



Published monthly in the interest of our Episcopal Missions to the Deaf in the Diocese of Maryland. Circulated among those who are interested in Church Work among the Deaf. Supported by voluntary contributions. Address all communications to Rev. Oliver J. Whildin, Missionary, 2100 North Calvert St., Baltimore, Maryland

July, 1925.

Vol.1., NO.10.

Editorials.

We welcome into the Church's Ministry to the Deaf the Revorend J. Stanley Light and the Reverend Guilbert Campbell Braddock. The Rev. Mr. Light was ordained to the Diaconate in St. John's Memorial Chapel, Cambridge, Mass., on May 27, 1925, by Bishop Co-adjutor Slatterly and the Rev. Mr. Braddock was ordained, also to the Diaconate, in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York, on June 7th, by Bishop Manning.

On Friday, June 26, 1925, A.L.E. Crouter, M.A. LL.D., L.H.D., aged 79, a leader in the profession of teaching the Deaf; a teacher in and later the superintendent of the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., during a period of 59 years, entered into rest. Dr. Crouter was the most faithful, the truest and the most helpful friend the Deaf of Pennsylvania ever had. His funeral took place on Monday, June 29th, in one of the great Halls of the School which his genius had designed. Five hundred of his former pupils testified by their attendance their veneration for him. It was in a true spirit of co-operation that he entered into all their projects. Their Literary and Fraternal Societies, their Church and Missions, their Home for the Aged and Infirm, their Business Ventures, their Sports,--all knew the gentle, restraining and guiding touch of his strong hand. And as in life he loved to always have them with him, so in death it was deaf clergymen of the Church who read his funeral service and representative deaf men who bore his remains to the train which conveyed him to his last resting place in the far away hills of Vermont.

The Twelfth Sunday after Trinity is known among the Deaf and their friends in the Church as Ephphatha Sunday, because the Gospel for that Day relates the story of the healing by Jesus Christ of a young man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech. When that miracle was performed there were, doubtless, isolated attempts to penetrate the awful pall of silence which enveloped the thousands then living who could not hear or speak. The story goes on to say that Jesus sighed when he beheld the young man kneeling before him,--very likely because he knew how utterly futile were those attempts. It was not until more than a thousand years later that the true import and urge of the miracle entered the minds of Christians and instead of centering upon a physical cure, which was beyond their poor scientific abilities, they sought to discover a way by which they might communicate directly with the mind and soul. The invention of the sign language, dactylogy or finger-spelling, more or less artificial speech and lip-reading was the result. The establishment of schools and missions soon followed. Today there are almost innumerable such schools and missions scattered throughout the world. Is it any wonder, therefore, that the Deaf and their friends feel happy and desire to mark the Day with offerings and thanksgivings? Ephphatha Sunday occurs this year on August 30th.

A Little More History.

(Continued from the June Issue.)

The departure of the Missionary from Emmanuel Church Rectory in search of the Deaf shoemaker of Cumberland was made in the early afternoon of November 17, 1899. If the previous ascent of Prospect Hill was

difficult and slow, the descent was now easy and accelerating and the corner of Baltimore and Centre Streets, which spot marks the intersection of the town, was reached in almost no time. Observing the directions, graciously given by the Rector, the Rev. Mr. Howdon, a turn to the left was made and a semi-circuitous route of many squares, each square interminably long, was followed. Passing under a rickety trestle of the George's Creek Railroad and peering into the distance, the end of the journey seemed rather dubious for not very far ahead at its seeming terminus loomed a great mountain defile, forbidding not only in its conformation but also in its surroundings of massive breweries.

In the midst of this perplexity and doubt a good-natured and smiling workman, carrying an empty dinner pail, emerged from a nearby Street Railway shed. Inquiry of him respecting the whereabouts of the now much-desired and much-sought Deaf shoemaker brought forth an immediate and enthusiastic reply. "Why, over there," he said, spelling the words clearly and rapidly on his fingers in the alphabet of the Deaf, and adding a moment later, "Fine man; fine shoemaker!" Proceeding a half square further on to the place indicated, there in full view, gaily swinging in approved fashion from the corner of a large two-and-a-half story red brick house, was an artistically painted sign reading "Jacs Louis Metty, Shoemaker." The proverbial pictures of a boot and a shoe were not wanting from the sign-board. Entering, Mr. Metty was found industriously engaged at his bench. He proved to be a short, ruddy-faced and very rotund gentleman of cheery disposition. He was born and educated in the Kansas State School for the Deaf, Olathe, Kansas, and had traveled and observed much. In addition, moreover, to an abundant fund of information and anecdote, he was also possessed of a wonderfully keen and mature judgment and deep religious convictions. He had heard, he said, a great deal concerning the extensive Work of the Episcopal Church among the Deaf throughout the United States and was delighted to know that such work would be established in Cumberland. Unsolicited, he proffered his utmost assistance. To the suggestion that a service for the Deaf be held in Emmanuel Church that very evening, he responded with a hearty assent and a promise to notify all the Deaf in Cumberland whom he could possibly reach. Before hurrying off in order to notify the Rector and to make full arrangements for the service, Mrs. Metty was introduced. It was a great pleasure to meet her. Prepossessing in appearance, delightful in conversation, modest and retiring in disposition, she personified to perfection the winsome daughters of the historic Valley of Virginia in which state she was born.

(To be continued.)

---

Scripture Text for this Issue: "Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a very fruitful field. And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the Book." ---Isaiah 35:17,18.

---

News and Comment.

Mr. Rozelle McCall and Miss Marie Dietz of Baltimore will enter Gallaudet College for the Deaf, Washington, D.C., in September.

Miss Elizabeth Moss of Govans, Md., left July 3d with a party of teachers of the Deaf for a tour of continental Europe. They will attend the International Conference on the Education of the Deaf, which meets in London, England, July 20-25.

Owing to sudden illness, the Missionary was unable to accompany his parishioners on their Annual Excursion to Tolchester Beach, Kent Co., Md., on July 11th. All who went reported an enjoyable time.

Owing to inborn and habitual caution it is seldom that the Deaf are made victims of the present day whirl of motor traffic. Whenever one of them unhappily falls a victim, the incident is chronicled as "news". We regret to state that Mr. G.M. Leitner, of our Baltimore Mission suffered a compound fracture of the foot and bruises, July 1st.

Among the many friends of the Silent News-Letter is the wife of a physician of San Juan, Porto Rico. In a recent letter, Mrs. L. referred to the church work of the late Rev. Job Turner, a Missionary to the Deaf of the South, and described a few interesting incidents in his long career. We hope some day to have a historical sketch of this wonderful pioneer for the readers of our little paper.