

# THE SILENT



# NEWS-LETTER

*And they bring unto him one that was deaf, and had an impediment in his speech; and they beseech him to lay his hand upon him. And he took him aside from the multitude privately, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat, and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. And his ears were opened, and the bond of his tongue was loosed, and he spake plain. And they were beyond measure astonished, saying, He hath done all things well.—St. Mark VII:32-37.*

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, 605 Wilson Ave., Roland Park, Baltimore, Maryland.

November, 1925.

Vol. II. No. 2.

## Editorials

The President of the United States and the Governors of the Various States have by Proclamation set aside Thursday, November 26th, as a Day of National Thanksgiving. This time-honored custom of thanking God dates from the landing of our Pilgrim Fathers upon Plymouth Rock in 1620. It is a custom that touches the heart strings of our people in different ways and with varying intensity. The more usual observance of the Day takes the form of silent or audible praise to God for His goodness, in the assemblies of the churches and the homes, to be followed by a bountiful feast of our choicest possessions of earth's yield.

We, the Deaf people of the United States, in particular, have much for which we should be thankful. The Horn of Plenty is full and we are at peace. The bright light of education is penetrating more and more into the dark places and transforming thousands of individual lives among us into lives of happiness and usefulness. The year 1925 has witnessed a tremendous forward step in increased attention to our schools, churches and missions. In no previous year have we had so many generous and truly helpful friends!

One of our observant young women, who is a graduate of Gallaudet College for the Deaf, Washington, D.C., and was for some years a successful teacher of Deaf children in one of our far southern schools, returned recently from a tour of England and Scotland with the discouraging information that in her judgment the Deaf those two countries are 50% behind the Deaf of the United States in matters of education and progress. If such a low estimate reflects the true condition of the Deaf in the enlightened British Empire, what must be the condition of the Deaf of the continents of Europe, Asia and Africa? We shudder in contemplation of it. Truly, God is good to us!

---

Of the many Reports made to the recent General Convention of the Episcopal Church, held in New Orleans, perhaps the most interesting in point of the human touch was that on the Educational Statistics of the Clergy ordained in the Triennium, 1922-1925.

Were such statistics applied to the sixteen Episcopal Clergy now engaged in the Work among the Deaf in the United States it would be shown among other things that the Racial Origin of 9 of them is British, 6 of them German and 1 of them Swedish; that the Church Origin of 7 of them is Anglican, 4 of them Methodist, 3 of them Lutheran, 1 of them Roman Catholic and 1 of them Baptist; that as to Local Origin, 9 came from the cities, 6 from the towns and 1 from the farm; that as to Collegiate Records, 2 hold Degrees of S.T.B., 1 the Degree of D.D., 6 the Degrees of M.A., 2 the Degrees of B.A., 1 the Degree of B.Ph., while only 3 possess no College Degrees; that 8 took Seminary Courses, 2 took courses under the private direction of Seminary Deans and 6 under the personal or delegated direction of their Bishops; that the Previous Professions of 5 of them was Teaching, of 1 of them Editorial Work, of 1 of them Photography, of 1 of them Architecture, of 2 of them Factory Work, of 1 of them Farming while 6 had no previous profession or trade. The average age of the sixteen at ordination was close to 30 years.

---

## Some Thoughts for Churchmen.

Henry Clay (American statesman, 1777-1852), himself the son of a Baptist preacher, said: "Years of observation and study have led me to the conclusion that the stability of our Government depends upon the perpetuation of two institutions. One of these and the most important

of the two, is the Episcopal Church, and the other is the Supreme Court of the United States."

The News (Roman Catholic) lately said: "The gain of the Episcopal Church in this country,--steady, onward, undeniable,--is one of the remarkable characteristics of our time."

Public Opinion said: "The growth of the Protestant Episcopal Church far exceeds, proportionally, that of the population-at-large. It looks like the Church of the future."

Of the twenty Missionaries to the Deaf in the United States 16 are Episcopalians, 3 are Methodists and 2 are Baptists. The Roman Catholic, the Lutheran and the Reformed Presbyterian Churches conduct Missions for the Deaf in the larger cities but they do not ordain Deaf men to their Ministries.

Of the seven or more Church Papers published in the United States in the interests of the Missions to the Deaf, 6 are Episcopalian and 1 is Methodist.

In view of the above opinions and figures we sometimes wonder whether we, deaf churchmen, are as proud of our Church as we should be. Are we, asks the St. John's Parish News of Hagerstown, Md., doing our share to help in the growth of our Church,--to increase its influence,--by being regular attendants at its Services, by contributing generously to its support, and by urging upon non-members the many good reasons for uniting with it? Let us all, the News concludes, bear an active part in this wonderful and, to the mind of some, extraordinary and explicable, development of our Church.

---

The following interesting item is taken from a recent issue of Time, a weekly publication of New York City:

"A Volume, three inches thick bound in black seal and inscribed 'In Memoriam, Calvin Coolidge, Jr.,' was completed last week by the deaf and dumb employees of Walter Hyams & Co. of Manhattan. It was ordered by President Coolidge soon after his younger son's death more than a year ago. The volume is filled with clippings chronologically arranged and mounted so as to insure permanency."

The explanation for the selection of the deaf employees for the delicate task probably is to be found in their greater skill as craftsmen, their greater observation of details and their greater industry and speed. But it also should be remembered that Mrs. Coolidge before her marriage was a teacher in a School for the Deaf and that probably the deaf printers and book-binders were given the work at her suggestion. In any event, deafness is not always a loss and, on the other hand, it may sometimes be a gain.

---

Scripture Text for this Issue: "And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake and praised God."

---

#### News and Comment

We bespeak for Mrs. Clara E. Werner of Baltimore sincere sorrow upon the recent death of her father.

A Supper and Apron Sale will be held in the Parish House in Baltimore on November 27th, 6 to 8 p.m. These Suppers are always delightful.

Miss Elizabeth Moss of Govans, Md., will deliver an address upon her recent trip through England and Scotland in the Parish House in Baltimore on Friday, December 4th, 8 p.m. Be sure to come!

Our old friend, Mr. Howard Brumbaugh of State Line, Franklin Co., Pa., who has been employed as mail carrier in the above town for many years, is gradually succumbing to the infirmities of age. Mr. Brumbaugh has been a regular worshipper at the services for the Deaf in St. John's Church, Hagerstown, Md., for many years. State Line is seven miles from Hagerstown. We shall miss his cheery and inspiring presence.

Miss Kate Sarges of Boonsboro, Md., has retired to a well earned rest in the Home for the Aged, Frederick, Md. Miss Sarges attended the first service which established the Mission for the Deaf at St. John's Church, Hagerstown, Md., in 1898.

Mr. August Wriede, who taught in the Romney, West Virginia, School for the Deaf last year, has taken up his residence in Baltimore.

Mrs. Nora Wagoner of Pattersons Creek, West Virginia, after several months of travel, has settled in Cumberland, Md..