

## THE ROCKWOOD REVIEW

### XMAS AT ROCKWOOD.

Xmas at Rockwood was as usual a happy day, although a very busy one with those who had to provide for the entertainment of six hundred patients. It is always the desire of every employee to make Xmas the brightest day of the year, and as success generally follows honest effort in any walk of life, so it is at Rockwood. The old original Scrooge & Company have no place here at Xmas, and while it is true that many feel the sorrow naturally developed by being away from home and loved ones, still they are also alive to the fact that the glorious birth of Christ can be remembered even under the roof of a Hospital for the Insane.

There may be institutions where the patients are regarded as incapable of appreciating any special efforts made to add to their enjoyment, but we hope such do not exist in Canada.

Early in the day the calls of "Merry Xmas" from every quarter showed how keenly alive all were to the happiness of the day, but it was when dinner time came the first success was scored. Such a spread of good things could not be well improved upon. More luxuries and dainties might be found on rich men's tables, but better substantials no where. Turkeys, geese, ducks and chickens, the very best the market provided, vegetables galore, and plum pudding of the ruddy brown kind, where the raisins and other good things jostle each other in keen rivalry. Not a complaint to be heard anywhere, and the spirit of good feeling universally prevalent.

However after dinner is over the Xmas Tree is the "piece de resistance" to be anxiously waited for.

The rule, a present for every one, is lived up to as closely as possible, and even if times are hard the good hearts of the general public never forget the friendless ones. It may truly be said that there are no friendless ones, and even those patients who are nameless and with a history as blank and unfathomable as their future are not forgotten. The distribution of gifts is always prefaced by an entertainment, and this year a particularly bright musical sketch was given, preceded by a short Concert—a programme of which is enclosed.

It would not be fair to criticize the musical efforts of the staff of the Review, but they did their best. Mr. Madill's Clarinet Solo was well rendered and effective, and the Breaking of the Spell, a beautiful thing with its graceful dances, witty conversations and sparkling songs. Getting it up meant a lot of hard work for Miss Trendell and those who took part. The principals Miss Orser, Miss Glasgow, Miss Convery and Messrs. Cochran and Shea were very happy in their efforts to please.

Now came the illumination of the beautiful tree and distribution of presents. Such a Babel and such a sea of happy faces, and yet some eyes were filled with tears when the little packages from home were opened, and some loved child's gift found. Truly there was a pathetic side to it, and yet let us hope that under the careful direction of those who have the charge of the inmates, before another Xmas shall come many of those who are separated to-day will again be together at home.

Black birds have not all said good-bye, and several have been reported. Mrs. Cony Cartwright reports two of these birds as being constant visitors at her home.