

## Census Records

1851: 268 d&D 134/134 59 d&D in Bristol; plus 34 in asylum for poor Clifton; 10 deaf and dumb in chipping sodbury

1861: Whole Glos: (Eng& Wales: 6841/5935)

Bristol lists 56 deaf and dumb; 56 in Clifton and 9 in Chipping Sodbury

National? Employment: of males over 20 years: (3,657): largest group are farm labourers 499; followed by shoemaker 432, followed by labourer 197 and tailor 197; no occupation r dependent: 912

of females over 20: (2,968) most were in dressmaking 298 or seamstress 101 but 1,269 had no stated occupation or dependent: 1323

South west: total D&D ; 1321 (738/583 M/F)

South West: under 5: 26/26 5-9: 108/83 10-14: 102/58 15 – 19: 90-61

1871: Bristol 61; Clifton 59 and Chipping Sodbury 3

## Newspaper Reports. THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Tuesday, May 11, 1830; Issue 2090. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

COMMITTED TO BRISTOL GAOL.—Benjamin Claridge, John Evans, and George Williams, for stealing wearing apparel, the property of Thomas Oswald (the prosecutor's son, John Oswald, is a deaf & dumb child, and was at play in Mother Pugsley's field, when the prisoners stripped him of his jacket, waistcoat, and hat, with which they ran off to a pawn-shop, leaving the child tied by the legs with twine and hay.)—John Wright and James

## BRISTOL POLICE .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, March 4, 1837; Issue 2454. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.* Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> Bristol Police Reports, 1837

Mary Johnson was charged with stealing a pocket-handkerchief, a glove, 2s., &c., from the person of James Lewis. The prosecutor, who is deaf and dumb, deposed, by means of an interpreter, that on Sunday night he met the prisoner in Nelson-street, when she induced him to accompany her to a tavern; and afterwards, whilst passing through Cumberland-street, on the way to her house in Wilder-street, she robbed him of the articles in question, a portion of which was found in her possession. Prisoner pleaded that she had been very intimate with the prosecutor several months, which he denied; and as he declined pressing the case against her, she was discharged.

## BRISTOL POLICE .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, January 13, 1838; Issue 2499. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

Daniel and Mary Williams, remanded on a charge of stealing beef, were discharged, the complainant declining to appear. James Lewis, charged with a trespass, was also discharged.

## BRISTOL POLICE

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, March 2, 1839; Issue 2557. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

Wednesday: 27<sup>th</sup> February, 1839, Bristol Police Reports

Roger Windmill was charged with assaulting Chas. Trueman. The complainant stated that he was in the Sugar-Loaf public-house, Rosemary-street, in company with his brother and a man named Lewis, both of whom were deaf and dumb, when the defendant, who was there, persuaded his brother that he (complainant) had been saying something against him, when his brother, who was of a very hot temper, pulled off his coat and wanted to fight; he (complainant) refused to do so, upon which the defendant said, if he'd stand up he'd knock his — head off; he, however, still refused to fight, and some time afterwards was leaving the house, when the defendant, who had watched for an opportunity, together with another man, fell upon and beat him, the defendant striking him violently in the eye. The defendant said he was not the man who struck the complainant, and called two witnesses, who stated that they saw the affray, and it was another man who committed the assault. The magistrates said there was evidently a mistake with respect to the identity, and dismissed the complaint.

## BRISTOL QUARTER SESSIONS ;

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, January 11, 1845; Issue 2860. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

— Two months: John Meatyard and Wm. Gould, for stealing two geese; James Lewis, for stealing a pair of boots; Solomon Baper, for stealing a quantity of wood; John

## POLICE INTELLIGENCE .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, April 24, 1847; Issue 2979. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

COMMITTED TO BRISTOL GAOL.—John Howe, and George Stanley, for stealing the goods of Samuel Chapman; David Chilper for stealing the goods of Thomas Evans; Saml. Dyer and William Beasley for stealing the goods of Joseph Miller; Hannah Lewis, wife of James Lewis, for stealing the goods of Eliza Pascoe James; Edward Mills, James Cocum, George Lewis, and John Bidgood, for stealing the goods of James Adlam.

## POLICE INTELLIGENCE

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, April 24, 1847; Issue 2979. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

Henry Fanning. Four months: Wm. Lawrence, alias Candy, for stealing a shovel and spade, the property of Joseph Jenkins; George Bailey, for stealing a fowl, the property of William Carter; Peter Johnson, for stealing a pair of cotton stockings, the property of George Derrick; Robert Carter, alias White, and Alfred Clutterbuck, for stealing a quantity of cast iron tram plates, the property of Wm. Hill and others; James Lewis and James Taylor, for stealing a hen fowl, the property of Farnham Kingston; James Dix, for stealing a brass

## POLICE INTELLIGENCE .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 20, 1850; Issue 3148. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**POLICE INTELLIGENCE.**  
COUNCIL-HOUSE, BRISTOL, SATURDAY, July 13.  
Magistrate present: Mr. Howell.  
Mary Ann Thomas and Mary Ann Nicholls, remanded on suspicion of stealing two shawls, were discharged, no evidence being forthcoming against them. The shawls were detained for a week.  
Charles O'Brien and James Lewis were committed for seven days' hard labour, for sleeping in a cow-shed, the property of Mr. Light, Park-row.

## POLICE INTELLIGENCE .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, August 3, 1850; Issue 3150. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

be once whipped.  
James Lewis, remanded on suspicion of stealing rope, was discharged, no owner having been found.  
Stephen Taylor, William Ferguson, and William Harding.

## Advertisements & Notices .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, April 25, 1840; Issue 2616. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**DEAF AND DUMB.**  
THE Executors of the Will of JACOB WILCOX RICKETTS, late of Vincent Lodge, in the Parish of Westbury-upon-Trym, in the City and County of Bristol, Esquire, who died on the 29th day of August, 1839, HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, That by the said Will proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 22nd October, 1839; the sum of £500 is bequeathed to Trustees upon trust, to place the same at Interest, upon the Government Funds, and during the space of 10 years from the Testator's decease, or until a Society shall be formed in Bristol for EDUCATING the DEAF and DUMB, which shall first happen, to invest the Dividends in additional Stock; and in the event of a Society being formed in Bristol for educating the Deaf and Dumb, within 10 years from the Testator's decease, upon trust, to pay such sum of £500 and accumulations, or transfer such Stock unto the Treasurer for the time being of such Society, for the purposes of the said Society. But in case, at the end of 10 years from the Testator's decease, no such Society shall have been formed in Bristol, then the Testator directs that such sum of £500 and accumulations shall sink into and form part of his residuary personal Estate.  
A. & J. LIVETT, Solicitors to the Executors.  
Bristol, 22nd April, 1840.

## PORT OF BRISTOL .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, June 27, 1840; Issue 2625. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

## THE MIRROR & THE PORT OF BRISTOL .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 4, 1840; Issue 2626. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

BRISTOL INSTITUTION, PARK-STREET.—We understand that, at the request of many ladies and gentlemen, who were unable to attend the morning lectures of Mr. Collier, on the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb, and of blind mutes, he will repeat them on the evenings of Wednesday and Friday next, at half-past seven o'clock. Free tickets of admission may be obtained at the institution. Mr. Collier is very desirous that the deaf mutes in the city and neighbourhood, whether children or adults, should be brought to the institution on Wednesday evening, in order that immediate arrangements be made for assembling them on Sundays, for the purpose of giving them religious instruction.

## THE MIRROR .

**The Bristol Mercury** (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 11, 1840; Issue 2627. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

BRISTOL INSTITUTION.—We perceive that Mr. Collier, a gentleman who, from purely philanthropic motives, has devoted a large portion of his time and property in endeavouring to ameliorate the condition of the unfortunate deaf and dumb, by unremitting exertions for the establishment of institutions suited to the peculiar necessities of their case, will deliver two lectures on the best means of affording them the blessings of education, in the theatre of the Institution, on Monday and Wednesday next, at two o'clock each day, on which occasions the public will be admitted by free tickets. Several educated deaf mutes will be present, to assist in illustrating the plans of instruction, and for the purpose of exemplifying how far they are practical and efficient. When it is taken into account that, according to the best statistical returns, there are upwards of 8000 deaf and dumb children in England and Wales alone, of which number not above 500 receive instruction at the different institutions throughout the country; and when it is further taken into consideration that education converts them from helpless and hopeless incumbrances into useful and interesting members of society, it will readily be admitted that the importance of the subject cannot be easily over-rated. We trust, indeed, that the day is not far distant when an appropriate school for the education of the deaf and dumb will be numbered amongst the already numerous charitable and philanthropic institutions of Bristol.

MR. COLLIER'S LECTURES upon the education of the deaf and dumb, at the Institution, Park-street, were attended by numerous, respectable, and attentive audiences. Mr. C. did not confine himself to the mere theory and philosophy of the subject, but introduced and examined several deaf and dumb persons educated at different schools; he also, as far as the time admitted, went through the process of instructing them. The ladies and gentlemen present seemed to take a deep interest in the subject, and several of the former, in response to the lecturer's appeal, offered to exert themselves as Sunday teachers of the adult deaf and dumb, as soon as a proper place for assembling them could be obtained.

**SLAVERY, AND THE  
METHODIST CHURCH  
IN AMERICA .**

***The Bristol***

***Mercury*** (Bristol,

England), Saturday, July

18, 1840; Issue 2628. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**BRISTOL MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.**—We are informed that Mr. W. Collier, who has lately delivered lectures to crowded audiences, at the institution, on the education of the blind, the deaf and dumb, and of blind mutes, intends to give two lectures on the same subjects, at the above institution, on Wednesday and Friday evenings next.

**Advertisements & Notices .**

***The Bristol Mercury*** (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 25, 1840; Issue 2629. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**DEAF AND DUMB.**

Proposal for the Establishment of an Institution for the Support and Education of the DEAF and DUMB, in BRISTOL, and the surrounding Counties in England and Wales.

**A** TA MEETING of several influential individuals, interested in the cause of the DEAF and DUMB, held at CLIFTON, on MONDAY, 18th July; . . . . .

*It was Resolved,*

1st. That, as it appears upon authentic evidence, there are about 8000 Deaf and Dumb Persons in England, and provision for the support and education of 500 only in the Six Institutions already established, it is most desirable to increase the means of affording the blessings of general, and, more especially, Moral and Religious Instruction, to this unfortunate class of our fellow-creatures.

2nd. That with the view of providing, in some degree, for this deficiency, and conferring the benefits of so inestimable a boon upon objects, whose capabilities of receiving instruction the experience of the past abundantly testifies, it is expedient to establish a Public Institution in Bristol, for the Support and Education of the Deaf and Dumb.

3rd.—That the City of Bristol appears to present an eligible locality for the establishment of such an Institution, not less from its size and population, than from its central position in the Western Division of England, comprising the Counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Wilts, Hereford, Monmouth, and the Southern Division of the Principality of Wales, whose united population exceeds one million four hundred thousand.

4th.—That the Hon. Prov. Secretary be requested to address a Circular Letter, containing the foregoing Resolutions, to some of the principal inhabitants of Bristol, and other Towns in the above District, apprising them of the projected Institution, and earnestly inviting their cordial co-operation.

In furtherance of the above object, at an adjourned Meeting, held on Monday, the 20th of July, it was Resolved, that a Provisional Committee be appointed, to take such steps as they may deem expedient for giving effect to the foregoing resolutions.

The Right Worshipful the MAYOR has kindly promised to preside at a Public Meeting to be held in a few days.

WILLIAM KAY, M.D., Hon. Prov. Sec.

Clifton, July 24th, 1840.

N.B.—Every information respecting Deaf and Dumb Objects, (name, residence, occupation, &c.) addressed to the Hon. Prov. Sec., No. 9, Caledonia-Place, Clifton, is particularly solicited.

## FELIX FARLEY & HIS CORRESPONDENT .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, July 25, 1840; Issue 2629. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

Mr. Collier's lectures on the education of the deaf and dumb and blind have excited a deep and lively feeling in this city, as well as in the neighbouring towns. We perceive by the Bath papers that a very efficient Sunday-school for the adult deaf and dumb has been set on foot there, and is under the patronage of the Rev. H. Elwin and family, and several other clergymen. Here a similar one is about being commenced under favourable auspices. A deaf and dumb institution for the surrounding district is, as we anticipated, also likely to be soon formed; so that something like adequate provision is now about to be made for a class of unfortunates who have, in this part of the country, been so long neglected.

## THE LAST TORY JOB .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, August 8, 1840; Issue 2631. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

CLEYEDON.—Mr. Collier delivered two highly interesting lectures in the large room of the York House Hotel, on Monday and Tuesday last, on the education of the blind, and of the deaf and dumb. This fashionable little watering-place being at present full of company, the lectures were numerous and respectably attended. Mr. C., we understand, will deliver two lectures in the lecture-room, at Weston-super-Mare, on Tuesday and Wednesday next, when several educated deaf and dumb children will be examined.

## POLICE INTELLIGENCE .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, August 8, 1840; Issue 2631. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

FRIDAY.  
Present: Messrs. Habersfield and Ash.  
Emma Wilkins, a deaf and dumb girl, was charged with attempting to drown herself. The only evidence was that of an Irish policeman, who said he found her at about 9 o'clock last night, near the water at Bedminster, as if she intended to destroy herself. Her mother said she believed she had no such intention, and the magistrates discharged her.  
George Fletcher and Jane White were charged with hav-

## Advertisements & Notices .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, August 22, 1840; Issue 2633. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

### Deaf and Dumb Institution.

AT a MEETING held in the GUILDHALL in the City of BRISTOL, on Tuesday, the 18th of August, 1840, for the purpose of forming an INSTITUTION for the MAINTENANCE and EDUCATION of the DEAF and DUMB;

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, J. N. FRANKLYN, Esq., in the Chair;

The following resolutions were passed unanimously:

Moved by the VERY REV. THE DEAN of Bristol, and seconded by THOMAS SANDERS, Esq.;

1.—That an Institution, to be called "The Bristol Institution for the Deaf and Dumb," be now formed, and that its object be the maintenance and education of the Children of both sexes.

Moved by the Rev. W. HUNT, and seconded by J. KERLE HABERFIELD, Esq.;

2.—That the benefits of the proposed Institution be available to all deaf mutes residing within the City of Bristol and the adjacent counties of Gloucester, Wilts, Somerset, Hereford and Monmouth, together with the Southern Division of the Principality of Wales.

Moved by the Rev. R. A. TAYLOR, Mayor's Chaplain, and seconded by WILLIAM GOLDNEY, Esq.;

3.—That, for the promotion of the above object, subscriptions and donations be immediately entered into, and that Books for this purpose be opened at the several Banks of this city and the other chief towns within the above named district.

Moved by HENRY A. PALMER, Esq., and seconded by Capt. LITCHFIELD, R. A.

4.—That P. F. Aiken, Esq., be requested to undertake the office of Treasurer to the Institution.

Moved by the Rev. J. ARMSTRONG, and seconded by the Rev. J. TAYLOR;

5.—That William Kay, M.D., be requested to undertake the office of Honorary Secretary.

Moved by Colonel PLENDERLEATH, and seconded by T. H. LAYTON, Esq.;

6.—That a Provisional Committee, consisting of the following gentlemen, with power to add to their number, be now appointed, for the purpose of carrying the above resolutions into effect, and framing a code of laws and regulations for the government of the Institution, to be hereafter submitted to a General Meeting of the Subscribers.

The Rt. Worshipful the Mayor	Rev. H. H. Harvey, Prebendary of Bristol Cathedral
The very Reverend the Dean of Bristol.	J. Kerle Haberfield
The Ven. the Archdeacon of Bristol, the Rev. Thomas Thorp	Geo. J. Hadow
Sir John Hare, Knt, Springfield-House, Somerset	John Harding
P. F. Aiken, Esq.	H. C. Harford
Rev. John Armstrong	Rev. W. Hunt
Major Durbin	T. Hillyard Layton
Edward Frampton	Capt. Litchfield, R. A.
Geo. W. Franklyn	Henry A. Palmer
James Fripp, M.D.	J. C. Prichard, M.D.
Rev. J. Gaskin	Rev. H. Richards, Horfield
William Goldney	John Naish Sanders
	Thos. Sanders
	Rev. James Taylor
	Rev. R. A. Taylor.

(Signed)

JAMES NARROWAY FRANKLYN, Chairman.

The Mayor having vacated the Chair, it was Moved by the VERY REV. THE DEAN of Bristol, and seconded by WILLIAM KAY, M.D.;

7.—That the cordial thanks of the Meeting be given to the Chairman for his kindness in presiding on this occasion, and for his courtesy in granting the use of the Guildhall.

Subscriptions and Donations received by the Treasurer, P. F. AIKEN, Esq., at Stuckey's Banking Company, High-street, and by the Honorary Secretary, WILLIAM KAY, M.D., 9, Caledonia-place, Clifton.

**DEAF AND DUMB.**—At Mr. Collier's lecture, on Tuesday, the attendance was highly respectable, and the remarks of the speaker were received with the deepest attention and interest. About seven or eight deaf and dumb persons were examined, to illustrate the systems of education. Their answers proved the benefit as well as the efficiency of the plans of developing their imprisoned intellects, and giving them literary and religious instruction. Mr. Collier again urged the audience to go on with unabated energy in the noble work they had so spiritedly begun; and thus to bequeath to posterity a lasting monument of their philanthropy and munificence, in providing for the religious instruction of hundreds of these children of silence yet unborn. We may add, that the very first opportunity was afforded to the public after the lecture to assist in defraying the incidental expenses connected with these lectures. The collection amounted to 3*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, which of course did not approach the amount of outlayings for the one lecture merely. But this is a topic on which we need not dwell. We feel assured there are many gentlemen in the city, who, if they only knew the sacrifices of time, and labour, and money, Mr. C. has made in the object, would not at least allow him to be out of pocket.

## Advertisements & Notices .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England),  
Saturday, September 5, 1840; Issue  
2635. *British Library Newspapers, Part  
I: 1800-1900.*

## DEAF & DUMB INSTITUTION.

*Appeal to the Nobility, Clergy, and Gentry, of the Western District, comprising the counties of Gloucester, Somerset, Wilts, Hereford, Monmouth, and the Southern Division of Wales.*

**T**HE PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE, appointed to "carry into effect the Resolutions" passed at the Public Meeting lately held in the Guildhall of this city, the Right Worshipful the MAYOR in the chair, conceive they cannot more efficiently, at the present moment, promote the object in view, than by submitting a simple statement of facts illustrative of the actual position of that most interesting and helpless class of their fellow-creatures, the indigent **Deaf and Dumb.**

And, first, they would anxiously seek to correct an impression which, they fear, still but too generally obtains, that the number of persons born **Deaf and Dumb** is not only relatively, but absolutely, small; and, consequently, that no extended provision or special exertions are demanded for their relief. And what has contributed, in no slight degree, to confirm the notion thus hastily assumed; is the very circumstance which, beyond all others, is peculiarly calculated to interest the feelings and awaken the best sympathies of our nature.

There is nothing in the EXTERNAL APPEARANCE of the Deaf and Dumb to indicate the fearful privation under which they are labouring; they are MUTE sufferers—alike unable to tell the story of their wants, or appeal to the compassion of the merciful: we unconsciously pass them by, unaffected, because ignorant of their calamity. Debarred all intercourse with their fellow-beings through the ordinary channels of communication, and excluded, in a great measure, from a participation in the common enjoyments of humanity—left to pine, either in listless indolence, or exposed to the fate of hapless idiotism,—a source of distress to their afflicted friends, and helpless burdens upon the community,—the class of destitute objects in whose behalf this appeal is urged, would seem to have peculiar and extraordinary claims upon the sympathies of the benevolent. In the perfect enjoyment of the faculties of speech and hearing, and all their accompanying blessings, ourselves, we with difficulty realise the melancholy position of those who, denied their use, and yet retaining in their integrity the mental powers, are thus doomed to a life of dreary silence and solitude, or rendered early oblivious to their calamity by a premature fatuity. And it is no fanciful scheme of doubtful result, no idle experiment of questionable expediency, which your committee propose to undertake—but a tried and matured plan, for the successful prosecution of which they only require adequate support, and the necessary co-operation. They propose to shelter and educate these poor outcasts from the social family, to instruct them in their duty to God and man, to raise them from a state of destitution and dependence to the rank of rational and intelligent beings. And that the means employed, simple though they be, are capable, under the blessing of God, of effecting this mighty amelioration, let the numbers of grateful spirits testify who yearly go forth from these asylums of mercy the living evidences of their incalculable benefit.

The number of **Deaf Mutes** in the United Kingdom is stated, upon authentic evidence, to exceed 8000; and, were all the asylums provided, or in the course of erection at this moment, filled, there would not be room for more than 700 or 800.

Aroused, at length, by these startling facts, and stimulated to a sense of Christian duty, other towns, much less populous and wealthy than Bristol, have recently formed institutions to supply the urgent deficiency; while in places where they previously existed, it has been found necessary greatly to extend the means of accommodation. Still, be it recollected, that when all is accomplished which is at present in contemplation, more than nine-tenths of the **deaf and dumb** throughout England, of whom a great proportion are *indigent*, will still remain destitute of instruction, and exposed to all the evils attendant upon a state of ignorance and poverty. Under these circumstances, your provisional committee are unwilling to believe that Bristol, deservedly famed for its deeds of benevolence, as evidenced by its noble institutions and its charitable endowments, will refuse to do its part in this work of mercy, or suffer itself to be outstripped in the march of Christian zeal and philanthropy. They feel convinced that the affecting case of these hapless sons and daughters of misfortune, excluded, by the very nature and peculiarity of their affliction, from the ordinary resources of charity, needs only to be even thus feebly advocated to awaken the kindest feelings of humanity, and ensure correspondent exertions in their behalf.

The provisional committee would, in particular, beg to call attention to the *character* of the proposed institution. It is intended to be strictly a *District Asylum*, for which Bristol, from its convenient central position, was selected, as presenting the most eligible locality. **Deaf and Dumb** objects, therefore, living in any of the counties specified, will have an equal claim to admission, by virtue of such residence, with an inhabitant of Bristol or its immediate neighbourhood. On these grounds, the committee naturally and confidently calculate upon the liberal support of the nobility, clergy, and gentry resident within the proposed district.

Though the provisional committee are most anxious to give effect to their wishes at the very earliest moment that the pecuniary means placed at their disposal will allow, they do not consider that they should be justified in taking any further steps till the sum subscribed be of such an amount as shall enable them to take a suitable house, engage a competent master, and make the other necessary arrangements. They would, therefore, most earnestly and anxiously appeal to the benevolence of all whom a kind Providence has blessed with this world's goods, and with faculties to enjoy his favours, and, more especially, they would call upon their fellow-citizens, by every consideration of humanity and gratitude, to contribute to the relief of those whom the same all-wise Providence has seen fit to afflict, and denied the power of pleading for themselves.

The Very Rev. the DEAN OF BRISTOL,  
Chairman of the Provisional Committee.

WILLIAM KAY, M. D., Hon. Secretary.

Bristol, Sept. 17th, 1840.

Subscriptions and donations received by the Treasurer, P. F. ALEX, Esq.; Sturkey's Banking Company; by the Hon. Secretary, 9, Caledonia-place, Clifton; and at the several Banks in Bristol and Bath, and their various branches

**Advertisements & Notices .**

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, January 23, 1841; Issue 2654. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**DEAF & DUMB INSTITUTION,**

*For the Maintenance and Education of Deaf Mutes, residing in the City of Bristol, the Counties of Gloucester, Wilts, Somerset, Hereford, and Monmouth—and the Southern Division of Wales.*

**T**HE Provisional Committee most earnestly and anxiously appeal to public Benevolence and the best feelings, more especially of their Fellow-citizens, and of the Inhabitants residing within the proposed District, to enable them, by the aid of additional Subscriptions and Donations, early to carry their good intentions into effect; and by the establishment of a LOCAL INSTITUTION or ASYLUM, such as now distinguishes all the larger Provincial Towns, to extend the blessings of Education to that most interesting and helpless class of their fellow-creatures, the *Indigent Deaf and Dumb.*

When it is added, that many young Persons in this City and at a distance, thus afflicted (and for whom, in the absence of the necessary accommodation, there is little chance of admission elsewhere), have already applied, and are anxiously waiting to avail themselves of the benefits of Instruction, the moment the Bristol Institution is opened—the Provisional Committee feel assured they cannot put forth a stronger ground of appeal than this simple fact, in behalf of these hapless sons and daughters of misfortune.

	<i>Subscriptions.</i>	<i>Donations.</i>
Amount previously advertised	£67 8 0	£229 4 6
Rev. J. Hensman ... ..	1 1 0	
Richard Ash, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0	
William Player, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0	
Mr. James Gibbs ... ..	1 1 0	
Thomas White, Esq. ... ..	1 1 0	

WILLIAM KAY, MD., Hon. Sec.

By the will of the late J. W. Ricketts, Esq., St Vincent's Lodge, a bequest of £500 will become available, upon a "SOCIETY BEING FORMED IN BRISTOL," for the Education of the *Deaf and Dumb.*

Donations, and Subscriptions received by the Treasurer, P. F. AIKEN, Esq., Stuckey's Banking Company; by the Hon. Secretary, 9, Caledonia-place, Clifton; at the several Banks in Bristol and Bath, and their various Branches in all the principal Towns.—Jan. 22nd, 1841.

## DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

A public meeting was held yesterday in the Lecture room of the Philosophical Institution, Park-street, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of the Diocese in the chair, for the purpose of confirming the laws and appointing the officers of the above institution.

His Lordship, in taking the chair, addressed the meeting at some length in advocacy of the objects of the society which, he said, imperatively called for the support of the humane, philanthropic, and religious public. In the catalogue of human afflictions, it was impossible to conceive, if he excepted that horrible malady, insanity, anything more dreadful than being born deaf and dumb. A more helpless being than a deaf mute could hardly be imagined, because, by the very nature of his infirmity, he was shut out, upon the ordinary modes of calculation, from all possibility of receiving instruction, and having his mind opened to a sense of his condition here, or his hopes hereafter. His lordship went on further to allude to the importance of the inventions for ameliorating the condition of this unhappy class of beings, and concluded his address by an earnest appeal to the benevolence of the Christian public.

The Hon. Secretary, Dr. KAY, then read the report of the provisional committee. This document, after reviewing the proceedings which had taken place since the public meeting in the Guildhall, went on to observe that an appeal had been made to the citizens of Bath for assistance, which they liberally and cheerfully proffered; but with respect to Bristol, the committee could not affect to conceal the fact that their exertions to excite an interest in behalf of their deaf and dumb fellow-citizens had not been responded to in a manner such as they had wished. There were individual instances which formed honourable exceptions to this, they trusted, only apparent apathy: ladies (to their honour be it spoken) had commenced instructing the children, and, under their auspices, the committee could not doubt the attainment of ultimate success. The committee further announced that many deaf mutes were anxiously waiting to receive the advantages of the institution.

The Rev. Dr. ALLEN, in moving the adoption of the report, said the document certainly did cast some reproach on their opulent and extensive city, amongst whose many noble institutions there was no asylum for the deaf and dumb. He hoped the reproach would now be removed. In consequence of the bequest of 500*l.* by an individual (Mr. Ricketts), 250*l.* had been already received as donations, and 80*l.* more as annual subscriptions. Those sums were of course inadequate to the establishment of an institution worthy of Bristol; but he hoped an impetus would be given by that meeting that would lead to the raising a sufficient fund to carry out the objects proposed by its promoters.

Mr. TEMPLE LAYTON seconded the resolution in a long and eloquent speech, in which he described the miseries naturally attendant on the condition of deaf mutes, and advanced their peculiar claims on the benevolent attention of the public. In England, as appeared by a report of the Liverpool society, there were no less than 8000, and in the United Kingdom 13,000, while the present institutions in England were but sufficient for the education of 800.

DEAF AND DUMS INSTITUTION . *The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, February 27, 1841; Issue 2659. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

## MR. BERKELEY AND HIS ASSAILANTS .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, December 4, 1841; Issue 2699. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

**DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.**—We perceive with much pleasure that the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb is opened for the reception of this unfortunate class of our fellow-creatures. The house taken and furnished is No. 25, Orchard-street, a continuation of Unity-street, Park-street; we are thus particular in pointing out the locality of the institution, as from the comparative retirement of the situation, though otherwise, and, in-itself, most eligible, it might escape the notice of many interested in the object. At the same time that we are anxious to give the utmost publicity in our power to so benevolent and excellent a charity in particular, we think it right to advert to the basis upon which this establishment is founded. Its characteristic feature is that of being a district charity, for which Bristol (to quote the words of the appeal by the committee), from its convenient central position, was selected, as presenting the most suitable locality. "Deaf and dumb objects, therefore, living in any of the counties specified (Gloucester, Somerset, Wilts, Hereford, Monmouth, and the Southern Division of Wales), will have an equal claim to admission, by virtue of such residence, with an inhabitant of Bristol or its immediate neighbourhood." This view of the institution should especially be borne in mind by the residents in these different counties, for it strictly "presents to each of them all the benefits of a local charity, relieved from no inconsiderable pecuniary burden." By the fifth rule, we find that three classes of pupils are admitted: the indigent deaf and dumb, those in better circumstances, and the children of parents in the higher walks of life; separate accommodation and instruction being provided for the latter. We further learn that the committee, upon the strong recommendation of the governor of a similar and long-established institution elsewhere, have arranged to receive day pupils, thus extending, gratuitously, all the benefits of education to deaf and dumb children residing in the city and neighbourhood—an advantage which we feel assured will be duly appreciated by the parents and friends of these afflicted sons and daughters of misfortune. As a local charity, or rather a charity located amongst us, and fraught with blessings, available alike to the stranger and the resident, we would earnestly appeal to the best feelings of our fellow-citizens to support, by their personal influence not less than by their pecuniary assistance, an institution so much needed\* for the class whom it seeks to benefit, and so admirably adapted to their peculiar and helpless position. Several deaf mutes, we understand, are already receiving instruction, and the school is open to public inspection every day between the hours of eleven and one. Mr. Matthew Robert Burns, late master for several of the Aberdeen Institutions, is the teacher.

\* It is calculated there are 8000 deaf mutes in the United Kingdom, and provision for not more than 800.

## Deaf and Dumb Institution .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, March 5, 1842; Issue 2712. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

## Deaf and Dumb Institution,

*For Gloucestershire, Somersetshire, and the adjoining Counties.*

A public meeting in support of this institution was held on Monday, at the Upper Rooms, Bath. The Rev. S. H. Widdrington, rector of Walcot, in the chair.

The Rev. W. J. BROOKER, rector of Bath, moved the first resolution, setting forth the importance of providing additional instruction for the deaf and dumb. The rev. speaker said, he felt that the object which he had in view was rather to introduce the deputation from Bristol than to offer any remarks of his own. The public of Bath were not aware of the actual need which existed for such an institution. They might consider that Bristol was now placed within twenty minutes of this city; and among many other circumstances he might mention one which would operate for preferring Bristol as the locality; which was, that a benevolent gentleman had bequeathed a legacy of 500*l.* for the formation of an institution for the deaf and dumb in Bristol, which would be lost if Bath were selected.

Dr. KAY, honorary secretary to the Bristol institution, seconded the resolution. The speaker gave a brief but succinct account of the efforts which have been made on behalf of the deaf and dumb since the early part of the 18th century. There were at the present time 150 institutions in the world. The total number of deaf and dumb in the United Kingdom was 12,400, and of these only 1040 were absolutely under tuition, thus leaving 11,360 without instruction (hear, hear). After this statement, he felt that not one word was necessary to demonstrate the necessity of some further provision. Bristol had been selected for the new institution, because of its central locality, and because of the legacy of 500*l.* bequeathed by the late J. W. Ricketts, Esq., of St. Vincent's Lodge, which would become available upon a society being formed in Bristol for the education of the deaf and dumb. It was also intended that the benefits of the institution should be available to all deaf mutes residing within Bristol, and the adjacent counties of Somerset, Gloucester, Wilts, Hereford, and Monmouth, together with the southern division of Wales. Thus it could be viewed as a local institution in reference to its name and habitation only; but for all its purposes it would be available to the district he had named.

P. F. Aiken, Esq., moved the next resolution:—"That an institution for the maintenance and education of the deaf and dumb, of the western district, including the counties of Somerset, Wilts, Gloucester, Hereford, Monmouth, and the southern division of Wales, having been established at Bristol, it is highly desirable that the above-named counties, and, in particular, their principal towns, should contribute to the support of such institutions."—After some introductory observations, the speaker said that the strongest impressions were those derived from contrast. Men never felt the blessing of sight so fully as when they looked on the unhappy blind groping his way in helpless darkness. And it was impossible to feel to the full extent the blessings of the noble gifts of hearing and speech, unless they could be made acquainted with the deficiency of the deaf and dumb. Doubtless, these afflictions were permitted to make us feel the more deeply the advantages we enjoyed. The speaker, after referring to the wretched state of those deaf mutes who were deprived of the means of instruction, gave some striking instances of what education can effect for them; and, in conclusion, urged upon the meeting the duty and the privilege of conveying to the minds of the deaf and dumb a knowledge of those blessed truths which offered them consolation for all the ills they suffered here, and which opened to them the sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection, where they should hear the harps of angels, and join in the song of the redeemed (applause).

The Rev. E. TOTTENHAM seconded the resolution.

The Rev. JOHN EAST moved the third resolution, to the effect that books be opened, to receive subscriptions and donations, at the different banks and libraries in Bath.

The Rev. G. GARDNER having seconded the resolution, the CHAIRMAN offered a few remarks, and the meeting separated.

## PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE .

*The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, May 7, 1842; Issue 2721. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

### INQUESTS BEFORE JOHN COOKE, ESQ., CORONER.—

At Brockhampton, on an unfortunate little blind boy, named George Lerner, whose clothes caught fire whilst he was left a few minutes by himself, and he was burnt so dreadfully as to cause his death in a few days. Verdict, Accidental death.—At Mitcheldean, on the body of Richard Fryer, aged 48. The deceased, who was deaf and dumb, had worked for Mr. Griffiths, of Ruardean, but latterly, having been unable to follow his employment owing to the bad state of his health, he expressed by signs, which were understood by those about him, great anxiety to go to his brother's, at Michaldean. This request was complied with, and he was removed there in a cart with great carefulness. Previous to starting, he repeated his wish to go, and intimated that it was that he might die there. This he expressed by elevating his hands as if in prayer, then placing them straight by his side, shutting his eyes and imitating the appearance of death. The result proved the accuracy of his presentiments. He arrived at his brother's, without having apparently suffered much from the journey, but he had not been there more than half an hour, before he fell forward from a settle in which he was placed. He was caught by his brother's wife, but in a few minutes afterwards he was a corpse. The inquest was held in consequence of the suddenness of the death, and to elucidate certain rumours which were prevalent reflecting on his removal as having accelerated death, and as having been undertaken according to the cruel, and we hope now obsolete practice, but which was so prevalent under the old poor-law system, of hurrying a dying creature from place to place in order that the death in a particular locality might not cause a burden to fall upon the parish. In this case, we are happy to say, the investigation proved that there was no foundation for any sinister suspicion whatever.

## DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

The first public examination of the pupils of the institution recently established in this city for the education of the deaf and dumb, took place on Wednesday last, in the theatre of the Philosophical Institution, Park-street.

The attendance of ladies and gentlemen was very considerable; indeed the room was crowded in every part by a highly respectable auditory, who appeared to take a lively interest in the proceedings.

The chair was taken by the Right Worshipful the Mayor who, in alluding to the numerous charitable institutions in our city, eulogised that for the education of the deaf and dumb. His worship likewise paid a well-merited compliment to the talent, assiduity, and kindness of the master Mr. Burns.

The first pupil introduced was Eliz. Griffey, of Clifton an intelligent child of 5 years old, who was stated by the honorary secretary (Dr. Kay) to have been a day scholar in the institution, attending regularly for four months.

It should be premised that the examination (as is the education of the deaf mute) was conducted, first, by means of "natural signs;" a series of gestures, the object of which—an object, as far as we had the means of observing, to the fullest extent attained—is, to use the words of the highly-intelligent master, "to express in signs abstract thoughts, and to show the amplitude there is in sign language to convey the nicest shades of thought into written language;" 2dly, by means of signs with the fingers—the finger-alphabet, by which conversation is capable of being conducted to a great extent; 3dly, by means of written questions and answers; and 4thly, in one instance, by a species of "dumb articulation," as it was aptly termed by Dr. Kay,—words understood by the motion of the lips without the assistance of sound.

The little girl Griffey manifested a degree of proficiency which, considering the short time she has been in the school, was really astonishing. The natural signs for various objects were given by the master, and she translated them without hesitation or mistake into written language. On the sign for a rose being given, she wrote the word "rose," in a very creditable hand, on a board, which was placed beside the chairman's seat: she also wrote her name. At the suggestion of some of the audience, she was asked "Who is your Saviour?" she immediately wrote "Jesus Christ." The rapidity with which she conversed with her fingers, and the correctness of her orthography, were alike extraordinary.

Thomas Eastman, of Bedminster, aged 16, who has been in the institution as a day scholar for five months, was next examined. He was described by the master as being remarkable for his capacity for rapidly acquiring knowledge. Dr. Kay stated, also, that out of the five months during which he had attended the school, he had been at home full one month. The names of various objects were given, for which he made the natural signs. Mr. Burns then made the signs for "cloud," "rays of the sun," "ice," "thunder," &c., which words the pupil wrote with great promptitude on the board. It may be as well to state that the "natural signs" are well calculated to convey to the mind the nature of the object they denote; and a great number of them are almost as intelligible to the audience as to the pupil: for instance, when the word "tailor" was given, the lad pulled up the end of his coat and made a motion as if sewing. At the word "soldier," he struck his hand briskly against his breast, raised his head, and appeared to take aim with a musket. "Sailor" he indicated by hitching up his trousers, pretending to thrust a quid into his mouth, and afterwards to ascend the rope-ladders of a ship. "Day" he denoted by spreading abroad his arms, and appearing to shrink beneath the rays of the sun. "Night," by folding his arms around him, and sinking his head and closing his eyes, as if in sleep. For "birds," he made a fluttering motion with his arms and hands as if in the act of flying. These motions were often elegant, sometimes humorous,—always expressive and interesting.

The pupil was then examined in arithmetic, and did some simple sums in addition and numeration, after which he was questioned on religious matters, and replied to the several queries propounded in a most satisfactory manner.

Master J. G. Arbuthnot was next introduced as having been five years under Mr. Burns's tuition, while that gentleman was master of the institution at Aberdeen, and eight months in the school in this city.

He was examined by Dr. Kay, the Mayor, and others, and the intelligence of his answers to the numerous interrogatories to which he was subjected elicited general and loud expressions of approbation. The following is a sample of the style of examination pursued:—

He was first examined by Mr. Burns (to whom many of the questions were dictated) by "dumb articulation"—the motion of the lips, and after he had given his name, &c., was asked, What are you?—A deaf and dumb child. What do you think of your deafness?—It is a great affliction to me. You say it is a great affliction to you; why?—Because it deprives me of many honourable employments. Of what honourable employments?—Such as merchant, lawyer, both officers in the army and navy, a doctor, &c. Perhaps, too, of lord high chancellor?—O, no! How do you understand language?—Through the medium of signs. Are you very sorry that you are deaf and dumb?—Yes, I feel it; but I must bear it with patience: it is the penalty or punishment for my corrupted nature. Are you so vexed at your loss of hearing?—Yes, I vex at it bitterly. Would you prefer being blind, or deaf and dumb?—I prefer being deaf and dumb to being blind. Deaf and dumb! why?—Because, if I were blind, my eyes could not see the language of signs.

Dr. KAY observed that the deaf and dumb highly appreciated any language by which they could hold conversation with their fellow beings.

The following questions were then handed in and proposed:—Of what use is education to the deaf and dumb? The pupil without a moment's hesitation replied—To change their minds from the nature of beasts to the dignity of men. The aptitude and dignity of the reply, as might be expected, called forth a spontaneous burst of approbation: we doubt whether any words that could be employed would convey a more correct explanation of the object and tendency of the institution, than was conveyed by the beautiful and fervent language of this afflicted child, who has felt the value of the instruction it affords.

Master Arbutnot was then examined in geography, both sacred and profane; and afterwards in theology by Dr. Kay, and the Rev. Mr. Barrow, and he evinced a complete knowledge of the various branches of education on which he was questioned. A gentleman handed in a question, What is prayer? His prompt and beautiful reply was—The desire of the heart.

The whole of the pupils present were then placed before the audience, and Dr. KAY read a report, of which the following is an outline:—

The committee set out by observing that they could not allow the friends who had favoured them with their attendance at that, the first examination of the pupils, to depart without addressing a few words to them explanatory of the present arrangements and future prospects of the establishment. The first inmates were received in the house, Orchard-street, so recently as last October, and when it was recollected that the pupils, with one or two exceptions, had before that period been wholly destitute of instruction, and that the majority had enjoyed its advantages only for a small portion of that period—in some instances only for a few weeks—when, moreover, the tender ages of the pupils, and the nature and character of the instruction communicated—“even the instruction which maketh wise unto salvation”—were taken into account, the committee perhaps would be forgiven if they hesitated not to express feelings of unfeigned satisfaction and delight at the success which had hitherto attended their labours. The number of deaf and dumb children under instruction is 20, viz.:—3 private and 4 public boarders, 7 day and 6 Sunday pupils. The hours devoted to tuition are from 9 to 12 in the morning, and from 2 till 4 in the afternoon; the girls are likewise instructed in needle work at convenient hours, and the boarders of a certain class are familiarised to household duties. The committee proposed when a child presented any particular taste or talent, to cultivate it as a source of innocent relaxation, or possibly in some instances as a means of permanent employment and maintenance. From 5 to 7 years or more, varying with the age and faculties of the deaf mute, would be required to impart the necessary degree of instruction. This attained, and the age and other things being suitable, it was intended to apprentice the pupil to some useful mechanical or other occupation. To boys many means of obtaining a livelihood readily presented themselves, such as drawing, engraving, printing, basket-making, gardening, &c. In the case of girls, needlework and domestic duties seemed to offer the principal resources. The affairs of the institution were con-

girls, needlework and domestic duties seemed to offer the principal resources. The affairs of the institution were conducted by the general committee, meeting monthly, by weekly sub-committee, and the ladies' committee, who regulated matters of a domestic nature. The school was open to the public during the hours of tuition, and a book kept in which visitors are invited to make their observations. The committee bore testimony to the talent of the master, Mr. Burns; never was sympathy with his fellow-creatures suffering under a common infirmity more strikingly manifested, nor kindly feeling for its alleviation more ardently displayed than in his constant and unremitting exertions in the discharge of his arduous but pleasing duties in instructing his fellow deaf mutes. The committee next adverted to the state of their funds. Their receipts from annual subscribers had only amounted to 113*l.*; from donations, including two anonymously presented contributions of 50*l.* each, to 369*l.* 6*l.* had been given also towards a building fund. The bequest of 500*l.* by the late J. W. Ricketts, Esq., with accumulations, would, it was expected, be shortly received by the treasurer. The present subscriptions were totally inadequate to meet the expenditure, and, unless they were increased, the committee would be brought to the painful necessity of refusing all future applications for instruction. The committee expressed a confident hope that so benevolent and useful an institution would not, in these days of Christian philanthropy, be suffered to droop, and they concluded by urging its friends to exert themselves to augment the number of subscribers, so as not merely to enable the committee to meet the present very limited expenditure, but to proportionally extend the benefits of the charity.

The MAYOR then said he was sure all present must have felt delighted with the proceedings of the day, and would agree with him that they were greatly indebted to the committee who had brought the institution to such a state of, he would say, prosperity (cheers). Reference had been made to Mr. Burns, and he (the Mayor) was sure they were all equally indebted to Dr. Kay (cheers); they knew the great attention he had paid to the subject, and must have been struck with the fine feeling and manly sympathy he had that day manifested in behalf of his afflicted fellow-creatures. He (the Mayor) felt proud that he was a citizen of Bristol, and hoped that there were many such to be found. He begged to move their thanks to Dr. Kay, accompanied by a sincere desire that the institution, whose interests he had so much at heart, might flourish in every possible way (loud cheers).

Dr. KAY, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the gratification it would afford him to be permitted to receive the names of new subscribers. The Mayor, who has paid a life subscription, immediately handed in his name as annual subscriber also; several other persons followed his example, and thanks having been voted to his worship for his kindness in taking the chair, the meeting broke up.

### DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTION.

We never remember having attended a meeting, whose object was that of charity, which afforded us greater gratification than did the first annual meeting of the above benevolent society, held in the theatre of the Philosophical Institution, on Thursday last. There we were witnesses of the great power of man's ingenuity and skill, as evidenced in the facility afforded for the communication of ideas between those unhappy members of the human family, who have the misfortune to be deficient of the ordinary powers for such communication. The interesting objects of this benevolent society, about 14 in number, appeared to be acute and intelligent, which, to an observer, may seem more prominent, by the expression thrown into their countenances, during their gesticulations, whilst holding converse with each other. A not uninteresting circumstance connected with this meeting was the attendance, during part of the proceedings, of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, who took the liveliest interest in what was going on, and who evinced the same by a liberal subscription of ten guineas, and by permitting himself to be constituted patron to the institution. The company, which was very numerous, completely filled the theatre.

The chair having been taken by the MAYOR, he expressed himself as most happy in being able to give his services on this occasion, which presented so great a contrast to those more painful duties which, in his official capacity, devolved upon him. The meeting must not expect that the deaf had been made to hear, and the dumb to speak, but what they would witness that day would convince them that a great deal had been done, and, he might say, more than many could have deemed possible.

Dr. KAY then read the report, from which it appeared there were 13,000 or 14,000 dumb mutes in the united kingdom, and that the number of schools provided for their reception was only 12; which, at the utmost, were only capable of affording accommodation for 1000; and that Bristol had been almost the only large town in the kingdom unprovided with a school. A meeting was held at the Guildhall, in Aug., 1840, at which it was resolved to form an institution, to be called the Bristol Institution for the Deaf and Dumb. A provisional committee was appointed, and an appeal addressed to the inhabitants of the western districts, inviting their co-operation. A second meeting was held at the Philosophical Institution, at which the Lord Bishop of the Diocese presided, on May 20, 1841, when the laws were confirmed, and officers appointed. A house was subsequently taken, in Orchard-street, and the school opened in October in the same year, under the charge of Mr. Burns and his sister. By the rules of the institution three classes of pupils were eligible for admission—the indigent deaf and dumb, those in better circumstances, and the children of parents in the higher walks of life; these were inmates. The day pupils were instructed *gratuitously*. Adults, whose avocations prevented their attendance during the week, were received on Sundays. In addition to the appointments provided by the laws, a sub-committee met weekly for the transaction of business. There were at present 17 pupils in the school—one parlour boarder; ten from the poorer class; two day, and four Sunday scholars. The ages of admission were from seven to twelve. The selection

ages of admission were from seven to twelve. The selection of pupils in future was to be placed in the hands of the subscribers, who, by virtue of their subscription of one guinea per annum, were constituted members, and entitled to a vote on the application of each candidate, and to have the power of recommending a deaf mute. It further appeared that the annual expenditure was 400*l.*, and the income not exceeding 200*l.* The report concluded by an earnest appeal on behalf of the unfortunates, for whom the institution had been formed. In conclusion, Dr. Kay begged to announce that it was in contemplation, in the spring months, to hold a bazaar in furtherance of the object of the institution, and he was most happy to state that several ladies had kindly and gratuitously volunteered their services for that purpose.

Dr. ALLEN moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by J. K. HABERFIELD, Esq. A committee for the ensuing year having been appointed, the meeting was briefly addressed by the Rev. W. LUCY, on behalf of the society.

Thanks to the officers of the institution, and to the medical gentlemen who had given their gratuitous services, having been moved by the Rev. Mr. TAYLOR, and seconded by Capt. NARES, the examination of the children was proceeded with.

Two children, a boy and a girl, the interesting appearance of whom when placed at the table elicited much sympathy from the meeting, were stated by Dr. Kay to be both of the age of six years, the former having been in the institution nine months, and the latter six months. He admitted they were both what might be termed naturally clever. They had never received the slightest instruction previous to their entering the institution. It would be evident that, at first, signs would be the only characters by which the deaf and mute could convey thought; and objects the only mode of exercise. He might mention that there had been ascertained to be an universal method amongst even the most barbarous nations, for the expression of their idea of *truth*, for instance, which was thus effected:—the hand was placed to the mouth, with the two fore-fingers extended, and thrust forward in a direct line; and for the signifying of falsehood, or what was literally a deviation from truth, the two hands were elevated to the mouth, and carried off in a diverging line.

The two children were then shown a board on which were painted various objects. The master directed the attention of the girl to a representation of a moon, and the child wrote the word moon very legibly on a black board. She was then shown an elephant, which word she wrote, but failed to spell correctly; and on the master signifying the same to her, she spelt the word with her fingers, discovered her error, and corrected it, to the great delight of the spectators. The children then proceeded to give answers by signs, and on a representation of a tiger being shown them, they scratched with their nails, and made motions significant of stripes with their fingers across the body. A board was next produced on which were written several words, expressive of things and also of qualities. As a guarantee that the children really knew what they were about, the words were pointed out to them at random, they being required to give such signs as should evidence their knowledge. To the word *eat* they replied, by a serpentine motion with their hands; *blind*, by shutting their eyes, and feeling their way with their hands; *dance*, by a motion of the feet; *dentist*, by drawing at the teeth; *barber*, by the action of shaving (which elicited no little merriment). The more difficult task was the

elicited no little merriment). The more difficult task was the expressing of qualities, or abstract notions, such as the word *knowledge*, for which they placed the fingers to the forehead, carrying them out in as wide a range as their reach would enable them; for *love*, they folded their arms in the most endearing manner; for *joy*, they rubbed their hands, while their little faces presented the most animated and delighted expression. The master then proceeded to ask questions with his fingers, which were satisfactorily answered in writing on the board. To the question "Who are you?" one wrote a boy, and another gave his name; the two different characters of the replies we consider good evidence that the children were conscious of what they did. Two others, a boy and girl, somewhat older than the preceding, were next examined; the master writing down the words of several trades, such as *mason*, *carpenter*, *tailor*, to which they replied by imitating the manner in which these operatives work. To the word *judge*, they made a sign of a wig, and put on an inconceivable gravity of countenance, which was exceedingly droll. *Adieu* being pointed out, they shook hands most cordially, and separated; and Dr. Kay expressed his opinion that the lady had the advantage in point of grace, to the no small amusement of the company present. It is impossible adequately to convey to our readers the effect of this examination, the great power of the children being evinced in their surprising skill in gesture.

But by far the most interesting feature in the examples given of the capabilities of these unfortunates was the introduction of a little blind girl, who carried on a conversation with a deaf mute, and our readers, we are sure, will not be uninterested by a knowledge how this wonderful result of the indefatigable and praiseworthy efforts of the afflicted master, Mr. Burns, was effected. The blind girl, by means of her fingers, asked the deaf mute (it will be borne in mind, though the blind girl could speak, that method of communication was of no avail in this case), "Who made you?" to which the other replied, not by the organ of speech, but by the sense of touch—taking the wrist of the blind girl by one hand, and with the other traversing the fingers over those of the unfortunate deficient of the sense of sight, who, in her turn, stated to the audience what was the answer she received.

The Duke of BEAUFORT moved a vote of thanks to the mayor for his services, and begged to assure the meeting, that what he had that day witnessed deeply affected him; he never recollected being more interested than he had been in the gratifying spectacle of the proceedings; and he hardly need say, how earnestly he hoped all present would gladly contribute their mite towards the support of so valuable an institution.

The noble duke was much cheered, and the mayor having returned thanks, the meeting broke up. The donations at the door, we were glad to perceive, were very liberal.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE . *The Bristol Mercury* (Bristol, England), Saturday, October 21, 1843; Issue 2796. *British Library Newspapers, Part I: 1800-1900.*

### PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

#### SOMERSETSHIRE.

On Tuesday evening an inquest was held by R. Uphill, Esq., coroner, at the Crown inn, Weston, on the body of Emma Scull, who was found drowned, on the afternoon of Saturday last, in Whitehouse pond, Weston. It appeared from the evidence that the deceased, who was **deaf and dumb**, had a quarrel with her mother and sister, who are also similarly afflicted. Some blows passed between them, when the deceased made signs to her sister that she would go and jump in the water. Afterwards nothing was heard of her, till she was discovered with her head in the pond, which contains only two feet of water, her feet resting on the bank. A great alteration was lately observed in her temper, which had become very morose. The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned, but how or by what means there is not sufficient evidence to prove."

#### **Bristol Deaf and Dumb Institution.**

The second general meeting of this excellent institution, having for its object the education of **deaf mutes**, was held on Wednesday last, in the theatre of the Philosophical Institution, Park-street. The attendance was highly numerous and respectable.

The Right Worshipful the MAYOR having been called to the chair, said—at the request of his friend, Dr. Kay, he had consented to preside over that institution, with which, he regretted to say, he had not been hitherto connected. Although not connected with it, however, no one could have been more deeply sensible of the value and importance of its labours, and of the comforts and blessings it conferred on a number of individuals, who must, under Providence, rely on its exertions. He knew of no meeting which it could give him greater satisfaction to preside over, or in which he could take part with a firmer confidence that he was doing his duty to Almighty God and to his fellow citizens. He had had, the other day, to preside over a meeting of persons afflicted in another way, who were suffering from want of sight. That privation was not, however, in his opinion, at all comparable with that under which the objects of their present commiseration laboured. It seemed as if a wall had been built up between them and society, and blessed were they who assisted to perforate that wall, and to let in the light of knowledge on those afflicted individuals. Many years ago—he should say 30 or 40—he had felt interested in the researches of the Abbé Secard, of Paris. He knew, also, what had been done by Professor Braidwood, of Edinburgh; and that the inestimable benefits which had followed, and the amount of knowledge that had been let in by their exertions, had surpassed all that had been anticipated, and had exceeded the most sanguine hopes of the fosterers of such institutions (hear). He had heard, and knew enough to satisfy him, that the Bristol institution, in the care with which it was managed and in the skill and benevolence exerted in carrying out its objects, might well rival any other in the kingdom. He did not mean to say in the extent of its operations, but in the essentials he had enumerated. After some further observations, his worship called on

#### **Bristol Deaf and Dumb Institution .**

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Dr. KAY, the honorary secretary, who read the  
ANNUAL REPORT.

The committee referred to the unusual interval which had elapsed since the first public meeting of the institution; the delay had been consequent, in part, on the changes of premises, and, contemporaneously therewith, the more important changes of master and matron; and, in part, on a desire to avoid interference with the anniversaries of other religious and benevolent societies. In reference to the appointment of a new master and matron, it was explained that the late matron, Miss Burns, was found unequal to the domestic duties which the committee thought they had a right to expect from the person filling the latter office; and that, from his dependant position, the resignation of Mr. Burns, who was deaf and dumb, almost necessarily followed her removal. The present master, Mr. Webster, had filled, for several years, the situation of first assistant, and latterly, for twelve months, that of head master in the Claremont National Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in the neighbourhood of Dublin, from which he had received testimonials of a very high character. He was appointed to the Bristol institution in November, and of his competency for the office, and of the efficiency of the system pursued by him, the audience would have an opportunity of judging from the examination. The change of premises had resulted not from any immediate necessity for increased accommodation, occasioned by the actual number of pupils, but from the inconvenience daily felt from the want of a play-ground for the children. The committee reported favourably of the new premises in Park-row, which were taken on a lease for three years at a rental of 100/., with the option of purchasing them for a sum specified. The building is capable of receiving at least 50 pupils, with separate apartments for the different classes, and the improved health of the children had satisfied the committee that few situations could have been selected better calculated for the purposes of the institution. Of the pupils enumerated in the last report, a private boarder, entered as S. P., had left the school on account of some domestic circumstances. Isabella Davidson, whom Mr. and Miss Burns brought with them from Scotland, had, upon their quitting the institution, returned to her friends in the north; and Robt. Bake had, after various attempts to reclaim him, been reluctantly expelled, for misconduct, by the committee. At the suggestion of the ladies' committee, and with a view to economy in the household expenditure, two young women, both deaf mutes, were engaged to assist in washing and other domestic duties, instruction being given them in the school when not thus employed. The experiment as regarded those young women, who were of the ages of 18 and 19, and therefore inadmissible under ordinary circumstances by the rules of the institution, the committee were sorry to say, did not succeed. An application was very recently made by one of the parents for the re-admission of their daughter as a Sunday pupil. The report proceeded—"If a comparatively limited sphere and period of observation entitle them to form an opinion, your committee feel satisfied that the rule adopted in all the institutions restricting the age of admission is a wise and salutary measure. None but those who have closely studied the wayward tempers and mischievous propensities of deaf mutes can form an adequate idea of the arduous duty attending their education. Little accustomed to discipline, ignorant and self-willed; and in many instances spoiled by the mistaken indulgence of friends or parents, it requires no ordinary exercise of patient forbearance, combined with judicious firmness, successfully to enforce principles of obedience and submission. How greatly the difficulty is increased when no such control has been attempted during the earlier years of infancy and childhood, and the evil feelings and corrupt tendencies of human nature have scarcely received a check, it requires little penetration to understand." After remarking that scarcely any sickness had been experienced by the pupils, and adverting to the valuable services of the ladies' committee in superintending the household arrangements, and thus economising the expenditure.—the report acknowledged two annoy-

1 mising the expenditure.—the report acknowledged two anonymous  
2 donations of 50*l.* and one of 20*l.* from (as the committee  
3 believed) the same generous donor. Another gratifying instance  
4 of generosity, prompted by kindly feelings of sympathy, was  
5 that of a deaf mute living at Beachley, Monmouthshire, who,  
6 having herself enjoyed the blessings of education in one of our  
7 public institutions, was anxious to impart to her brothers and  
8 sisters in calamity the same invaluable privileges. From this  
9 young person the treasurer had received 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, the contribu-  
10 tions of herself and family, aided by one or two friends. In  
11 tendering their grateful thanks to every subscriber and donor,  
12 the committee acknowledged, in an especial manner, the kind-  
13 ness of those ladies and their friends who so materially aided  
14 the funds of the institution by their active exertions in connexion  
15 with the bazaar. The net sum of 567*l.* 15*s.* was realised there-  
16 from, which it was proposed to set apart as a reserved fund to-  
17 wards the future erection or purchase of premises. The com-  
18 mittee regretted to state that they had already been compelled  
19 to trench, in some degree, upon this amount; in doing it, how-  
20 ever, they had regarded the act rather in the light of a tempo-  
21 rary than of a permanent abstraction, for they confidently trusted  
22 that upon the inadequacy of the income placed at their disposal  
23 being known, fresh individuals would be induced to become  
24 subscribers. The amount of annual subscriptions was 158*l.* 2*s.* 4*d.*,  
25 of donations, 360*l.* 19*s.* 5*d.*; board of pupils, 114*l.* 6*s.*; smaller  
26 sums, in boxes at the institution, &c., 5*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.* The perma-  
27 nent income might be stated to be 300*l.*, while the expendi-  
28 ture was 509*l.* To meet the deficiency, the committee were  
29 dependant upon casual donations. For a decrease in the amount  
30 of the latter compared with the contributions in the earlier  
31 period of the institution's existence they were, of course, not  
32 unprepared; but that while the donations to October, 1843, were  
33 267*l.*, those from that period to the present time should have  
34 only amounted to about 30*l.* (including the 20*l.* before referred  
35 to), they had not anticipated. In inviting the cordial co-opera-  
36 tion of the Christian public, the committee concluded their re-  
37 port as follows:—"If motives be wanting, they would invite  
38 you to look around upon the group of once destitute and igno-  
39 rant, but now happy and intelligent, little ones, whose joyous  
40 faces expressively welcome their kind benefactors on this the  
41 anniversary of their freedom; and whilst you participate in  
42 their innocent and grateful feelings, oh, do not forget that there  
43 are at this moment in your own city and immediate neighbour-  
44 hood numbers of those interesting but forsaken children of sil-  
45 lence awaiting your summons to join the band, and to enjoy the  
46 privileges of their more fortunate fellow-sufferers."

47 The cash account for the year (the substance of which is  
48 given in the report) having been read, the usual resolutions  
49 adopting the report, thanking the past committees and officers,  
50 and appointing those for the ensuing year, were passed.  
51 They were proposed by Sir J. Hare, the Rev. H. I. Roper,  
52 Rev. W. Montague, Rev. G. Armstrong, J. George, A.  
53 Palmer, Esqrs., and others.

54 Dr. KAY then stated that the noble president of the insti-  
55 tution, his grace the Duke of Beaufort, intended being present  
56 at the meeting, although, from a necessary attention to other  
57 public duties, he would be unable to arrive until a later period  
58 than he desired. His grace had, however, requested that his  
59 absence should not be permitted to retard the proceedings of  
60 the anniversary.

61 The examination of the pupils of the institution in the  
62 several branches of knowledge was then proceeded with, and  
63 was conducted by the master, Mr. Webster, and the hon.  
64 secretary, Dr. Kay.

The examination embraced the several modes employed by deaf mutes in communicating their ideas to each other, such as the finger alphabet, writing, and natural signs.

The first pupil examined was an interesting and intelligent little girl of six years old, who had only been in the institution for the short period of three months. The manner in which she acquitted herself manifested the possession of superior natural talents, and evinced the care and attention which must have been bestowed upon her, as well as the excellence of the system pursued by the master of the school.

Other children were subsequently brought before the meeting, and underwent, with much credit to themselves and their instructors, examinations in mute conversation, scriptural knowledge, writing, arithmetic, geography, &c. The rapidity and correctness with which they wrote were matters of much surprise; and it was impossible not to notice the ease with which they understood the natural signs. These latter indicate, by particular motions of the hands and body, the object which is at the moment engrossing the mind. As for instance, "dark night," would be denoted by the pupil walking with a timid and uncertain motion, as if groping his way, and "bird flying" by looking upwards and making a fluttering motion with the hands. In the course of the examination his Grace the Duke of Beaufort entered the room and, the mayor being obliged to leave to attend a public engagement, succeeded his worship in the chair.

Before the meeting separated

Dr. KAY said he was sure he was only giving utterance to the feelings of all present, when he expressed their high sense of the condescension and kindness of his Grace the Duke of Beaufort, not only in becoming patron of the institution, but also in manifesting a continuous interest in its welfare, and in presiding over them that day, in the absence of his worship the mayor (cheers). Dr. K. moved a vote of thanks to his grace, which was carried by acclamation.

The Duke of BEAUFORT said he was extremely flattered by such marks of their approbation, and assured them that he had from its foundation felt, and should continue to feel, a lively interest in the welfare of the institution. The progress made since he was last here was most satisfactory, and no one could have witnessed the present examination without feeling assured that the institution was established on a sound foundation. It was most deeply indebted to Dr. Kay (cheers), of whose unremitting zeal and attention all present must be fully sensible (cheers).

Dr. KAY, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed a hope that the public would aid the efforts of the committee, by placing at their disposal sufficient funds.

The meeting then broke up.