

CITY CHIMES.

SKATERS IN LUCK.—What with good ice on the Dartmouth Lakes, the North-West Arm and a portion of Bedford Basin, to say nothing of the "glassy sheet" at the rink, Halifax skaters have had unlimited opportunities for enjoying the good old sport. Although the rink is largely patronized, to many minds the delights of indoor skating are not to be compared to those of the sport in the open air, where with a good expanse of smooth ice, the skater can fully indulge his or her fancy without fear of locking skates with anyone. But then again there are skaters who fear to face cold winds, and who easily become physically weary. And to these of course rink skating is preferable. Many men, many minds, and everyone to his taste. This good old-fashioned winter of '92-'93, is to be thanked for its consideration in providing seasonable enjoyment for all who are fond of winter sports, whether the hobby be skating, tobogganing or sleighing.

"AT HOME."—The officers of the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of England Institute held a reception in the parlors of the Institute last evening. Members and friends were invited to attend, and I have no doubt that all who accepted of the hospitality of the ladies of the Institute spent a very enjoyable evening.

LYCEUM ATTRACTIONS.—The Daniel Company has had an unbroken line of success in the entertainments given at the Lyceum Theatre, and large audiences have been in attendance every evening this week as formerly. A good specialty show is the delight of a large number of our citizens, and this the Daniels Company invariably offers its patrons.

CARNIVALS.—On Monday evening next the first carnival of the season takes place in the Exhibition Rink. As not a few of those who intend skating on this occasion invested in fancy costumes for the ball held this week, a grand display of finery may be expected at the coming carnival. Mr. R. Greenwood has charge of the decorating of the rink, which fact ensures success in this line. Next month, on the evening of St. Valentine's day, the children are to have a carnival, an event eagerly looked forward to by many little men and women of Halifax.

MOUNT ALLISON SEMI-CENTENARY.—The occasion of the semi-centenary of Mt. Allison College seems to have thoroughly aroused the good people connected with that institution, who while always energetic and abreast of the times, are now putting forth special efforts to advance their work. The Academy of Music was crowded on Tuesday evening when the claims of the Sackville Colleges were ably presented by speakers. The musical portion of the programme was furnished by the choirs of Brunswick St. and Grafton St. churches, and by Mrs. Harrison. This sweet singer has not often favored the Halifax public, but has now high favor among our musical people, and on Tuesday evening sang to an appreciative audience. Not a minor feature of the evening's proceedings was the collection, in which Halifaxians as usual did themselves and their city credit. The amount realized was \$4,688 33, which goes toward the \$50,000 semi-centenary fund.

A BRIGHT IDEA.—A novel spelling match is now in progress in one of our schools, and as new ideas are ever welcome in practical educational work the plan of this contest may prove of interest. In the case in question four classes have been formed with six members in each, and two hundred and fifty difficult words have been selected for spelling. After eight contests have been held the final contest will come off between the winning class, that is the class which has made the fewest aggregate mistakes and the member of any class whose individual record equals the highest record made in the poorest class. Thus the individuals as well as the classes have an opportunity to distinguish themselves, and in case a bright and shining light be located in the class which makes the largest number of aggregate mistakes, he need not become discouraged, as his chance for victory does not wholly depend on the record made by his class. There are two prizes in gold, first and second, offered for the successful. In these days of hurry and bustle, and of striving to attain high ideals, we are prone to consider the old-fashioned methods of our fathers' school-days primitive; but the fact is only too apparent that the three R's and a few other branches among which we may include spelling are sadly neglected for studies of much less practical importance. A badly spelled letter, be the sentence ever so well constructed, is naught but a disgrace to the writer.

CONCERT AT VICTORIA HOSPITAL.—The patients at the hospital whose health permitted, enjoyed a genuine treat on Tuesday evening, when the hospital committee of the Young People's Society in connection with St. Paul's Church, carried out an excellent musical and literary programme for their benefit. We who are well and strong, able to enjoy all that comes in our way, can hardly realize how much an entertainment means to the sufferers, who although provided with every comfort at the hospital, are deprived of many pleasures of life. The kind thoughts and willing services of the ladies and gentlemen who took part in the concert were highly appreciated, and will long be remembered with gratitude.

THE CHARITY BALL.—I would like to preface my jottings on the Charity ball with a few reflections on charity in general and charity balls in particular, but perhaps my readers might object to my giving them a dose with their jam, and consider that if I were to content myself with the object of adorning a tale rather than pointing a moral, I would please them better. Opinions differ as to these things, but the fact remains that even if the proportions of charity to selfishness in many of those who attend are as one to one

hundred, a goodly sum is often raised by such means and goes towards the furthering of some worthy object. The charity ball is sure to make its appearance at certain intervals, and it is gratifying when the result is satisfactory to the promoters, who take much pains to make a success of this philanthropic undertaking. The ball which took place on Wednesday evening under distinguished patronage, has been looked forward to for some time with mild excitement by those who care for *fetes* of this sort, but sad to relate the weather proved sullen, and not more than one hundred people assembled in Mason Hall. Of these the great majority were ladies, and dancing men did not exactly abound, much to the disappointment of the ladies who were prepared to "lightly trip it." There were many pretty dresses and the scene in the ball room was very attractive. Among those most noticeable were Miss Ross as Folly, and Mrs. Reader as Britannia. The little brown jug was a novelty and attracted much attention, and the various posants and ladies of the olden time came in for considerable admiration. Many ladies appeared simply in evening dress with hair powder, and as this is so generally becoming, the result was charming. As for the gentlemen, there were but few in costumes, and fewer still in pretty ones. Major Reader, as a gentleman of the olden time, looked well in velvet with lace ruffles, and the Chinese mandarin was very striking, though not exactly handsome, with his face chalked. Captain Tarry wore an effective costume as a Zouave, and looked well in it. The military men were generally in uniform, but there was a sprinkling of fancy costumes. The hall was handsomely decorated with flags and plenty of cozy sitting out places were provided up stairs. The band was stationed on the platform, which bore a profusion of palms and other ornamental plants. It was a pity so many instruments were employed, for although the Leicestershire regiment band is splendidly drilled, there was far too much of the "musical smash" about it within those four walls to make it agreeable—in fact conversation was a most impossible. I understand that about two hundred and fifty tickets had been disposed of, and that the state of the weather was to blame for the small attendance. At any rate the fairer and weaker sex did not appear to be dismayed thereby, but of course the stronger, and a times—may I say it—lazier sex, could not face the dripping condition of affairs. Those ladies who were fortunate enough to fill their programmes doubtless will consider the fancy ball a great success from their stand-point, but their numbers must be few. Ladies danced with ladies at times in sheer desperation. All arrangements for the comfort and convenience of guests were perfect; attentive maids, who understood their work well, waited on ladies in the cloak room, and everything went smoothly. The refreshments were excellent and had more attention than usual devoted to them on account of the numbers who were not dancing. There were nineteen dances on the programme, and the small hours were reached before the final polka was played. CHIMES.

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