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By the Education Act it is compulsory for deaf children to come under instruction at the age of six, and to continue until the age of twenty-one unless the Education Department previously grants exemption. Though a child is, as a rule, best fitted to begin the school course at the age of six, advice should be obtained as soon as any sign of deafness is observed.

The following classes of deaf children are admitted to the School for the Deaf (sound intellect being always a necessity):—

1. Children born deaf, or who have lost their hearing before learning to speak.
2. Children who can hear a little, but are too deaf to be taught in a public school.
3. Children who have lost their hearing after having learned to speak.

The Act imposes upon every parent, teacher of a school (either public or private), constable, or officer of a charitable or kindred institution who is aware of the place of residence (either temporary or permanent) of a deaf child, and the householder in whose house any such child resides, an obligation to send notification of the fact to the Minister of Education, giving the name, age, and address of the child; and any neglect or failure to comply with this provision involves liability to a fine.

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APRIL-JUNE. VOL. XVII.

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