

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

HOME OPENED.

A fine building, erected at the corner of North Quay and Turbot-street, for the use of the adult deaf and dumb mutes of Queensland, was officially opened last evening, in the presence of a large audience, by Mr. E. J. T. Barton, one of the committee of the Queensland Deaf and Dumb Institute, in the absence of Mr. D. F. Denham (chairman) owing to illness. The building, which was erected at a cost of £2000 on land which cost £2250, is of brick. It comprises a small chapel capable of holding about 70 persons, a superintendent's room, and a recreation room, about 26ft. by 30ft., divided from the chapel by a wall of Queensland silky oak, and containing a billiard table, a reading table, a number of chairs, and an abundance of literature. A veranda adjoins the recreation-room. The ceiling is of silky oak, and the walls are covered with white plaster with silky oak paneling.

Mr. Barton, whose remarks were interpreted to the deaf and dumb persons present, congratulated these afflicted ones on having so fine a building, which, he said, had been erected by the people of Queensland, by means of small donations. The building, he was proud to say, was free of debt.

Mr. Murton (secretary and treasurer) also offered his congratulations.

The Superintendent (Mr. S. W. Showell), who is deaf and dumb, "spoke" to his comrades, and his "remarks" were interpreted by Mr. Abraham.

Mr. E. J. T. Abraham (principal of the Victorian Deaf and Dumb Institution) said that the institution would welcome all deaf and dumb mutes, irrespective of their religious denomination. He had heard that the Government had taken over the control of the school for Deaf and Dumb Children, and this was only as it should be, for they long ago took over the schools for the children who possessed the facilities that these poor ones lacked. "But," he added, "it is adding insult to injury when they put it under the control of the Home Secretary instead of the Education Department. The normal people take education as a birthright, but they sling it at the deaf and dumb as a charity. They are entitled to the same advantages as those normal people. The deaf and dumb ratepayers have to help to pay for the education of the normal people, but the latter refuse to give them the right of it. I hope the department will see their mistake in keeping the deaf and dumb school as a charitable institution" (Ap-

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plause.) Two of the deaf and dumb mutes conveyed a vote of thanks from their comrades to all who had assisted, and refreshments were provided by the lady members of the committee.

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