

BLIND, DEAF, AND DUMB ASYLUM.

For some days a notice has appeared in our business columns intimating that the Committee of the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Asylum are now prepared to receive applications from persons who have the misfortune to be eligible for admission to the institution. The advertisement has already called forth a sufficient number of responses to prove that the Asylum when opened will have no lack of inmates. The practical difficulty that is now being encountered has reference to the obtaining of suitable premises. With an amount of £6,000—consisting of £3,000 chiefly raised through the indefatigable exertions of Mr. Townsend and £3,000 of a Government subsidy—in hand, it would be easy enough for the Committee to have the necessary buildings erected; but they feel that it would be unwise to delay operations for a period of eighteen months or two years, and accordingly they have invited offers from persons with premises to dispose of adapted to the purposes they have in view. As yet they have not met with much success, and our chief object in alluding to the matter now is to draw attention to the position in which the movement stands, and express a hope that those who are in any way able to do so will lend their aid in helping the Committee out of the dilemma in which they are placed. It is greatly to be regretted that there should be any delay in providing accommodation for those who have been bereft of the organs of sight, or of hearing and speech, and who wish to secure the benefits of an establishment of the description contemplated. If no suitable building can be obtained at once, the Committee will do well to take steps to have one erected. We learn that Mr. Samuel Watson, Superintendent of the Blind, Deaf, and Dumb Asylum in Sydney, has been requested to visit the colony with a view of inaugurating the new Asylum, and it has been arranged that in the event of a competent candidate for the office of Manager not being obtainable Messrs. A. L. Elder and Thomas Graves shall select in England some gentleman suitable for the appointment. For the present the £6,000 above referred to is lying at interest.

BY HUBERT SMITH CALLED "TENT LIFE WITH ENGLISH GIPSIES IN NORWAY." In former days the author knocked about a little in Australia, and he has sent a presentation copy of the second edition of his book to Mr. George Green of Adelaide. Mr. G. D. Green has kindly drawn our attention to a point of interest in the volume which was not referred to in our previous notice. It will be remembered that Mr. Smith, in company with three English gipsies, took a 2,000 mile tramp through some of the most picturesque districts in Norway. All through the expedition the party lived in true gipsy fashion. One result of this mode of life is that Mr. Smith is led by his experience to assist, with the numerous other influences which are now working in the same direction, in increasing respect for Australian preserved meats. The commissariat was furnished with 28 lbs. of that article of diet, which was added pretty much as an experiment, and with much misgiving as to whether it would answer. The result was so completely successful that the meat again and again receives Mr. Smith's warmest commendation. The first tin was opened a few miles from Lillehammer, and although tasted with a good deal of hesitation was at once pronounced to be excellent. This verdict is repeated about it throughout the book. Towards the close of the journey Mr. Smith writes:—"A tin of preserved meat was opened. Really this meat is excellent. What could be better? Even our gipsies were perfectly satisfied, and thoroughly enjoyed it." Testimony of this kind will do its share towards destroying the suspicions with which Australian meat is too much regarded. For the purposes of tourists the preserved meat is extremely convenient, and if it becomes much used by them, and obtains frequent favourable notice in popular books of travel, Messrs. Tallermann & Co. are likely to find a perceptible increase in its consumption by the general public. That is a result which will gratify every friend of this important colonial industry.

TENT LIFE IN NORWAY.—A few months since, in one of our "New Books" articles, we noticed an exceedingly interesting work by Hubert Smith called "Tent Life with English Gipsies in Norway." In former