

TEACHING AS CALLING FOR THE DEAF

Teaching like all other professions has its advantages as well as its disadvantages, for the deaf.

In the first place the deaf can better sympathize with the pupil and more readily stimulate a desire for learning than a hearing person, who has taken up the work either just for the pay or in some way come in touch with the deaf and taken a desire to teach them. In many cases they know very little about the deaf before entering the school-room.

One of the great disadvantages of the deaf teacher, is that he must content himself with less compensation for the work than the hearing teacher, though there are a few noted deaf educators who command very high salaries.

Teaching is a noble calling and one that requires a love of the work as well as intellectual and moral ability. Some who had these requirements have left the profession and taken up other work which paid them better simply because the schools did not give them sufficient compensation for the work.

The deaf child naturally feels attached to a deaf teacher and will more readily seek information or advice from them than from a hearing teacher. They also go to them for social reasons—a little friendly chat or take some little perplexity to them and of course they are benefited in this way.

The deaf teacher also is benefitted by being in a school for the deaf where he can keep in touch with others like himself and especially where there are a number of deaf teachers at the same school, it is all the more beneficial in many ways. They can help one another along in the work and it is a great pleasure to them socially.

A great writer has said that "a teacher who is attempting to teach without inspiring the pupil with a desire to learn is hammering on cold iron." This is a true saying, and one that brings great discouragement to a teacher to find he has failed to create a desire to learn in a pupil.

Lastly, I say that *unless one has a decided pleasure and facility in teaching*, an honest knowledge of everything to be imparted, a liking for children, and, above all a strong moral sense of the responsibility towards them, to try to teach is wrong. Therefore, *the deaf who do not feel called to teach should prepare themselves for the battle of life by learning some trade*, if possible at school but if the school does not teach the desired trade they must necessarily spend sometime, after leaving school, learning it.