

**REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE ON  
MATTERS RELATING TO THE  
BLIND, HELD AT THE CHURCH  
HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, ON APRIL  
22ND, 23RD & 24TH, 1902**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649691388

Report of the Conference on Matters Relating to the Blind, Held at the Church House,  
Westminster, on April 22nd, 23rd & 24th, 1902 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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BLIND, HELD AT THE CHURCH  
HOUSE, WESTMINSTER, ON APRIL  
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REPORT  
OF THE  
CONFERENCE

On Matters relating to the Blind,

Organized by the Committee of the:

GARDNER'S TRUST FOR THE BLIND.

HELD AT THE  
CHURCH HOUSE, WESTMINSTER,

On April 22nd, 23rd & 24th, 1902.



LONDON:  
FARMER & SONS, PRINTERS, 295, EDGWARE ROAD, W.

1902.

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*"The Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind, while thanking those who read valuable and interesting papers at the Conference, wish it to be clearly understood that they are not responsible for any statement made either by readers or by individual speakers. The object of the Committee was full and free discussion."*

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*Report of the Conference on matters  
relating to the Blind, April, 1902.*

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**I**N July, 1901, the Committee of the Gardner's Trust for the Blind, consisting of W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq. (Chairman), The Right Hon. Lord Kinnaird, A. P. S. Beaumont, Esq., General Sir George W. Higginson, K.C.B., Sir Gardner Engleheart, K.C.B., The Right Hon. Lord Belhaven and Stenton, and Sir Frederic Abernethy Burrows, Bart., considered the advisability of holding a Conference on matters relating to the Blind, and the following letter was sent to 58 Institutions and Societies for the Blind in England and Wales.

GARDNER'S TRUST FOR THE BLIND.

53, Victoria Street,  
Westminster,  
London, S.W.  
*August 3rd, 1901.*

Dear Sir,

As several requests have been made to the Committee of this Trust to take the initiative in arranging for the holding of a Conference next year in regard to questions affecting the Blind, I am directed to inform you that they are willing to take steps for the organisation of such Conference, provided that the authorities of the various Institutions and Societies will co-operate.

I shall be obliged, therefore, by your informing me, as soon as convenient, whether the Committee of your Institution will take part in a Conference provisionally fixed for April 22nd and 23rd (and possibly 24th), 1902, to be held in London. If so, I shall be further obliged by your informing me how many of your representatives are likely to be present, and by your submitting to me, on or before October 26th, a list of any subjects that may be deemed deserving

of discussion, in order that they may be considered with others.

A list of subjects finally selected for discussion will be forwarded you in due course, together with a card or cards of invitation, should representatives of your Institution decide to attend the Conference.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY J. WILSON,

Secretary.

To the Secretary of the  
 ——— Institution for the Blind.

The response to this letter was so strongly in favour of holding a Conference that it was decided to begin to make the necessary arrangements in the autumn.

The following were then appointed, as a Consultative Committee, by the Gardner's Trust, viz. : Miss E. M. Bainbrigg, Rev. H. J. R. Marston, Rev. St. Clare Hill, Capt. G. G. Webber, R.N., Dr. F. J. Campbell, Dr. Ranger, Messrs. A. C. Cronin, W. Harris, C. S. Loch, H. Stainsby and J. Tennant. The Committee met on November 21st and was presided over by Mr. W. S. Seton-Karr, the Chairman of the Gardner's Trust, the Secretary, Mr. Henry J. Wilson, also being present. At this meeting the numerous subjects for discussion, suggested by the secretaries of the various Institutions, were carefully considered, and recommendations were made to the Committee of the Gardner's Trust, who finally decided on the following chairmen, readers of papers, and subjects for discussion :—

TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

*Chairman*—The Right Hon. The Earl Egerton of Tatton (Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Blind, Deaf and Dumb, &c., 1886-89.)

Subject: "Education of the Blind."

"The higher education of the Blind," by the Rev. H. J. R. Marston, M.A., formerly Fellow and Reader in English Literature of the University of Durham.

"Provision for the instruction of the Blind on attaining 16 years of age, and of those going blind after that age, having regard to the Act of 1893," by the Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B., late H.M. Chief Inspector of Schools.

2 to 5 p.m.

*Chairman*—Alfred C. Cronin, Esq., F.S.A., (Master of the Clothworkers' Company, 1899-1900.)

"Provision for 'defective' blind children," by C. S. Doch, Esq., Secretary of the Charity Organization Society.

"Physical Training of the Blind," by Dr. F. J. Campbell, Principal of the Royal Normal College for the Blind at Norwood.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23RD. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Subject: "Professions and Trades for the Blind."

*Chairman*—W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq. (Chairman and a Trustee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind.)

"Professions and Trades best adapted for the Blind, including those not usually practised, and the best means of helping the Blind to carry on the trades for which they have been trained," by Henry Stainsby, Esq., General Superintendent and Secretary of the General Institution for the Blind, Birmingham.

"Most approved methods of conducting workshops, including the question of wages, and of providing lodging accommodation for the workers," by the Rev. St. Clare Hill, M.A., Principal of the School for the Indigent Blind, Southwark.

2 to 5 p.m.

Subject: "Literature for the Blind."

*Chairman*—The Right Hon. The Lord Kinnaird (a Trustee, and a member of the Committee of Gardner's Trust for the Blind.)

"The need of more and cheaper Literature for the Blind," in Braille type, by Alfred Hirst, Esq., of Whitby; and in Moon's type, by Miss Moon, the daughter of the inventor of the type.

"Uniform Braille System," by W. H. Illingworth, Esq., Head Master of the Royal Blind Asylum and School, West Craigmillar, Edinburgh.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24TH. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Subject: "The Aged Blind."

*Chairman*—Sir John M. Stirling Maxwell, Bart., M.P.

"Provision for the aged by means of Pensions, Homes, or otherwise," by W. S. Seton-Karr, Esq., Chairman of the Committee of Gardner's Trust.

"Statistics concerning Blindness," by Reginald MacLeod, Esq., C.B., Registrar-General.

"Home Teaching Societies," by Miss E. M. Bainbrigge, Secretary to the London Home Teaching Society for the Blind.