

tendent for good conduct. On the previous Christmas, Mrs. Adam Burns, with a desire to get the boys interested in Natural History, offered prizes for the best collection of natural objects. From that time several of the boys were indefatigable in their pursuit of treasures from "Nature's boundless store." On the day of the picnic one boy became the happy possessor of several small *green snakes*, which he tenderly coiled in a tin box, afterwards to be preserved in alcohol. These *snaky* specimens were among the conspicuous objects on Christmas Day. Although not much regard was paid to classification, the exhibition was very creditable, and represented a considerable amount of energy and perseverance. Mrs. Burns must have been gratified with the success of her plan, and presented the successful competitors with two volumes on Natural History and \$6 in money to be divided equally among them. Prizes offered by Miss Maclean for proficiency in gymnastics were also presented, and an interesting book was contributed to the Library by Mr. Whiston. A number of the former scholars took dinner with the boys, showing that they still cherished the memory of their Old Home.

From year to year it is our aim to increase the efficiency of this invaluable institution. It has been as a "city of refuge" to many a waif who but for its kindly shelter would probably never have known the comforts of a home. We would again recommend it to the Christian benevolence of our city as an institution worthy a generous support.

FINANCE.

We regret to say that our finances are not in as good a state as they have been. Many unforeseen expenses such as repairs to cottage, workshop, &c., injury to drain pipes necessitating opening the ground for a distance, short earnings in the shoe shop, kindling wood department, &c., all have contributed to reduce a decreased income. We have also had to make a very large outlay to renew the whole front of our dwelling house which leaked very badly, also to put new floors in the basement dining-room and kitchen which had become almost inhabitable. These demands upon us have given your Directors much uneasiness; the repairs were imperative, but we have not the money to pay for them and