils draw rapidly and correctly, taking a great deal of pleasure in their work.

In the basement, where the workshops are situated, a busy chatter of voices greeted us. The director pushed open a door and we entered a large room in which about two dozen maidens of ages ranging between thirteen and seventeen were manufacturing brooms. They were all clothed alike in blue linen frocks. Some of them were actually pretty, and almost all looked bright and cheerful and thoroughly interested in their work.

"Good-day," said the Director.

"Good-day, Herr Director," cried a chorus of fresh young voices, while four dozen busy hands went on with their work.

It was almost uncanny to watch those blind children handling murderous-looking shears and working large chopping-machines in the course of their duties; but there was distinctly no danger to those lithe fingers, and my apprehensions vanished.

"We are very busy just now," the Director explained. "We have an order for twelve dozen brooms of this kind a week. The order comes from a travelling hawker, and he is anxious to have the first supply as soon as possible."

The four dozen deft little hands seemed to move even more rapidly, and here and there a round fresh face assumed an expression of earnest self-importance.

"The work," continued the Director, "is not only pleasant, but also profitable. On each broom made there is a nett profit of 18 pfennigs (nearly 2d.). Now one of our girls can easily manufacture 10 brooms a day." (Not a bad day's wage results, if the youth of the workers be taken into consideration.)

The Director explained that the fibre used for these special brooms came from America, and was the

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