

CITY CRIMES.

The establishment of a Boys' Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association is a capital idea, and will surely confer a lasting benefit on the youths who take advantage of the new organization. A reading room is to be opened for the boys' special use, and the members will here have the benefit of thoroughly good literature, an advantage not to be lightly considered. The gymnasium also will be an attractive feature, and Mr. G. H. Close, the new gymnasium instructor, will interest himself in the work of the Branch Association. The Y. M. C. A. is in a flourishing state, and will, we feel sure, progress rapidly.

The Organ Recital and Sacred Concert to be given this evening at St. Paul's Church gives promise of a delightful evening. Miss Madeline Homer's name appears on the programme several times, and this fact alone ensures the entertainment a large audience. The anthems by the full choir are also an attraction, and the success of the Recital is undoubted.

The first lecture of the Church of England Institute winter course was delivered last evening in the Institute Hall, by Professor Charles McDonald, of Dalhousie College. The bright (no pun intended) and interesting subject, "The Man in the Moon Interviewed," was ably treated in this popular lecturer's well-known style, and the genial Professor was attentively listened to by a large and intellectual audience. The Institute's Entertainment Committee offer a decidedly attractive programme for their winter course, and we trust this energetic Association may meet with the success it richly merits.

The football match played under Association Rules last Saturday afternoon between the Wanderers and the Garrison, on the grounds of the former, was a very good one, but the weather prevented those interested from turning out in full force, and those who braved the elements decided that they preferred Rugby rules. After a close struggle the Military team succeeded in gaining a goal, and when time was called the red and blacks had only a round nothing to their credit. The season for this fascinating game is about exhausted, which we think is wisely so, as many of the brave players are also pretty well exhausted, and business and study should certainly have a little attention. The decision of the Maritime Football Union with reference to the Thanksgiving Day game, in favor of Dalhousie, has revived much discussion on the subject, but even the enthusiasts are willing to say nothing, and Dalhousie holds the trophy.

It is only once or twice in a long while that we Halifaxians have an opportunity to see first-class dramatic performances, but when they do occur there is evident appreciation of them. It is with pleasure that we hear that Miss Elsie Anderson de Wolfe, who is playing in "Thermidor," may possibly come to Halifax before the run is over. We hope this rumor may crystallize into fact some time soon, for "Thermidor" is an assured success, and has recently made a great hit in Montreal.

The Fisk Jubilee Singers, who are to appear in the Academy of Music on the 10th and 11th, will most likely give all who go to hear them a musical treat. The present Company is somewhat different from those bearing the same name that have before visited our city. All the colored ladies and gentlemen are accomplished musicians and sing without any accompaniment in chorus work. The sweetness and perfect blending of their voices is most enthusiastically spoken of in the press notices of their performances elsewhere, and we anticipate a feast of melody when they sing in the Academy. The Sailors' Home is the object for which the concerts are to be given, and it is to be hoped that the house will be well filled on both evenings, so that that useful institution may reap a rich harvest.

The committee of ladies and gentlemen who manage the weekly concerts and sociables at the Sailors' Home are meeting with a great deal of success in their efforts. Our merchant marine sailors are perhaps not quite so interesting as the jolly blue-jackets who enliven the port all summer, but they have quite as much, if not more, claim on our sympathies, and the work should not be allowed to flag when the men-o'-war's men depart. The ladies and gentlemen sing for the sailors, and the sailors in return when asked sing for the ladies and gentlemen, thus making the evenings mutually agreeable and profitable. The Sailors' Home is an institution deserving of all encouragement and assistance.

The all-absorbing topic of conversation among the ladies of the Church of England and their friends is the bazaar to be held in the Institute building on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of next week in aid of the mission church to be established on the western side of the Northwest Arm. Rev. W. B. King, of St. Luke's Cathedral, is the chief promoter, and with his energetic band of assistants is sparing no effort to make the venture a success in every sense of the word. The whole of the spacious Institute building is to be devoted to the fair, and upstairs and down will be found abundance of useful and fancy articles suitable for all. Many new features are to be introduced, and the list of attractions is long and varied, far too long for us to give even a faint outline in this column. Suffice it to say that the general interest taken in this bazaar, the auspicious season, and the worthy object, together with the enterprise and zeal of the workers and managers, allow no room for a doubt of bountiful success rewarding the efforts that are being put forth.

The regular monthly concert at the School for the Blind on Wednesday afternoon was fairly well attended and furnished a pleasing entertainment. The pupils are so eager to please and so happy in their work that it does one

good to pay them a visit at any time. The band of the School, under the instruction of the bandmaster Mr. A. M. Chisholm, is improving rapidly, and has now reached a high standard of excellence. The boys are interested in their musical studies and give indications of careful training and diligent practice. On Wednesday afternoon they rendered some good selections. A visit to the Institution cannot fail to interest, and friends are always welcomed heartily by pupils and teachers.

The North British Society is to be congratulated on the success of the conversations given by them in Masonic Hall on Wednesday evening in celebration of St. Andrew's day. The Hall was prettily and suitably decorated, and the entertainment furnished proved very enjoyable. The guests were received by the genial President, Mr. Donald Archibald, and Mrs. Archibald, assisted by Mrs. Alexander McKay. The programme consisted of Scottish songs, addresses by the President and Dr. Burns, and readings by the new elocutionist, Mrs. MacRoberts. Miss Homer's selections were very much enjoyed, and the favorite sweet singer of Scottish melodies, Mr. Crawford, more than charmed his audience. It takes one of Scotland's own to do justice to her melodies, and Mr. Crawford's reputation among true music-lovers leaves nothing to be desired. After refreshments had been served and the veteran Jock Patterson had favored the company with some dulcet strains from the bagpipes, the Leicestershire band, which had been playing at intervals during the evening, furnished the young people with some delightful dance music, of which many took advantage. "Jock" also gave an exhibition of dancing, but the guests seemed to prefer the waltz to the reel. The familiar strains of Auld Lang Syne followed by the national anthem brought the evening all too quickly to a close, and the members and their guests dispersed.

St. Andrew's Day was also celebrated by a service held in St. George's Church on Monday evening, when the Rector, Rev. Canon Partridge, delivered an appropriate sermon, taking for his subject "Spiritual Force." The congregation was large and the service proved very interesting. There are three chapters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew in the city, and a fourth is ere long to be established in St. Paul's Church.

The popularity of the Lyceum entertainments appears to be on the steady increase, and the public, instead of growing weary of the magical, mysterious performances, evidently thirst for more. Every evening since Zera Semon's opening the old Lyceum has been packed to the doors, and each entertainment fully comes up to and even exceeds the highest expectations. The great juggler, Nelson, is a perfect wonder and is assuredly an expert in his profession. His feats are marvels of dexterity, and the nightly exhibitions of his skill form not a little attraction for the multitude. H. Price Webber's Boston Comedy Company has been playing all this week and will remain until Tuesday next. The star of the Company is Miss Elwina Grey, who has become a great favorite with the frequenters of this wonderful show. Professor Zera Semon knows how to please the public and gives fully all he advertises, if not more, and his efforts are abundantly rewarded in Halifax, as indeed they are everywhere.

The "cold snap" predicted by our faithful weather prophet arrived punctually on Sunday morning, and we have had fine bracing typical December days this week. The small boys were in their glory on Monday and Tuesday, as Stanford's and the egg pond furnished excellent opportunities for the first skating of the season. Fortunately, there were no serious accidents, and only two or three venturesome youths took chilly baths, thus slightly dampening their ardor. While the mercury was down it seemed easier to realize that Christmas is near, and by the way there are some very pretty holiday goods on exhibition, one Hollis Street drug store especially showing a splendid assortment. The numerous dainty and valuable articles that our jewellers are displaying in their windows prove highly attractive to the fair ones who cast longing glances as they pass along. Wait girls, there is a good time coming, and it is not far off now. The little ones are building castles now, and as Santa Claus rarely disappoints his devoted admirers their anticipations will probably be realized. There are many among the poor who find Christmas the saddest day of the year, for 'tis hard to only hear of cheer and goodwill. Let those more fortunate ones who are making preparations for pleasant gatherings and merry festivities remember these cheerless homes, and increase their own happiness by proving that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

What a rage there has been for the chrysanthemum this season. The beautiful blossoms have been in great demand for decorations of all kinds, and the florists of the city have done well to grow in great profusion this popular plant. We recently noticed a lampshade of cream silk with a lovely bunch of pale yellow chrysanthemums made of tissue paper ornamenting one side, and thought it a very pretty idea for a dainty gift; and the artificial flowers are quite easily made. This hardy winter rose seems to increase in popularity each year, and well it may, for with its bright flowers it is an ornament to any room and brightens up a dark corner wonderfully. Plenty of water is all it asks of those who would grow it successfully.

Miss Kathleen M. Magee is a reader to whom it is very pleasant to listen, and therefore our readers will be glad to hear that she intends giving an entertainment in Orphous Hall on Wednesday, the 16th inst. Miss Magee has achieved a reputation as an elocutionist, not only in our own Province, but elsewhere, and is a favorite in all the places where she has appeared. She is a Nova Scotian, and should receive the encouragement due from her own people. Some of the leading musicians of Halifax will assist Miss Magee at her entertainment, and a pleasant evening is confidently predicted.