

(1898). James E. Gallaher *Silent Worker*, 10 (9), pg. 132.

Written for THE SILENT WORKER.

JAMES ERNST GALLAHER.

THE portrait and sketch which we give this month of this widely known and popular deaf gentleman is especially timely in view of the publication of his work on the prominent deaf persons of America.

We speak further of this book in another column, and we hope it will find a wide sale among the deaf and their friends.



JAMES ERNST GALLAHER.

Mr. Gallaher was born in Girard, Ill., Feb. 4th, 1858, and lost his hearing by an attack of "spotted fever" when he was seven years old.

He entered the Illinois school for the deaf in the autumn of 1868, and remained there for nine years, graduating with the valedictory in June, 1877. While at school he learned printing and after leaving school secured employment in the office of the State Printer at Springfield, but, after less than a year's trial, found that the confinement to a compositor's desk was too hard for his health, which had been enfeebled by a severe illness and a surgical operation at the age of eighteen.

In 1879 he came to Chicago to look for employment and secured a position as a teacher in the Day-school for the Deaf, where he has been ever since, and where he is now the senior teacher. Besides the work of teaching, he has from time to time been engaged in various other undertakings connected with the interests of the deaf. In 1880, in connection with Mr. D. W. George, of the Illinois Institution, he founded the "Chicago Letter," a monthly paper for the deaf, which was discontinued after a year's trial. From March 1894 to April 1896, he was managing editor of the "National Exponent," a paper for the deaf, which enlisted the co-operation of many of the brightest deaf persons in the country. It was generally recognized as an able paper, but its extreme position in opposition to oralism prevented it from being regarded as an organ of the deaf at large.

He is widely known among the deaf and concerned with the deaf throughout the country, and is considered one of the most effective writers and hardest workers in their ranks.

Mr. Gallaher was, from 1894 to 1897, President of the Illinois Alumni Association, now known as the Illinois Gallaudet Union.

He married in 1881 Miss Jennie E. Gilchrist, a graduate of the Illinois Institution, a lady of much personal charm, a bright scholar and a graceful writer. She is a fine lip-reader and speaks with remarkable ease and clearness. Mr. Gallaher, although, like her, a semi-mute and having had the training of the same school, has not retained his speech to the same extent. Although his memory of spoken language is clear, he finds that he is not readily understood, and he prefers to carry on conversation with those who do not use the finger alphabet by means of writing.

He married in 1881 Miss Jennie E. Gilchrist, a graduate of the Illinois Institution, a lady of much personal charm, a bright scholar and a graceful writer. She is a fine lip-reader and speaks with remarkable ease and clearness. Mr. Gallaher, although, like her, a semi-mute and having had the training of the same school, has not retained his speech to the same extent. Although his memory of spoken language is clear, he finds that he is not readily understood, and he prefers to carry on conversation with those who do not use the finger alphabet by means of writing.