

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

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*To the Board of Directors :*

GENTLEMEN: In compliance with the by-laws of your Institution, I beg leave to submit my report for the year ending December 1, 1864. This report must necessarily be incomplete, as I did not assume the Superintendency of your Institution until the month of April last, from which time I must date the most of my remarks.

I find by the records of the Institution that your number on the 1st of December, 1863, was 21; admitted during the year, 4; deceased, 1; remaining December 1st, 1864, 24. Of this number there were, from Baltimore city, 12; Washington, D. C., 1; the various counties, 11—of which 20 were State beneficiaries, and the remaining 4 pay pupils.

By a glance at the previous reports, you will discover that the Institution, during the past year, has imparted its benefits to a larger number, than during any previous year. Expecting an addition of several others during the coming year, we will find more extensive accommodations to be requisite. In regard to the scholastic progress of our pupils, I would remark that much effort has been evinced on the part of both teachers and pupils, who manifest the most kindly feelings in their respective relations. Our method of instruction does not materially differ from that pursued in any well-regulated boarding school. The principal feature of difference being the greater amount of oral instruction necessary in teaching the blind. The school room for the blind resembling more the lecture room of an academy or college.

We can depend but little upon the raised print for school room instruction. I find that those pupils who have engaged in occupations which have a tendency to destroy the sensitiveness of their fingers, receive instruction with less facility from the raised print than younger pupils who have not been thus employed. This, in addition to the scarcity of text books, is a formidable obstacle in the way of using raised print for school room instruction.

Our course of instruction, during the year under review, embraced the following branches: Reading, writing, spelling and defining, arithmetic, algebra, geography, grammar, history, and general literature. Especial attention is paid to the science of music, both vocal and instrumental. We have also given due attention to the various branches of handicraft best adapted to the blind—broom-making being the principal branch taught in the male department; and bead-work, sewing and knitting, in the female department. Our musical department, under the charge of Prof. Wm. Har-