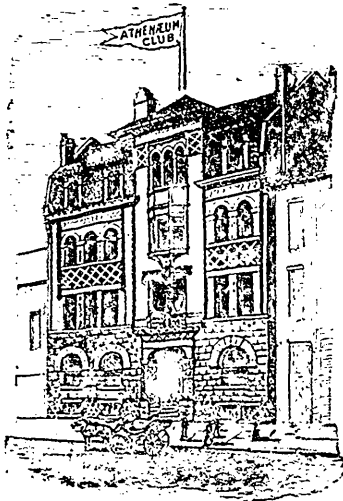


The Athenæum Club.

Monday evening, the 4th inst., was rather wet and murky, but the state of the atmosphere outside did not appear to dampen the spirits of the three thousand odd guests who were enjoying themselves in the beautiful home of the Athenæum Club.

As early as eight o'clock, the members and their friends began to assemble, and by ten fully three thousand people were gathered within the hospitable walls. Among those present were representatives from the various city clubs, as well as many from a distance.



At 9.30 Chairman J. P. Edwards, of the Building Committee, presented the keys to Past President Pearson, and the building was declared formally opened. In a few moments the merry throng in the wheel-room was dancing to the strains of Glionna's Italian Orchestra; on the ground floor the gentlemen—and ladies, too—were practising on the new bowling alleys. Above them in the spacious billiard hall could be heard the "click" of the ivories, while interested spectators looked on from the galleries above.

The history of the club is one of success from its beginning in 1883 as a comparatively small affair, having rooms above the Public Library on Church St., until to-day it possesses one of the finest club houses on the continent. The idea of the original founders of the club was to provide a place of amusement and recreation, at moderate cost and free from evil influences—a design which has been steadily lived up to—and the club goes into its new quarters without a stain upon its reputation for good work.

The new building, which with ground and

furnishing cost in the neighborhood of \$50,000, is situated at Nos. 165 and 167 Church St., and runs back to Dalhousie St. The engraving at the head of this article gives a good idea of the front, or Church St., elevation, which is of pressed brick and Ohio buff stone. Wide entrance and stair-case halls give one a favorable impression of the interior, which is further added to on coming into the beautiful reception room on the left, with its magnificent mantel and tasteful furnishings, while on the right is the cosily-fitted secretary's room and board room. To the rear of these is the large bowling alley, 77 ft. x 48 ft., containing eight standard alleys of the most improved construction, with ample room at side and end for the convenience of spectators. Returning to the main hall and ascending a wide and easy stair to the first floor, one enters the club room proper and the library, two rooms 29 x 24 and 19 x 24, with folding doors between, making a large room 24 x 48, which will no doubt be utilized for entertainments. Behind these is the large billiard room, 77 x 48, with its twelve tables. This is the part of the building, from a club man's point of view, in which the architects have excelled themselves. It has capacity for sixteen tables, twelve being now in position, and is extremely well lighted by a skylight containing 1,400 square feet of clear glass, as well as by numerous windows on the north and east sides. A six-foot gallery extends round three sides, deepening to 25 feet on the east end. On a level with the gallery, and over the club room and library, are two chess rooms, extending across the front of the building, and containing all necessary fittings and fixtures for the chess players' enjoyment. Above the chess rooms is a gymnasium, splendidly equipped with all modern appliances and conveniences, including lavatory and lockers.

In the basement are the dressing-room with its hundred lockers, bath room and lavatories, with engine room under the sidewalk, while at the rear, with sloping entrance from Dalhousie St., is a magnificent wheel-room, capable of accommodating 1,000 wheels.

The building throughout is complete to the veriest details, and is finished in oak, the carpets, hangings and furnishings of the various reception, club and chess rooms being in the best of taste and design. It is lighted with incandescent light throughout except in the billiard room, where gas was more suitable.

The club has every reason to be proud of their new quarters, and are to be congratulated upon securing the services of Messrs. Denison & King as their architects.