

THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE

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Institute for the Deaf, 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit, Michigan

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Number 4

Dedication of the Stricker Memorial Window in Our Institute Chapel, April 23, A.D., 1944

On the afternoon of April 23 a beautiful stained glass chancel window in our chapel was dedicated. The window is the gift of Mrs. L. J. Reindel in memory of her parents, Mr. & Mrs. J. Stricker. The Rev. G. Otte and the Rev. H. R. Wacker officiated at the service while the Rev. N. Borchardt interpreted the service in the sign language to the members of Our Savior Congregation for the Deaf who were present. The Rev. Otte preached on Mark 7:31-37.

Of stained glass windows in a church, Pastor Otte, among other things, said, "Let a man see good and beautiful things in the church and he'll rightly conclude: To these people the best things are not too good for God. The Gospel must mean something to have called forth such devotion and sacrifice. So the upward pull of such a chancel window can serve a worthy purpose picturing to men's minds—and who doesn't cherish pictures—the Christ on whom our hope and salvation hinge.

"Stained glass windows in a church building serve not only to beautify the sanctuary with becoming art, but to educate young and old in religious truth.—A window is not a canvas painting or

mural, it must let light through, it must serve as a part of the wall, and must tie in with the design and the purpose of the building. That this window does this must be clear to all.

"In the center panel of our window you see the Beautiful Savior performing His healing miracle on the deafmute, as recorded by Saint Mark in his 7th chapter, verses 31 to 37. In the west panel stands the figure of Moses with the Old Testament protection God threw around the deaf: "Thou shalt not curse the deaf." Lev. 19:4. In the east panel is the figure of Zacharias, father of John the Baptist, shown as a boy. In Saint Luke's Gospel we are told that Zacharias was stricken with dumbness because he doubted the angel's message, and was delivered from that affliction on the day the forerunner of Christ was named John. St. Luke 1:63. May this comforting Bible story in glass serve as a fitting adornment for this holy place and as a lasting inspiration to all who worship here till the great day dawn when we shall all hear Christ's gracious voice calling upon the gates of paradise to open unto us that we may ever be with the Lord."

TO PARENTS OF LITTLE DEAF CHILDREN

Suggestions Offered by the Lexington School for the Deaf

Your Attitude Toward Your Child

1. Your little boy or girl is deaf; but he can see, taste, feel, smell; can be happy and sad; can run or jump and play; can be naughty or good. In everything except perfect hearing you have a normal child.

TREAT your child exactly as you would if he were not deaf. See to it that he has fun; takes part in the family life; has the care and understanding you would give a normally hearing child; is as obedient, helpful and polite as your hearing children.

2. The sorrow you feel in your heart because of your child's handicap should never be seen by the child. If the problem seems too great for you at times and you are near tears, go into a room alone

and weep there if you must. NEVER let your child see you cry. Wear a happy, pleasant expression for him at all times. Learn how to help your child. There are so many interesting things to do and so many ways a family can help, that there is no time to spend grieving.

3. Learn how to make your child mind without getting angry or excited. A little child gets lots of fun out of seeing grown-ups lose their tempers. Be firm, be fair, be consistent in your treatment. Nobody likes a spoiled child. It is not fair to a child to let him acquire

habits that will make life harder for him.

4. TALK to your deaf child all the time. Use simple language that any little child would understand. Use whole sentences, not separate words. The child will not understand all that you SAY, but in many instances he will understand what you MEAN. The time, the place and your expression will all help him to comprehend what you are talking about.

5. Love and enjoy your baby every day of his life. Don't let the handicap that he must bear all through life weigh you down so



Our Association President, Lt. Commander Fred J. Auch

that you are unable to give your child the intelligent care, and love, and happiness at home that are the birthright of every little child.

II. Hints for Proper Guidance

1. A child is the greatest imitator in the world. He will do exactly what you do. This is a very important thing to keep in mind, for it is not what you TELL your child that matters; it is what you DO. If you want your child to be neat and clean, if you want him to have nice manners, you must set the example. YOU set the example for everything your child learns.

Teach Him "Mine and Thine"

2. A child has no instinctive knowledge of "mine and thine." Every child born into this world has to learn the idea of ownership. If your child destroys something of yours, it was not because he intended to do this. To help children learn of "mine and thine," see that your child has his own toys, tooth brush, wash cloth, towel, his own little shelves, and his own closet (if possible). Then teach him to keep his little belongings in their proper places and to care for them nicely—as you do with your things.

Teach Him to Be Orderly

3. A child can be helped to be orderly by making things easy for him. Put hooks, racks, shelves that the child will use, down low enough so that the child may reach them easily.

4. Make your child responsible. Some parents think that the more they do for their children the better parents they are. This is not true. YOU CAN HELP YOUR CHILD ONLY WHEN YOU HELP HIM TO HELP HIMSELF.

Teach Him Self-Reliance

5. As soon as possible, allow your child to do things for himself. He will, of course, be slow. You naturally could wash or feed him much more quickly yourself. That is not the point. A child learns BY DOING, and so long as you do for your child what the child could do for himself, you are not only spoiling the little boy or girl, but you are depriving him of opportunities to learn. As soon as you can, teach your child:

- To feed himself
- To wash his face and hands
- To go to the bathroom
- To put on his own shoes, and later to lace them
- To take care of his things

In Discipline, Emphasize the Important

6. Try to decide in your mind

what is really important in your child's behavior (at a certain age), and what is not. Then make your child obey in the important matters and overlook the rest. Don't nag at a child. NEVER punish a child for something he could not help.

7. Let your child understand that when you say "No," you mean "No," and you mean it every single time. If you give in once you are lost, for the child will have lost confidence in your judgment.

Isolate a Child Who Misbehaves

8. One of the best forms of discipline we find is isolation. In other words, if a child deliberately keeps on doing what he shouldn't, we place him in a corner behind a screen or in a room alone. We don't get angry about it, but we make the child understand that we will not permit the action that is wrong, and that when he is willing



Enjoying the Ocean Wave

to "be good," he can come back into the group. This would work just as well at home. The child may cry, but that doesn't hurt him. Remember that if you can't learn to control your child when he is little, you will never be able to do so, and future years will bring you trouble and unhappiness.

Never Threaten a Child

9. Depriving a child of some privilege is another approved and harmless but helpful way of imposing the sometimes necessary disciplinary action when behavior has not been satisfactory. Never threaten a child unless you intend to carry out what you say. Best of all, never threaten; but once having done so you must fulfill your promise, else the child will have no respect for your word.

(To be continued)

History of the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf

II

(Continued)

Of the slow and meager beginnings of our Institute we read in the minutes of a special meeting of the association held January 14, 1874, as follows: "The dedication of the new home and the installation of Pastor Speckhardt was then discussed. But after the building committee had reported that the home was not entirely completed, and that it could not be occupied as yet because there was still too much moisture in the plaster, it was resolved to postpone the dedication. It was further resolved that a committee consisting of Messrs. Schuler, Jung, Glogner and Widow try to obtain gifts of stoves and set them up in the home to dry out the walls and ceilings. This committee shall also determine when the "home" is ready to be occupied."

"Since no outdoor meeting can be arranged for a dedicatory service due to the inclement weather conditions at this time of the year, and since no proper auditorium for such a service is available in Royal Oak, it was resolved that Pastor Speckhardt dedicate the "home" at a time and date convenient to himself."

In the minutes of the meeting held February 12, 1874, we find the following recordings:—"The committee appointed to inspect the new "home" reported that the house was completed and recommended its acceptance from the building committee. Messrs. Glogner and Jung reported further that much could be done to beautify the building. For example, the walls and ceilings should have a finish coat of fine plaster, and they also should have two coats of paint. Resolved that due to the disagreeable season as well as due to the fact that Pastor Speckhardt is sorely in need of more room, no further work be begun at this time.—Evidently Supt. Speckhardt was then asked to occupy the house with his family and the orphans and deaf children who had been received up to this time.

In Pastor Speckhardt's report on the conditions in the "home," he stressed the need of a teacher to assist him at teaching the deaf children, of whom eleven had already been enrolled and more had applied for admission. The minutes of February 12, 1874, state, "Resolved that this matter be taken up in a future meeting."

Seemingly in those days our people were not insurance-minded. This we see from a paragraph of the minutes of the same meeting. The Board of Directors had recommended to the Association that it take out fire insurance on its building. The Association's resolution pertaining to this matter reads as follows:—"Resolved that we do not insure our building against fire, but that we commend it into the care and protection of the Lord."—Mr. Schwanebek was received as a new member of the Association in this meeting.

In the special meeting of February 19, 1874, Supt. Speckhardt reported the need of tables and benches for the dining room and the school room, also that bedding, quilts, chairs and wash-stands were sorely needed for the bedrooms. Hereupon Mr. C. Flach offered to donate some old school furniture. The pastors were asked to appeal to the Ladies' Aid Societies for the necessary quilts and bedding, and the Association resolved to have two dining room tables built, each table to be six feet long and three feet and three inches wide.

In the Board meeting of March, 1874, Pastor Huegli suggested that the orphanage be publicised in more distant places. This, however, was not done because the home was already overcrowded with children. In this meeting it was also resolved to recommend to the Association that it call a teacher candidate from the Seminary at Addison, Illinois, to assist Pastor Speckhardt in the school. In a subsequent meeting of the Association this recommendation was concurred in. The candidate called evidently did not accept the call, since in the minutes of a later meeting we read that teacher Backhaus from Venedy, Illinois, was called. He also declined the call. He later accepted a professorship at our Teachers' College at Addison, Illinois. Later Teacher Grau of Saginaw, Michigan, was called twice, but he declined.—No doubt these teachers declined the call because they felt that they were not qualified to enter into this field of special education.—

Editor's note:—To this day the matter of obtaining a staff of qualified teachers for a school for the deaf is a serious problem, but thanks to the blessings of God, our school has a complete and outstanding faculty.

(To be continued)

an ever increasing number were being enrolled

A DAY IN THE BOYS' DORMITORY

A person who knows little of deaf children may say, "They must be very quiet children," or "it must be a quiet place to work," but we who work with them know that they like to make as much noise, or more, than children who hear. They laugh and shout as loudly as other children. The boys' dormitory is not exactly a quiet place, it is a place of many activities.

The day begins at 7 A.M. The housemothers go to each room to wake the boys. Often some are already awake and kneeling beside their beds saying their morning prayers. The older boys make their own beds, the younger ones are helped by the housemother. All must be washed and combed and dressed by 7:30, when breakfast is served.

After breakfast the older boys have certain duties to perform, but the little ones play till 8:30. Then all over again faces and hands must be washed, hair combed and teeth brushed so that they are neat and tidy for morning devotions in the chapel, and for school which begins immediately after the chapel exercises. In chapel the little ones often look at the pictures of Jesus and tell us that Jesus is good, and that they love Jesus.

The morning session of school is

over at 11:45 and once again hands must be washed and hair combed for dinner. (There is an endless round of washing and combing) In the dining room there are hurried glances about the tables to see what there is to eat, some want "little" of this and "big" of that according to their liking, but all must try to eat at least some of all the food on the table. One day we persuaded Kenneth to eat at least one pea, a few days later he told Mr. Klein he had eaten "three." Before each meal hands are folded and a prayer is said. One day little Clifford had a bright idea; he folded his hands on the way to the dining room, then when he got to his place he was "all finished" and started to eat. (These little boys often have ideas of their own which at times are real humorous.)

After dinner there is a rest period and then all go back to school till 3:15. After school all the little ones make sure that the housemother won't forget that apple or orange or candy from "boxes from home." Then, if the weather permits, we go to our large and well-equipped playground for some real fun and recreation. In bad weather the boys go to the large basement, where there are tricycles and wagons to play with. The big boys have competitive games or classes in manual training.

At 5:30 comes the clean-up call

for supper. Shortly after supper the little ones are ready for bed. With folded hands they pray their evening prayers with the housemother. The shades are drawn when they are put to bed, but one evening little Robert asked to have one shade left up "so Jesus could look in." The other boys soon follow according to age. The time does come eventually when all is peaceful and quiet for the night.

Saturdays and Sundays are different, the children are "free," no school. The older boys have some responsibilities in the morning for which they are then rewarded by granting them some special privileges in the afternoon. The smaller ones are active all day on the playgrounds.

On Sundays we all go to our beautiful chapel services. In the afternoon we go for a long walk, or play, or see an interesting educational movie in the basement auditorium.

Besides all this routine, there is an additional routine for the housemothers. There is the child who is not quite well or who is actually ill. If a child is ill, he is taken to the hospital room where he is cared for. There are bruises and cuts to be taken care of. There is clothing to be packed away, bags to be packed for those who are going home for holidays and week-ends. Baths have to be given and supervised. There is also the de-

sire to help these boys make use of the speech and lip-reading which they have learned in the school-rooms. We also try to help them learn to live together happily, and to do the things that are right.

To mother fifty boys is by no means an easy task. However it has many compensations, the greatest of which is the knowledge that by ministering unto these handicapped little ones we serve our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ.

—Deaconess Mary Twenhafel

LETTERS

Parents' Appreciation

Chicago, Ill., 1944.

Dear Mr. Klein:

Ever since the Christmas holidays I've been wanting to write to you. It is hard to find words to express to you—and through you to the school—the happiness and gratitude we feel for Barbara's development. I shall never forget our first week-end in Detroit, when we left Barbara in your care. Nothing could stop my tears; nothing could check my fears. When you so kindly told me that she would soon adjust herself to her new life—that we would miss her far more than she would miss us—that, in time, she would happily wave goodbye to us, I couldn't believe you, though I wanted to—and though I believed in you. For her sake we had to leave her, and that faith in you has been fully justified. When Barbara is home, she is a normal, lovable, helpful little girl. She is a bit handicapped in speech with the children around here, of course, but with her family she talks easily—and for the most part understandably. She adores her little sister and brother and would love to take Susan along to school with her! When she first saw the new baby, her first question was, "Mamma, did you say, 'Thank you, Jesus?'"

We are so grateful for all you have done for our daughter. May the Lord bless all of you and the work you are doing for these little ones.

Sincerely yours,
Lillian C. Brauer

A Thank Offering

St. Charles, Mo., Apr. 18, 1944
Dear Christian Friends:

Enclosed find \$10.00 for the support of our Home for the Deaf. This contribution the Lord graciously enables me to make in gratitude for the Hearing, and all other senses He has so graciously given and preserved unto me, to



The members of the Board of our Ladies' Aid Society
Seated left to right: Mesdames Guetschow, Buchheimer, Klein, Porth, Caroll, President
Johnson, Heine, Wurm, Knorr, Bunch, Knorr
Standing: Mesdames Frieb, Koester, and Zink

my dear wife, and my four children, of which the youngest is just a month old today, having been born March 18th. And by all appearances God has also blessed little Philip with a sound body and mind. Priceless gifts of His mercy and grace, for we have not deserved any of them, none of us,—anymore than the thousands of deaf people in the U. S. and elsewhere in this world of sin, including those in your home in Detroit. May He graciously grant us daily grace and strength to use all of our mental and physical powers only in His service and for His glory.

May God grant our home for the deaf the Wisdom and Power to teach and train as it pleaseth Him, while it is day, for the night cometh when none can be saved.

I am, sincerely yours in Christ,
R. E. Kuehnert (Pastor)

Blessed Mission Work

Remsen, Iowa, Apr. 30, 1944

Dear Dir. Klein:

The man, August Ohlendorf, for whom the Memorial was given, was deaf since his 8th year. He got to be 65 years old. The last two years he was not able to walk, and sat in an invalid chair. He made his home with his aged mother, whose lips he could read perfectly. But over a year ago she died. Then he was taken care of by a widowed sister and a widower brother who lived with him in the parental home. During the past years he had several strokes, so that he could hardly make use of his hands and arms. It was a pitiful sight to see him, and very hard to take care of him. When he was able to walk, he attended our church services, though he could not hear a word, he knew God was present with His people and he wanted to be present with them. About 25 years ago, Pastor Fred Wahlers, now Professor in St. Paul, instructed and confirmed him. He surely enjoyed reading the Deaf Lutheran. In his testament he willed some money for the cause of the Deaf. That was hard earned money which he saved. I would just like to know how many times I visited him during the 23 years that I was here! He was one of the few parishioners who looked for the pastor to call and he was very thankful for each call. How thankful we all are that the Lord has finally ended his suffering and caused him to fall asleep peacefully in Christ. The \$17 Memorial was given by all his nieces and nephews. Instead of sending

them the Deaf Child's Advocate, I would appreciate to receive about 35 copies of any issue, which I could distribute among the S. S. children. Next year our S. S.-children will have duplex collection envelopes and your institution will receive the money of one month's collection. Will try to get a month with five weeks, too!—Just yesterday

I put in a good word for your school in my sermon.

Possibly I can appreciate more than many others what you are doing for the deaf and the hard of hearing, since I have been wearing a hearing aid for many years myself.—

Sincerely yours,
A. Noack (Pastor)

This and That

On Sunday, April 23, four of our pupils were confirmed in Mt. Calvary church, of which the Rev. L. Koehler is the pastor. They were Genevieve Moeller of Filion, Michigan; Carl Schneider of Chicago; Elroy Meyer of Sumner, Iowa; and Odis Landsverk of New Hampton, Iowa.

An ocean wave and a park bench swing, the gifts of our Ladies' Aid Society, are additions to our playground apparatus.— Our boys and girls have been busy lately at cleaning up our campus and preparing the plot of land for a victory garden. They, too, want to do their bit to help win the war. Right now some are also busy selling War Bonds.

One of our faithful teachers, Miss Olive M. Jaques, is in the hospital seriously ill with pneumonia. We hope and pray that the Lord may grant her an early recovery.— Another of our good workers, Miss Ruth Kahler, left us to help her aged parents on the farm, because no other farm help could be obtained.

Lt. Commander Fred J. Auch, whose picture is in this month's issue, is the president of our Institute Association. At present he is stationed in Washington, D. C. We are looking forward to his eventual return.

June 11 is the date of our annual festival. This day also marks the closing of school. It is needless to say that our pupils as well as staff members are eagerly looking forward to this happy day and the vacation period which it brings.

One good deed provokes another. Since our beautiful art glass window, the gift of Mrs. L. J. Reindel in memory of her parents, was dedicated, another good friend of our Institute, whose name we are not permitted to mention as yet, has offered to pay for the installation of two more such beautiful windows.

Like many other institutions we, too, are suffering from a shortage of help. We, therefore, greatly appreciate such assistance as has been so frequently rendered us gratis by Mrs. J. R. Moore, Mrs. W. Hy. Twork, and Mrs. J. Selke. May the Lord abundantly bless them for their Martha services. We are also deeply grateful to members of the Aid Societies who during the past months did all our mending and darning for our large family.

An early Christmas gift in the form of an electric train was re-

cently received for our boys through the Rev. H. J. Ott of Bridgman, Michigan. This is a toy which will bring much enjoyment to our boys next winter.— Eggs received from Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Scheiderer, Ohio; the Rev. L. H. Beto, Lena, Illinois; the Ladies' Aid of Broadland, Illinois; Mrs. A. Searle, Mr. and Mrs. Faust, and H. and N. Schmiede of Michigan were a real treat for our children, and we are, indeed, grateful to all kind donors.

Mrs. J. R. Moore, who sent her two deaf children all the way from Arkansas to be educated in our Christian school, later moved to Detroit with her husband to be near her children. Mrs. Moore was received into communicant church membership by confirmation on Sunday, May 14, in Grace Ev. Lutheran church, Highland Michigan, of which the Rev. F. A. Kolch is the pastor. As soon as his working conditions permit, Mr. Moore, too, will take instructions for confirmation.

Out of the Class Rooms

Kindergarten—Miss Bell's Class

I will go home on June 12. I am happy. Miss Matz gave me a green dress. Rose Marie's mother and father came to school.

—Mary Margaret Hopf

Carol is sick. Miss Bell has a red dress. I have brown shoes.

—Joyce Rossow

My name is Beverly Kropp. I am seven. I live in Chicago. I am a girl. Mother is at home. Father is at work.—Beverly Kropp

The Three Bears

Mother bear made some soup. She put it on the table. It was hot. Father bear, mother bear, and baby bear went for a walk. A little girl ate baby bear's soup. She broke his chair. She slept in his bed. Baby bear cried. The three bears saw the little girl. She woke up. She ran home.

—Marlene Schultz

High Pregrade—Miss Jones' Class

Patty, Nelson, and I went home Friday. My puppy was sick. Baby Dick threw my shoe in the water. Saturday was father's birthday. Mother made a birthday cake for him. My swing broke. I have on a new green and white dress. Mother bought it.—Roberta Clawson

A boy has two feet. A cow has two eyes. A doll has two arms. I have two thumbs.—Jerry Kittredge

Three little kittens lost their mittens. Mother cat did not give them any pie. They cried. Three

little kittens found their mittens. Mother cat gave them some pie.

—Nelson Finks

HELP WANTED

We need household help by the first of September. The work is interesting and the salary good. Write to Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada Ave., Detroit 12, Mich.

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