

will be an important factor in the activities, with both inter-club and outside games. Ladies are admitted to membership, and a banquet and other social festivities are being planned.

PERMANENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICS.

It has been always a rule of the civil service that its members—and particularly those at the head of departments—should take no part in public political discussions. Sir Sydney Olivier, the Permanent Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, attended on the 15th November, and spoke at a conference at Westminster on National Expenditure. It was a party,

gathering; all the well-known men present are identified with Radicalism, and the speeches were in the main a denunciation of the policy of the Board of Admiralty. Sir Sydney Olivier proposed a resolution "advising propaganda in the country, and bringing pressure to bear on the government and the Opposition." This, however, does not remove the meeting from the sphere of party politics, as a glance at the report will show. "It is to be hoped," says the "Morning Post," "that among the many innovations into official life this Government has introduced, there may not have to be added the abrogation of the old and salutary rule which places the civil service above and outside party conflicts."—C. S. Gazette.



This cartoon is from the pen of a new-found artist, who is also the author of the neat Christmas design on to-day's title-page. The artist here depicts the Poet "Low-Rate" reading the criticisms on his poem "Venomous Women." The "Low-Rate" cut is an exact replica of the author of certain Bohemian verses appearing in these pages, but hereafter the cut will disappear from *The Civilian*, to be replaced by something less natural but more pleasing to the eye.