



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

May, 1925.

Vol. 1., No. 8.

Editorials.

The tragic death of the Rev. George H. Hefflon has cast a pall of gloom over the Episcopal Church Missions to the Deaf throughout the country. Mr. Hefflon manifested during the eighteen years of his ministry such a high order of industry, humility and spirituality that it truly appeared as if God had created in him a beacon light for the encouragement and inspiration of the silent shepherds and their flocks on our modern hill-sides of Bethlehem.

We receive from time to time news items, articles, helpful letters of commendation, even of admonition, etc., from our friends who either forget or modestly forbear to give their names and addresses. While we can understand their momentary forgetfulness and, perhaps also in a measure, sympathize with their apparent desire for self-effacement, we, nevertheless, beg these friends to exercise a little extra care and to let at least one person, the Missionary, know their identity.

Through the generosity of friends we are able to mail free copies of the SILENT NEWS-LETTER to many Deaf people,--- some of them living in far-distant corners, very isolated and very lonely,---and also to many clergymen, teachers, parents and others. Thus our little paper becomes a Messenger of the Gospel to those of the Deaf whom we cannot reach with our personal ministrations, and a Missionary of good will to those who desire to know more about the Church's Missions to the Deaf. We feel very grateful.

Death of the Rev. George Heffly Hefflon.

The Rev. George Henry Hefflon, Missionary to the Deaf in the New England States, died in the Rhode Island Hospital, Providence, R.I., on April 18, 1925, from injuries received when, confused by the lights of an approaching automobile, he walked against the side of a moving trolley car. He was on his way to visit the home of two Deaf people whom he had been preparing for confirmation. He died in harness, as he had always desired to die. He was buried in Deep River, Conn., where he was born on July 8, 1863. Bishop Perry of Rhode Island, Bishop Brewster of Connecticut, the Rev. Dr. Sturgis of Grace Church, Conn., and the Rev. John E. Kent of St. Ann's Church for the Deaf, New York, officiated at his funeral. Mr. Hefflon was graduated from Wesleyan Academy in 1886, from Yale in 1891 and from Berkeley in 1907. In 1897 Yale conferred upon him the Degree of Master of Arts and in 1906 he received the Degree of Bachelor of Divinity from Andover. In 1897 he was Pastor of a Congregational Church in Dublin, N.H. He was ordained by Bishop Brewster Deacon in 1907 and Priest in 1910. The years 1907 to 1909, he spent in training in All Souls' Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia, Pa., under the guidance of the late Rev. C. Orvis Dantzer.

The Deaf-Mutes' Journal says editorially in its issue of April 26, 1925:

"Mr. Hefflon was devoted to the work of the Episcopal Church in New England. No more self sacrificing, and self-immolating, man ever lived. How he subsisted on his infinitesimally small stipend is incomprehensible. He served the cause of the Deaf, and carried to them the offices of the church with zeal and love and they should ever revere his memory."

Dr. William White, Second Bishop of the Episcopal Church,

One of the Founders and the First President

The Board of Directors, Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf.

The Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf, Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, Pa., is one of the greatest Schools for the Deaf in the world. It has an annual enrollment of over five hundred pupils and the arrangement of its large buildings and ample grounds is a model for other Schools for the Deaf. Its Oral system of instruction, with a slight change, as most Deaf people believe, in the direction of greater flexibility and latitude, is ideal. Its Superintendent, A.L.E. Crouter, LL.D., is a true friend of the Deaf,---a man of sound judgment, broad sympathies, equable temperament and extraordinary patience and modesty. To have had training in this school stamps a teacher as a desirable acquisition. The intellectual, religious, moral and physical training the pupils receive is carried along such broad lines as to make for the best results in after-school life.

The history of the founding of the School is unusual and interesting. Early in 1820 David G. Seixas, a philanthropic Jew, established a class of deaf children in his small grocery store on Market Street, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets, Philadelphia. He gathered these children from the streets and alleys of the city, and not only taught them as best as he could but also often fed and clothed them.

One bright day in March, 1820, while Bishop White of the Episcopal Church was walking down Market Street he saw a bright looking, though uneducated deaf boy drawing wonderfully artistic pictures with colored crayons on the pavement and upon the walls of nearby houses in return for pennies thrown to him by the passers-by. Recalling the Class for Deaf Children, the Bishop took him to David G. Seixas and had him installed as a pupil at his own expense. Some time afterwards the name of that boy was ascertained to be Albert Newman, son of a widow of Steubenville, Ohio.

On April 12, 1820, Bishop White called a meeting of thirty prominent citizens in the Assembly Room of the Philosophical Society on South Third Street and urged the need of a School for the Deaf. Two weeks later, on April 26, another meeting of these gentlemen was held at which they decided to establish the School. They elected Bishop White to be President of their Board of Directors and David G. Seixas Principal of the School. The location selected was a large building on Eleventh and Market Streets. The School was moved to Broad and Pine Streets in November, 1825, and to Mt. Airy in October, 1892.

Bishop White presided over the School until his death on July 17, 1838. He had the great satisfaction of seeing Samuel Newman develop into a well educated and up-standing man and one of the foremost lithographers of his day.

Scripture Text for this Issue;---"And looking up to heaven, he saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened,--St. Mark 7:34."

News and Comment.

Our Easter in Baltimore was a most inspiring one. Large numbers of our deaf communicants received the Holy Communion. Gloria Jacqueline Coffey was baptized in the beautiful new Baptistry of Grace and St. Peter's Ch.

On the Sunday after Easter and the next day the Missionary held services in St. John's Church, Hagerstown, and Emmanuel Church, Cumberland. In Emmanuel Church he baptized Howard James Metty.

The Lecture on "Health," delivered by Miss Edith M. Nelson of Gallaudet College, Washington, D.C., on Friday, May 1, was a rare treat for many.

Forthcoming Events in Baltimore:

- Strawberry Festival and Moving Pictures, Friday, May 29th.
---Mrs. Leitner, Chairman.
- Business Meeting of the Helping Hand Society, Friday, June 5th.
---Mr. G.M. Leitner, President.
- Bible Class Picnic, Gwynn Oak Park, Saturday, June 13th.
Mr. Frederic Murphy, Chairman.

Rev. Mr. Whildin preached in the W. Va. School for the Deaf on April 21.