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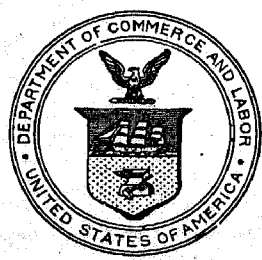
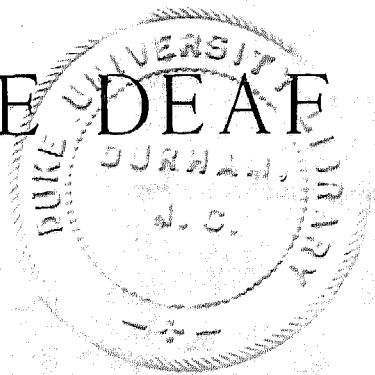
S. N. D. NORTH, DIRECTOR

SPECIAL REPORTS

THE BLIND AND THE DEAF

1900

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,

BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,

*Washington, D. C., June 15, 1906*

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit the Special Report relating to the Blind and the Deaf, in 1900, compiled in accordance with section 7 of the act of Congress of March 6, 1902.

The preliminary data for this report were collected by the enumerators of the Twelfth Census, who reported the name, age, sex, and post office address of each person alleged to be blind or deaf, as a basis for a more complete return to be secured by correspondence with the individuals.

The inquiry was initiated and the correspondence conducted under the direction of Dr. Alexander Graham Bell, who determined the scope of the investigation and specified the tabulations to be made from the data secured. He also prepared the text relating to the deaf. In arranging the classification of the causes of blindness, Doctor Bell was assisted by the late Dr. Swan M. Burnett, who kindly revised the comments relating to this part of the work. The compilation of the statistical tables was performed in the division of vital statistics under the supervision of the late William A. King, chief statistician for vital statistics.

The returns collected in connection with this inquiry have not only served as the statistical basis for this report, but have been utilized to the more immediate advantage of the blind and deaf by preparing, upon request, lists of addresses and personal data for schools, libraries, and other institutions established for the benefit of these classes. Over 203 lists aggregating 42,084 names of blind persons and 29,544 of deaf have been supplied by the Bureau of the Census, and it is believed that this use of the data will contribute more directly to the personal benefit of the blind and deaf than any other that could be made.

Very respectfully,



*Director.*

Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF,

*Secretary of Commerce and Labor.*