

hitherto unsettled condition of the Institute's affairs, and the great difficulty of procuring suitable lecturers from a distance—they did not deem it advisable to engage in the enterprize during the past winter.

CLASSES.

The attention of the Directors has been so much occupied by the works required in completing and furnishing the building, and the various improvements in the several departments, that they have been heretofore unable to organize classes of a suitable nature. There was one, however, during the past winter, under the charge of Mr. Henry Martin, for tuition in painting and drawing, which was well attended, and generally very successful. The Directors hope that their successors will devote their attention to this important subject, as well as to that of the lectures.

THE CHESS CLUB.

Since the last annual meeting a new feature has been added to the Institution. Several members frequently urged upon the Directors the advisability of establishing a club for the practice of the scientific game of Chess, and proposed to co-operate in its formation. The Directors agreed to their proposals on stipulated conditions, protecting the Institute against loss in case the enterprize should not succeed. The Club was accordingly established, and styled "The Mechanics' Institute Chess Club." Rules were drawn up for its government, subject to the approval of the Directors; officers were appointed; and the necessary furniture and appliances procured. The Directors have pleasure in reporting that so far the Club has succeeded, and they have no doubt that with a little exertion on the part of its members, who at present number between fifty and sixty, it will continue to prosper.

THE INAUGURATION.

It will be seen by reference to last annual report, that it was proposed to hold a *Conversazione* as a suitable entertainment for the inauguration of the new building. But the Directors, desirous that the entertainment should be of such a nature as would admit of the members generally taking part in it; and being also desirous of combining profit with pleasure, decided on a Soiree, to be followed by a Bazaar. They accordingly solicited the co-operation of several of the Lady members,