

SCHOOL-WORK.

The work in school has progressed satisfactorily. In the upper division of our day school the children, though of varying capacity, are showing signs of development much beyond my expectations. The reading, writing, recitation, singing, and drill of this division are quite creditable. The articulation of the children of this division has much improved. The manual occupations in this division of the school are also satisfactory. Smyrna-rug making, rafia-work, knitting, and sewing, are well done.

The lower division of the school comprises most of the children who have very little scholastic ability. The work in this division consists mainly of sense-training exercises, simple kindergarten occupations, musical drill, observational, conversational, and expressional lessons. In all these children there is a very marked defect in the muscular apparatus, which takes the form of inco-ordination. This is probably responsible for many of the forms of imperfect speech in this division. Musical drill to simple nursery-rhyme tunes, which involves the most elementary movements of the hands, head, arms, trunk, and feet, form a most important branch of training in the lower division. Our new day school, with eight class-rooms and open-air teaching-verandas, is nearing completion. The provision of this building will greatly help our school-work.

During the year we have made a commencement with special daily vocal classes, where tuition is given to all those who have the capacity in solo and chorus singing. The brighter children are now able to sing rounds and easy two-part choruses. We are indebted to the Vicar of Kurow for the fortnightly Church services, which are bright, cheerful, and helpful to the boys. The children look forward to the services, which, together with the morning and evening prayers, and grace at meals, are a means of training the emotions.

EXTENSIONS.

Three large villas, with sleeping-accommodation for approximately thirty-six children each, are nearing completion. In addition, a club-house for the male staff has been erected, cottages for the married attendants, and bedrooms for the single men.

GEORGE BENSTEAD, Principal.

NOTE.—Appendix giving particulars of deaths in foster-homes and in exempted institutions not printed for 1915.

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