

Winter Sports in Montreal.

AN ARTICLE THAT WILL BE READ WITH INTEREST BY ALL CURLERS, HOCKEY PLAYERS, SKATERS, SNOWSHOERS, SKIERS AND THEIR FRIENDS.

WOMEN AS CURLERS.

TEN years ago, possibly, the idea of women being willing, much less competent, to curl, to soup up stones and ply the besoms, would have been greeted with derision.

But this is an age of progression, and we are gradually learning that the athletic sports are, indeed, few which are not entered into and enjoyed by women. And learning acquired gradually is apt to be valuable, and of no little account; for we measure our capabilities before we test our powers, and, in so doing, are prevented from undertaking anything unsuitable or that we may regret.

To Montreal belongs the not unenviable distinction of being the first city in Canada to possess a curling club for women, and November 1, 1894, was the birthday of the Ladies' Montreal Curling Club. To Mrs. E. A. Whitehead, jr., is due the origin of such a scheme; for, in spite of much adverse criticism, she called a small meeting of intimate friends, and made known to them her ideas on the subject. It was at a time when golf was becoming most popular, and those who enjoyed this exercise throughout spring, summer and autumn, hailed with delight the prospect of participating in some vigorous sport during the long winter months. The Montreal Curling Club came forward readily with an offer of their rink and delightful club rooms. And the much-talked-of club became an actual fact.

Mrs. Whitehead was elected president by acclamation, and has filled that position ever since, to the utmost satisfaction of all the members, and to the benefit of the organization. The membership list contained but 25 names the first year, and the second year showed but a small increase. The third year, however, it rose to 70, and then it was thought wise to restrict the number to 75. In 1898 it was found necessary to allow 100 members to join, and there is, notwithstanding, a lengthy waiting list of those eager to take part in this most fascinating game.

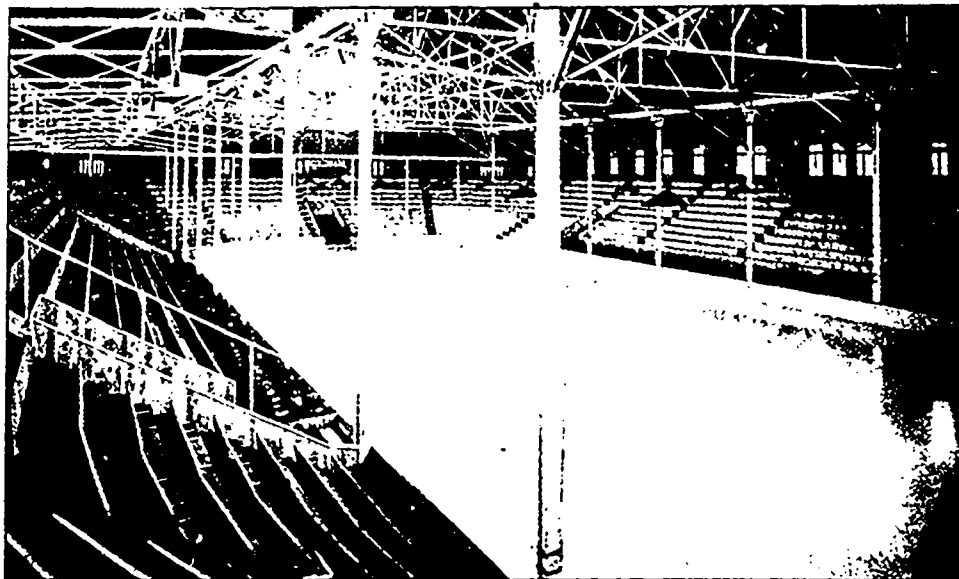
The mornings set apart for the club are Monday and Thursday throughout the season, but those who wish to play on other mornings seldom find any difficulty about doing so. On these particular mornings it is usual for everyone to turn up, and refreshment in the shape of tea, sandwiches, etc., is provided, constituting what our American friends are fond of calling a "lunch," even though it were eaten at 12 o'clock p.m.

To go into a detailed account of the by-laws and constitution would be wearisome. Suffice it to say that the annual

general meeting is held on April 3 for the reception of reports and election of officers, and a weekly meeting every Monday at 11 o'clock a.m. As a general rule, women are supposed to be seldom qualified for an able administration of business matters, and, consequently, the running of a club upon a successful financial basis. The Ladies' Montreal Curling Club has done much to disprove this erroneous idea. At the third annual meeting held last April, everything was found to be in a most flourishing condition, eminently satisfactory to committee and members. The office bearers for this season of 1899-1900 are as follows:

President, Mrs. E. A. Whitehead, vice-president, Mrs. G. H. Duggan; secretary, Miss Jean Tyre; treasurer, Miss Macpherson; rink committee, Mrs. Shearwood, Miss Caro Brainerd, Miss Bond, and Miss Belle Oswald.

Naturally, as the ladies of Montreal were the pioneers of curling, for the first few years matches could only be played one rink against another—a friendly imitation, therefore, of civil war. But numerous competitions were indulged in, and interest and ambition thus fostered. The first competition was for stones presented by Colonel Gardner. It was won by Miss Bond, who has ever since kept the reputation she then earned for excellent play. During the second year Miss Caro Brainerd was victorious several times, and Miss Tyre, Mrs. Lyle Davidson (Miss B. Hutchins), Miss Macpherson, Miss Oswald, Miss Dunlop, Miss Sybil Johnson, Miss Hamilton, Miss E.



ARENA HOCKEY RINK, MONTREAL.
Built in 1898, capacity, 10,000.

Selater and Miss M. R. Macpherson have all been successful in carrying off prizes, presented by various friends.

The ladies do not always play alone. Mixed teams, formed from the Ladies' Club and the Montreal Club, frequently meet in well-matched contests; for all the men have always exhibited