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TUESDAY, 24 MARCH, 1914.

Whitehall, March 23, 1914.

The following Address was presented to the King on Thursday, the 19th instant, when His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen, opened the new buildings of the National Institute for the Blind in Great Portland Street:—

To Their Most Excellent Majesties the King and Queen.

The Loyal and Dutiful Address of the Executive Council of the NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

May it please Your Majesties,

The Institute which Your Majesties graciously honour with Your presence here to-day was founded by that generous and ardent friend of the blind, the late Dr. T. R. Armitage, whose daughter we rejoice to claim as a devoted member of the Council. The name selected for the Institute at its foundation, and by which it has hitherto been known, was "The British and Foreign Blind Association." For weighty reasons it has been agreed to change its name, and after mature deliberation it has been decided that for the future, reckoning from this auspicious day, its name shall be "The National Institute for the Blind." It is proposed that the room in which we are now assembled be named "The

Armitage Hall," in memory of one who deserves to be remembered with gratitude by every blind person in the Empire.

The chief objects which our founder aimed at were the printing of books in embossed type for the use of the blind, and the employment, as far as possible, of blind persons in the production of those books. Fortunately, after a careful and prolonged inquiry, Dr. Armitage's choice of a type fell upon that system of embossed dots which is generally known as "Braille," from the name of its author, the blind Frenchman, Louis Braille, the centenary of whose birth was celebrated with enthusiasm by the blind throughout the world four years ago. This is the type that is now used exclusively by a very large majority of Your Majesties' blind subjects. The demand for books in this type is incessant; we are called upon to produce books embracing religion and science, history and fiction, travel and biography; and, not the least important, music, by means of which a very large number of the blind earn their livelihood.

Without wishing in the slightest degree to disparage the work done by other institutions, we claim with confidence that ours is by far the largest and most important printing press of embossed literature in the Empire. We are very proud of the amount of work which we have been able to produce, and of the great improvement in the quality of that work