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BUSINESS NOTICE.

MR. T. H. WALSH having been appointed Managing Director of this journal, henceforth the most careful attention will be given to all business matters relating to the SPECTATOR. Any remissness occurring in the non-receipt or delivery of the paper to its proper address, a note advising of the fact will receive prompt attention.

As a medium for advertising there are few weekly journals having so extensive a circulation in the large cities, as well throughout the Dominion, and numbering amongst its readers the intelligence and wealth of the country; business men will at once see the value to be obtained by using the Advertising Columns of the SPECTATOR as an excellent medium for placing their wants before the public. All matters of business relating to this department, addressed as above, will receive due care and despatch.

N.B.—During the summer months the SPECTATOR will be delivered free to subscribers residing in the country, who, as well as city subscribers who have changed their residence, are requested to send their new address to the Office, No. 162 St. James Street, to prevent irregularity in delivery.

MONTREAL NOTES.

We have received the first annual report of the Montreal Society of Decorative Art, and notice with pleasure that though the Society has not made an extravagant profit, it has succeeded admirably in keeping out of debt. The success of the society is not, however, to be altogether measured by the state of its finances, but rather by the improvement in the application of æsthetical knowledge which it is effecting. Those employed to teach china-painting and artistic needlework have been profitable to the society in a pecuniary sense and, we are sure, in a higher sense. We are also pleased to notice that the sales have been large, thus showing that the advantages offered by the society are fully appreciated, and it is extremely gratifying, as it shows that such a society was needed in order to aid a class that is somewhat unfortunately placed—a class that through misfortune or for other causes is obliged to take up, perhaps late in life, some pursuit in order to live. Owing, perhaps, to an over-keen sensitiveness or refinement, and in many cases to a fear of insult or loss of social prestige, this class is placed in a very perplexing condition, and any efforts made to remedy or remove these obstacles is to be encouraged, while at the same time, no independence of mind or action is sacrificed on the part of any one. We would suggest to the society the propriety of giving a course of Art Lectures, each lecture to be exemplified by objects, and in this way a great deal of information and instruction would be given to the general public, and this would be more beneficial teaching to many than the mere cursory reading of art text-books, which, as a rule, are only suited to specialists.

A meeting of citizens has been held in the City Hall to make arrangements to afford further attractions to visitors during Exhibition week. This is a good idea, and one which will undoubtedly induce a large number of people to visit the city. Let the Governor-General be invited as the guest of the city, tendering him a banquet

and avoiding the boredom of addresses. Strange to say, some persons seemed to be of the opinion that the Committee in charge of the arrangements for the forthcoming Exhibition should see to all these outside attractions, and one or two of the city papers have been somewhat foolish in their denunciations. The exhibitions which have been held here hitherto have been under the same management and have been successful, and the spirit now shown is rather uncalled-for. Of all things to manage, with the exception perhaps of hotels, the most difficult are exhibitions. Even if the arrangements are perfect, those who may have been unfortunate enough not to win a prize often denounce the management in unmeasured terms. As a matter of fact, the entries are very numerous, and it is extremely probable that it will be the largest and best exhibition yet held here. We would suggest to the Committee the advisability of having proper facilities for showing the horses. At Ottawa it was so arranged that the horses were not visible, being shut up in an enclosed shed and pad-locked in.

The Montreal Star is favouring its readers with what is called an etiquette column, and some very amusing questions and replies are given. We doubt, however, the possibility of much good being effected in this way. Dr. Johnson has truly said that "wisdom and virtue are by no means sufficient without the supplemental laws of good breeding to secure freedom from degenerating to rudeness, or self-esteem from swelling into insolence; a thousand incivilities may be committed and a thousand offices neglected without any remorse of conscience or reproach from reason." Again, these supplemental laws are so varied by time and circumstances that no exact code of conduct can be laid down. It would appear to be almost absolutely necessary to be possessed of a nice sense of tact, and to be governed by kind and proper feelings, in order to fulfil the requirements of social laws. No better plan can be followed than that of mixing in good society. On the other hand, no more foolish plan could be followed than that of endeavouring to learn *savoir faire* from the columns of a daily newspaper.

Periodically a cry is raised that there is an urgent necessity for public baths, and usually the cry is heard so late in the season that no effort is made to provide them, those who should take action in the matter excusing themselves by stating that the baths cannot be provided until the next spring. That baths would be appreciated is certainly evidenced by the success of the Montreal Swimming Club, the members of which, unlike many other citizens, cannot be said to belong to the "great unwashed." In New York and other places the public baths are so well patronized that the care-takers are obliged to ascertain the amount of warmth or want of it in the noses of the youthful bathers in order to prevent them from entering the baths too often,—the theory being that the circulation has been somewhat stopped by immersion in the water, so that it is some time before the nose of the bather regains its normal temperature, thus serving as a tell-tale even more effectually than the appearance of the hair, so much relied upon by anxious mothers. To be more serious, the question of public baths is very important, and should be taken up by the City Council immediately. The largeness or paucity of consumption of soap in a community is a just measure of its civilization, and as soap can hardly be used with any success without water, it is evident that the amount of water used also affects the consideration of the question.

The facilities for travelling to adjacent municipalities, afforded by the Grand Trunk R. R. are admirable, and the management are to be complimented on this branch of their business, too much neglected in the past. There is one local train, dignified by the name of