

The Rockwood Review.

XMAS AT ROCKWOOD.

This year the fact that Xmas fell on Sunday, made it necessary to change the usual method of celebration at Rockwood. The dinner was given on Saturday, and as usual it was extensive enough, elaborate enough and dainty enough to satisfy what the little boy called the most "fastidious." Never before has such magnificent poultry been secured, and as for the plum pudding it was a dream—or rather so rich that it would be conducive to the production of dreams. After dinner the presents were given out, and great has been the kindness of the friends in past years, this season they excelled themselves, and as much money was sent to purchase Xmas tokens for the friendless ones, no person was forgotten. Saturday afternoon was full of happiness, the opening of the packages, excitement over messages from home filling up the time.

On Sunday morning the Protestant service in the Amusement Hall was largely attended, and special music given by the choir and orchestra. A voluntary by the orchestra, Hope Sublime, Barnard, was particularly fine. In the Anthem the solo was taken by Miss Peirce. The Roman Catholics had a special service in their chapel.

On Monday evening the usual Xmas Entertainment was given, and as variety has to be considered a change from the past performance was indulged in. The usual ever-green Xmas Bell was hung in the centre of the hall, and was prettily decorated. The programme was opened by the Orchestra. After two or three selections had been played, Miss Ella Peirce sang Vandewater's appropriate Night of Nights with great feeling, John Shea contributed a tenor solo with effect, and the first part of Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks were produced. Mrs. Jarley will never grow out of date, and the vigorous and energetic old lady, as represented by

Miss Jennie Porter, did full justice to the traditions. The first series of Waxworks comprised many celebrated groups, which were described in classic terms by Mrs. Jarley, and exhibited with great enthusiasm by George (W. Shea), and his assistants Miss Dennison and Mr. Gilmour. Indian Prince, Bluebeard and his wives, Past and present, Little Jack Horner, the Maid of Athens, Lord Byron, Mermaids, Napoleon, Spanish Banditti and beautiful Signorinas, Indians, Jack Sprat and his wife, Jack Douns, Soap Advertisements, Policemen, and the other celebrities usually found in a well assorted collection of Waxworks were all there. George, the assistant, made no end of fun, particularly when the mechanism of the figures got out of order.

In the second part of the programme, Miss Mary H. Smart, so well known by the Toronto public, gave "A Song of Paradise," with violin obligato, and was rapturously encored. Dr. Clarke played a violin solo "Cavatina" by Bohm and "Berceuse" by Godard. Bandmaster Madill played a Clarinet Solo, and W. Shea gave his unique Crow Song. Mrs. Jarley's Waxworks (second part) concluded the programme.

Among those taking part were: Misses Macdonald, Stoness, Nicholson, Donaldson, Maloney, Jackson, Nugent, Ahearn, Bamford, Porter, Moxley, Davidson. Messrs. Woods, Stephenson, Countryman, Carey, Shannahan, Harold and Herbert Clarke, Painter and Lawless.

Much credit is due Miss Gibson for the energetic manner in which she developed the entertainment. A large number of the friends of the patients were present, and were much pleased with what they saw.

On January 3rd a unique Cape Walk and Eccentric Quadrille are to be given by the young folks, who are at present spending their Xmas holidays. These entertainments are said to be quite new in all their features.