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ERNSTOGRAPHS

By J. ERNST GALLAHER

SUBJECT:— Deaf Principals and Head Teachers.



QUARTER of a century ago there appeared to be no reason why a capable deaf man should not be principal of a school for the deaf. Then we had Rider of the Northern New York School, Simpson of the South Dakota and Spear of the North Dakota Schools, White of the Utah, Larson of the New Mexico, and Emery of the Chicago Day Schools. All these places are now filled by hearing people. If a deaf man should apply in case of a vacancy the powers that be probably would be surprised. The reason? Simply because he is deaf. Times have changed, and the public would no more think of having a deaf man at the head of any of the above schools than it would of going back to the use of the stage coach in the place of the steam engine. Speed and dispatch in conversation and the transaction of business, and the constant use of the telephone is the order of the day. There is to-day just one kind of school where



J. SCHUYLER LONG, M.A.
Principal Iowa School

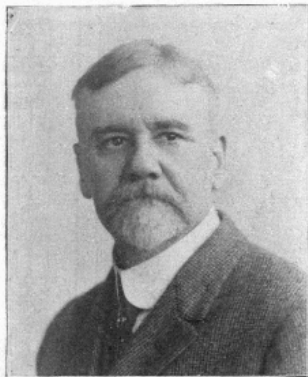
ness conversations that he always had his daughter act as interpreter. Many of the parents of the pupils could not write, while others were foreigners, so that it was necessary to have an interpreter all the time. This was noticed by the members of the board of education, who later inquired: Why not get a man as principal who can hear and thereby dispense with this round-about way of holding communication? The change was made about 15 years ago. Since then the Chicago Schools have averaged 250 pupils, whereas under the deaf principal they never reached beyond 75.

The above two cases are by no means the only ones where a change of principals from deaf to hearing resulted in great improvement all around. All of which shows what an immense advantage a hearing man has over one who is deaf when it comes to running a school. The latter may be as well qualified, but his deafness is a serious impediment to the complete success of the school.

There are at present only two deaf principals in our state schools. They are Robert Patterson of the Ohio School and J. Schuyler Long of the Iowa School. Our head teachers are really the superintendent's first assistant and should be designated as "principals" and have entire charge of the school work in co-operation with the superintendent.

The following is a list of all the deaf heads of schools for the deaf that I can remember. An asterisk before the name indicates the person is deceased:

- | Name | Principal of What School. |
|-----------------------|---|
| 1. *William Willard | Indiana School. |
| 2. *James Denison | Kendall School. |
| 3. *Henry Rider | Northern New York School. |
| 4. *James Simpson | South Dakota School. |
| 5. R. A. Spear | North Dakota School. |
| 6. Henry C. White | Utah School. |
| 7. Lars M. Larson | New Mexico School. |
| 8. James H. Logan | Western Pennsylvania School. |
| 9. *Thomas Widd | Mackay School. |
| 10. *P. A. Emery | Chicago Day Schools. |
| 11. *Delos A. Simpson | St. Louis Day School. |
| 12. *R. P. McGregor | Cincinnati Day School, Colorado School. |
| 13. *Mr. Lawrence | New Orleans Day School. |
| 14. *Mr. Wood | Cincinnati Day School. |
| 15. C. R. Carroll | Cleveland Day School. |



ROBERT PATTERSON, M.A., Litt.D.
Principal Ohio School

the deaf fit nicely as principals, and that is as principal in state schools with a hearing man as superintendent. For such a position they are peculiarly well qualified, and there should be more of them. Their work is confined to the school proper, and they do not come in contact with the business world, nor with patrons of the school.

Not many years ago we had a deaf principal of a small state school. He conducted it with more or less success for a number of years, but the authorities finally tired of being obliged to converse with him by writing, and suggested that he accept a teacher's position and they would select a hearing man. He declined. The board summarily removed him. His successor has since made a phenomenal success of the school, and it has many more pupils than the deaf man ever dreamed of obtaining.

The question of justice or injustice does not enter in this case. It was simply a demand of the times.

Another deaf man had for some 25 years been principal of the Chicago day schools. He founded them. He also founded the Kansas School a good many years ago. His deafness proved such a great inconvenience and waste of time in busi-

16. J. M. Koehler—Scranton Day School.
 17. *Charles Kerney—Evansville Day School.
 18. Paul Lange—Evansville Day School.
 19. J. E. Gallagher—Evansville Day School.
- Henry C. White is at present in charge of a school for the deaf in Tucson, Arizona, which is maintained in connection with the University of Arizona.

We shall now learn a little bit about each of the gentlemen who are such a credit to our class.

Robert Patterson

The Ohio boys are famous for "doing things." Whenever any worthy project affecting the deaf is being pushed one may be sure to find the deaf of Ohio among the most enthusiastic workers and liberal contributors. The deaf of the State receive their inspiration largely from the teachers of the Columbus School, and particularly from Mr. Patterson. He was invited to deliver a lecture to the deaf of Chicago on the 29th of last November, under the auspices of the Pas-a-Pas Club, and the manner in which he disported him-



JAMES H. CLOUD, M.A.
Principal St. Louis Day School

self proved that he would be feeling young and be full of agility if he lived to be 90 years old.

Mr. Patterson has been connected with the Ohio School as teacher and principal for 43 years. It is he who outlines the course of study, supervises the work of the teachers and has general oversight over the educational department. This calls for both intelligence and business ability of a high order, and these are embodied in the make-up of Mr. Patterson, otherwise different superintendents would not have continued him in office.

J. Schuyler Long

Every educated deaf man and woman who is a subscriber of one or more of the papers published in the interest of our class has heard of Mr. Long's Dictionary of Signs. Those who are neither subscribers nor borrowers are still in the dark. The public library of Chicago has a copy. One day last fall I was there looking up titles of books on "The Signs of the North American Indians" for a former superintendent of a school for the deaf. The attendant, thinking it was something new to me, invited my attention to a card index describing Mr. Long's dictionary!

Mr. Long was educated at the Iowa School and at Gallaudet College. After graduation he was appointed a teacher in the Wisconsin School for the Deaf by Mr. Swiler. For four years he was

also in charge of the gymnasium of that school. Several years ago he resigned to accept a place on the teaching staff of his alma mater. He is one of the editors of the Hawkeye.

James H. Cloud

It was while a college student at Gallaudet that religious work appealed to Mr. Cloud, and he was led to believe his special field lay in preaching the Gospel. This is still his belief and he is still engaged in such work, though at the same time filling the position of head of the St. Louis Day School. He has been holding his present position for 23 years, and no question need be asked as to his fitness. School boards in our great cities are not composed of Rip Vanwinkles, and do not retain any one in their service unless he or she makes good by showing good results. St. Thomas Mission was founded by Mr. Cloud in St. Louis the same year he became principal and has been in a flourishing condition ever since. For the social and intellectual improvement of the deaf of his city Mr. Cloud a few years ago started a "Public Opinion Meeting," in connection with the above mission. Meetings are held monthly, and prove of much benefit to those who attend.



THOMAS F. FOX, M.A., Litt.D.
Head Teacher, Librarian and Assistant to Principal, New York School

Thomas Francis Fox

Mr. Fox was placed in the high class of the Fairwood School when he was entered as a pupil in the fall of 1874. This was because, after losing his hearing when about eleven years old, he continued to attend the public schools until he graduated. After graduating from the New York school in 1879 he went to Gallaudet College, graduating therefrom in 1883. He obtained employment in New York as a reporter, intending to make journalism his profession. A visit to his alma mater after three months' work as a journalist caused him to accept a position as teacher of one of the primary classes. For 30 years he has been a teacher, and a very successful one, and this change in his career has compelled us to wait yet a little longer for a deaf James Gordon Bennett or a Henry Labouchere to appear and prove to the world by the free use of the pen that "silence is golden."

James L. Smith

A deaf person of any worth who has not heard of this man must be far behind the times. A singularly successful educator, editor and preparer of programs, as exemplified in the monthly teachers' meetings of the Minnesota School, this man of the commonest of names has shown himself to be very uncommon in certain things. Unaffected and courteous he makes friends with everybody, and more especially so with Ichabod Crane!

Mr. Smith first taught a year in the Wisconsin



JAMES L. SMITH, M.A., Litt.D.
Head Teacher, Minnesota School

School. An exceptionally fine deaf teacher named George Wing having resigned his position in the Minnesota School to accept one with a bigger salary (said to have been \$1,800) in the Illinois School, Superintendent Noyes offered Mr. Smith the position made vacant, which he accepted. This was 28 years ago. During the illness of the late Dr. Noyes Mr. Smith served for two years as principal. His editorials in the Companion, as well as other reading matter, are always worth reading.

Albert Berg

The State of Indiana has one deaf man who is something of an expert on life insurance in this graduate of the Indiana School and of Gallaudet College. This is one reason why he looks askance at fraternal organizations of the deaf. He is apparently of the opinion that by thus organizing themselves into a body of their own they are apologizing to the public for their infirmity and advertising themselves before the world as poor unfortunates whom organizations for the hearing do not desire as members, which is not true. His researches have also convinced him that few fraternal societies backed by many thousands of dollars have stood the test of time.

Mr. Berg easily makes friends with everybody,



ALBERT BERG, M.A.
Head Teacher and Librarian, Indiana School

and is always a welcome visitor among the deaf when he is in Chicago. His business takes him to that city every summer. Since the death of Mr. Demotte he has been head teacher in the school. He is also editor of the Alumni department of the Silent Hoosier, and a well known writer to the literature of the deaf.

Arthur L. Roberts

This is a little man with a big head (no reference to the swelled variety) and a generous heart. Six years ago he married Miss Ida Wiedenmeyer of Cleveland, partly to relieve her of carrying such a burdensome name but chiefly owing to the promptings of his heart. She was educated at the Ohio School, while he is a product of the school where he now teaches. He began married life as a compositor in a large printing-office in Chicago, where he displayed a knack for doing a special kind of job work which required exactness. This consisted of setting up matter for railway blank-book work. Had he remained where he was he would today be receiving \$24.00 every Saturday 52 times during the year, but he accepted a position as teacher which ex-Superintendent Hammond offered him. Thus Chicago



ARTHUR L. ROBERTS, M.A.
Head Teacher Manual Department, Kansas School

was minus one star in its constellation of intelligent deaf men. For several years he was editor of the Kansas Star, making that weekly one of the most interesting and newsy of school papers for the deaf. He is Secretary of the N. A. D., which attests to his capabilities and popularity.

James W. Sowell

of the Nebraska School taught in the Baltimore School for the Deaf from 1900 to 1903. In the latter year he accepted a position in the Nebraska School, soon after being made head teacher of the manual department by Superintendent Stewart. He was educated in the Alabama School and entered Gallaudet College in 1895. He had much to do with the improvement in size and make-up of the Buff and Blue, being editor-in-chief in 1900. He received the degree of Bachelor of Arts from Gallaudet, and in 1901-3 took a University Extension Course in Literature under the auspices of Johns Hopkins University. From Gallaudet College he received the degree of Master of Arts in 1903. He is at present Head Teacher of the Manual Department and Acting principal in the absence of the Superintendent. He has prepared the "year book" of the school for several years, and from 1907 to 1913 was editor of the Nebraska Journal. In 1901 he married Miss Maud H. Brizendine, B.A. They own their home, which is situated on one of the boulevards of Omaha. Have two children, both girls.

Mr. Sowell is at present a student in the Uni-

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JAMES W. SOWELL, M.A.
Head Teacher Manual Department, Nebraska School

versity of Nebraska, studying for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The work is done in absentia. He goes to Lincoln once in a while for conferences with the professors who are instructing him. He has already covered a number of subjects in education.

H. Lorraine Tracy

The Episcopal Church claims this young man of 46 as one of its ministers, while the Louisiana School is proud to have been among its list of teachers. He also is editor of the school paper, called *The Pelican*, and edits it well. He graduated as valedictorian of his class in the Iowa School in 1885, and entered Gallaudet College in the same year. While at college he managed to

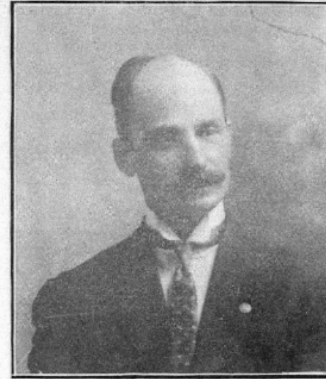


SHELBY W. HARRIS, B.A.
Head Teacher Manual Department, Superintendent's Assistant and Editor, Mississippi School

earn some money by acting as clerk in the department of ethnology of the National Museum. He has been connected with the Louisiana School many years and is popular among the deaf of the Southern States, among whom he goes to preach the gospel as often as he can spare the time.

Shelby W. Harris

This promising young man of 24 began teaching in the above school in the fall of 1912. His father was a newspaper man. While a student at Gallaudet College Mr. Harris did newspaper work for three dailies of Washington, reporting the college happenings. He was one of the four honor graduates selected by the college faculty from a class of twenty-one to deliver orations. He is at present teaching a class of six pupils, who



H. LORRAINE TRACY, B.A.
Head Teacher, Indiana School

are to graduate next June, three of whom expect to return in the fall for a post-graduate course and examinations for Gallaudet College.

Mr. Harris is filling the place so long occupied by the late Charles S. Deem, and has already given evidence of being the right man for such a position. He is member of the Executive Committee of the N. A. D.; Secretary of the Executive Committee to prepare for the 1914 Grand Conclave of the Kappa Gamma Fraternity of Gallaudet College, and Secretary of the Mississippi Association of the Deaf.

I failed to receive the photograph of one of the eight head teachers in time for this number. It is that of Louis A. Divine, B.A., head teacher in the Vancouver (Washington) School for the Deaf.