

A PUBLIC trial of the POLISH MNEMONIC METHOD took place on Wednesday, April 13, at the Cadogan Scientific and Literary Institution, Sloane Street.

LORD DUDLEY COUTTS STUART took the Chair, and said—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

BEING requested to take the chair on the present occasion, I do so with a great deal of pleasure; because the object is one of the which all must approve, it is to facilitate the progress of education and render it more effectual—to make it more easy to the teacher to teach, and to the pupil to learn; it is to make known to you, and the public in general, a system of Mnemonics, which appears likely to produce the most beneficial results; by affording to the memory of the student of whatever age (and the effect is greatest where the age is least) an aid which until tested by experience can scarcely be credited. I have the more pleasure in contributing to make this system known because, it has been invented and brought to perfection by gentlemen belonging to that unhappy, but glorious, Poland, to whose cause I have long devoted myself.

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General Bem, of whom, though present, I may speak without restraint as he is wholly unacquainted with our language, after having served in the Polish army with great distinction, and given brilliant proofs of gallantry and military skill in the campaign of 1831 against the Russians, was by the misfortunes of his country and his attachment to her rights, compelled to exchange the high post of commander-in-chief of the artillery for the lowly condition of a political refugee—as such he sought to employ his hours of exile on some useful work; and he has for several years devoted all his attention and energies to the improvement and introduction of his Mnemonic system. For five years he has had to contend at Paris with those objections and prejudices which, not unnaturally, nor perhaps unusefully, but invariably meet the attempts of every one seeking to bring forward any new plan, or operate any innovation. But his perseverance has at length obtained for him deserved success, and he has the satisfaction of knowing that by order of the authorities superintending public instruction in Paris, his system has been adopted in the public schools of that capital, where there are upwards of 3000 pupils now pursuing their studies according to this method. Of the efficacy and value of the plan it will be for you to judge when it has been explained. But what I have stated will serve to shew, that you have not been invited to give your attention to a system lightly taken up or wholly untried, but one which, after careful examination and original distrust, has been approved by persons well competent to form an opinion.



General Bem has been in this country only a few weeks, and he is obliged to return to the Continent immediately. He has, however, during his short stay, instructed several of his countrymen so as to render them perfectly well able to explain his system to any who may be desirous of becoming acquainted with it. One of these gentlemen (Mr. Zaba) has, under the General's direction, instructed the young people you now see before you according to this system. They have been taught the Chronology of English and French history, in which they have had ten lessons; and they have also had two lessons in statistics. The system, however, may be made available for any study in which it is requisite to impress figures or facts on the memory. Mr. Zaba will now proceed to examine his pupils in their studies, and by the Tables you hold in your hands, you will be enabled to judge of the correctness of their answers—you are invited afterwards to satisfy yourselves of the degree of perfection arrived at by addressing questions yourselves to the young people. Mr. Zaba will then explain to you the method according to which the children have been instructed.

After this address had been delivered, Mr. Zaba proceeded to examine the children, the audience joining often in putting questions at random from the following Table, and marking with loud plaudits their satisfaction at the ease and precision with which they were answered. A brief explanation of the principal features of the method followed, and the meeting separated, thanks having been expressed by Mr. Zaba, on the



part of General Bem and his countrymen, to the noble Chairman and to the company. Amongst the persons present were, —The Duchess of Sutherland and the Ladies Gower, Marquis of Stafford, Earl of Harrowby, Lady Frances Sandon, and Miss Ryder, the Countess of Denbigh and Ladies Fielden, the Bishop of Salisbury, Lady James Stuart and Miss Stuart Lady Charles Fitzroy, Lady Warncliffe, Lady Georgiana Stuart Wortley, E. Denison, Esq., M.P., Lady Charlotte Denison, the Hon. Colonel and Mrs. Leicester Stanhope, the Rev. Dr. Rice, Master of Christ's Hospital, &c.

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On Tuesday, April 12th, Gen. Bem and Mr. N. F. Zaba had the honor of being presented by Lord D. C. Stuart to H. R. H. DUKE OF SUSSEX, at Kensington Palace, for the purpose of explaining the Polish Mnemonic Method, in its application to various studies. Two boys and a girl, from 10 to 13 years of age, instructed according to this method, in English and French History, and in Statistics, were examined before His ROYAL HIGHNESS, Her Grace the Duchess of Inverness, the Countess of Morley, and General Sir James Kempt.—The correctness of their answers excited the surprize and admiration of H. R. Highness and of all present; and the more so, when they were informed that the children had received only Eight Lessons.

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*\*\*\* Persons desirous of further information with regard to this method, are requested to apply to the "Literary Association of the Friends of Poland," 10, Duke Street, St. James's, where the Addresses of Gentlemen prepared to teach the system may also be obtained.*