

CITY CHIMES.

A writer in a prominent American weekly says that it has come to be more and more a maxim of good manners, not to mention good morals, that scandal is never to be talked in the drawing room. It is to be hoped that this maxim will prevail in our midst, and that our maids and matrons will profit thereby. If scandal must be talked it should at least be relegated to the privacy of the boudoir or chamber, and not obtrude its hideous head too boldly in the very midst of social life. It were better indeed, if scandal were never talked at all, but perfection is impossible in this vale of tears.

The Kindergarten department of the Alexandra School presents a truly interesting scene to visitors. We, with a few interested friends, paid a visit to Mrs. Harriman, the lady who presides over this attractive primary department, and her little ones, one morning this week, and passed an hour which will long be pleasantly remembered. Entering the spacious rooms about 9 30 a. m., we found Mrs. Harriman and her corps of young lady assistants, with about one hundred little ones, all seated on low chairs, forming a circle in the middle of the room. We were cordially welcomed and the class proceeded with the usual morning exercises which consisted of bright little songs sung by the whole circle, accompanied by music from a pianoforte situated at the back of the room, then with bowed heads the sweet childish voices repeated a short prayer, which was followed by more songs. Questions concerning the pretty and practical songs which have been told to the wide-awake little pupils were put, and while many of the answers were very amusing, in the main they showed great intelligence and retentive memories on the part of the young students. The admirable method of teaching was forcibly demonstrated by a story graphically told the eager little listeners by illustrating the drawing of water from the ocean by the sun's rays, the distribution of this water over the thirsty land and its subsequent return to the sea. After one or two games, a calisthonic exercise and a brisk march, the classes were divided and seated at four low tables and the work for the day commenced. At one table busy little fingers threaded the needles with bright colored silks and proceeded to sew on perforated cardboard, forming very pretty work; at a second table the boys and girls were employed stringing wooden beads of various colors and placing small wooden pegs in a board made for the purpose. The young lady in charge of this table directed that a certain number of beads and of pegs of one color and another number of another color be taken, the work thus quickly teaching the active little brains to count as well proving very interesting. Around another table a bright little group was busy forming geometrical designs with small blocks made for the purpose, and at the fourth table with steel rings of different sizes forms of beauty were made, and the benefits of close attention to directions, etc., were demonstrated to the small boys and girls. Thus these favored little ones pass their mornings, their school hours being from nine to twelve each day. The Kindergarten department occupies two large rooms, well lighted, heated and ventilated, and finished in light wood. The chairs are small and painted in reds, blues and yellows, the bright effect being pleasing to all. The rooms are tastefully decorated with Kindergarten work. Several samples of modelling in clay and other work done by these small beginners shown us were very well done, and one is indeed surprised at the efficiency attained. The favorable results of the introduction of this department into the public schools of our city cannot but be appreciated by the parents as well as by the pupils, and we would advise all who are interested in the growth of educational facilities to pay a visit to Mrs. Harriman's department of the Alexandra School. This building occupies the site of the old "Tabernacle" School on Brunswick St., which ancient hall of learning many of our readers will doubtless connect with memories of the happy days that are gone. Going over the magnificent building in which the fortunate "young idea" of the present day is being taught "to shoot," we could not but contrast the large, clean and well-lighted rooms, broad stairways, well-arranged cloak rooms, etc., with the old school in which so many of the present young men and women of our city received at least the rudiments of their education. The public is to be congratulated on the excellent building which has superseded the old one, and which is a credit to architect, builders, and all connected with its erection and equipment.

The twenty-first annual report of the Board of Managers of the School for the Blind has been issued, and contains much to interest friends of the Institution. Since the first opening of the School in 1871 the work of educating the blind in the Maritime Provinces has steadily progressed, and the number of pupils in attendance has increased to such an extent as to necessitate the enlargement of the building, which was accordingly done by adding a new wing and thus greatly increasing the accommodation. This new building, which was formally opened in May, 1891, by His Honor Lieut.-Governor Daly at an inaugural reception, cost with hot water heating apparatus, furniture and fixings complete, \$15,954. Of this sum \$13,510 have been paid or subscribed by generous friends of the School, leaving a comparatively small balance, \$2,444, yet to be collected. The report gives a list of contributions received to date which reflects credit upon the liberality of the good people of the several places therein represented. The totals are as follows:—First our own city, which has done more than well, having given \$2,961.50; Amherst, \$244; Annapolis, \$89.75; Aylesford, \$23.15; Bridgewater, \$97; Bear River, \$19; Barrington Head, \$21.50; Berwick, \$19.30; Brass Hill, Barrington, \$2.50; Bridgetown, \$20.55; Clark's Harbor, Cape Sable Island, \$3.50; Caledonia, \$14.25; Cow Bay, C. B., \$11.70; Canso, \$6; Charlottetown, P. E. I., \$321.75; Digby, \$33; Dartmouth, \$30; Economy, \$19.30; Five Islands, \$5.25; Guysboro, \$7; Gairloch, Pictou Co., \$6.50; Great Village, \$17; Hantsport, \$18;

Hubbards Cove, \$4; Kentville, \$57.27; Londonderry, \$20; Liverpool, \$6; Murray Harbor, P. E. I., 50; Middleton, 48; Milton, 13; Mahono Bay, 81.47; Montreal, 10; North Sydney, C. B., 117; New Glasgow, 104; Noel, Hants Co., 21.30; Oxford, 9.67; Pownal, P. E. I., 5; Port Mulgrave, 7; Port Williams, 35; Pictou, 174.90; Port Medway, 22; Port Hawkesbury, 10.27; Pugwash, 7; Petite River, 22; River John, Pictou Co., 28.15; Summerside, P. E. I., 42; Sheffield Mills, 1; Shubenacadie, 18; Sherbrooke, Guys. Co. 10; Salmon River, Hx. Co., 25.25; Souris, P. E. I., 30; Tatamagouche, 14; Tusket, Yar. Co., 2; Truro, 140; Voglers Cove, 5; West River, P. E. I., 2; Weymouth, 36.50; Windsor, 165.05; Wolfville, 20; Yarmouth, 423.93. The Province of New Brunswick is not as yet represented in this list, but will doubtless contribute its full quota during the present year. The work which the School for the Blind has accomplished in the past speaks for itself, and we feel sure all who take an interest in the welfare of those deprived of sight will be glad to learn of the continued progress of this educational Institution.

Mr. Ed. H. Barnstead, business manager and advance agent of the Josie Mill's Dramatic Company, informs us that this Company will open at the Academy of Music on Easter Monday. The engagement will last for two weeks during which time some good plays will be put on. We have had an unusually quiet winter and after Lent the public in general and society devotees in particular will no doubt welcome an acceptable diversion.

The Church of England Institute Hall was filled on Tuesday evening, standing room being at a premium. The attraction was the second concert of the series of winter entertainments and the programme afforded much pleasure to all present. The quartette, composed of Messrs Norman, Blois, Phillips and Wiswell, rendered the two numbers allotted to them in a most satisfactory manner, receiving a hearty encore for the second, "Slumber Sweetly." The rendition of the song entitled "Fiddle and I," by Mrs. Murray Botsford, with violin obligato by Miss Tremaine, was very acceptable and received an encore, as did also the solo by Mrs. Klungenfeld. Mr. Phillips' song "Queen of the Earth" was well received. The piano solo by Miss Morrow was fully deserving of the applause accorded it, and the entertainment was pronounced a decided success. The next event of the course will be the reception to be given on Thursday evening of next week by the officers of the ladies auxiliary. An enjoyable evening is anticipated by the many friends of the Institute.

The Leicestershire Lilywhite Minstrels gave very good performances on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, but owing either to the number of contra attractions for those evenings or to the fact that the public has been surfeited this season with minstrel shows the performances of the Leicestershire Minstrels did not attract the large audiences they had anticipated. The programme was well arranged and provided much amusement for those who did attend and the whole show was up to the usual standard of minstrel performances. The trombone solo by bandmaster Hughes was well done, and reflected credit on this able musician. The farce "Wax-ination Gratis" abounded in merriment and was warmly applauded.

Two of the several attractions announced for last evening were the children's carnival at the Exhibition Rink and the third subscription concert of the Orpheus Club. No doubt both of these were well attended, but we must necessarily defer comment thereon.

Rev. A. L. Geggie, of Truro, will lecture this evening at Chalmers Hall on "The Humors of the Scottish Kirk," which subject will doubtless abound in wit and wisdom and will be ably dealt with by the genial lecturer.

Miss Katie Johnson's Jubilee concert, announced to take place in Chalmers Hall last evening has been looked forward to by many music lovers, and, if the programme published be any criterion, was most surely an enjoyable affair.

Every necessary preparation is being made to ensure the success of the first concert of the Doering-Brauer conservatory of music to be given by the pupils in Orpheus Hall on Tuesday evening, March 3th. The young people will be assisted by several favorite amateurs of the city. The entertainment is under the patronage of Mrs. M. Bowes Daly, and will in all probability be one of the most enjoyable events of the season.

Although the snow has been rapidly vanishing during the week there have been several sleighing parties to Bedford and other suburbs of the city. On Monday evening about one hundred members of the Retail Grocers' Association enjoyed their first annual sleighride. Starting at about 7 30 p. m. in three large sleighs, the company drove to Wilson's Hotel, where a first-class dinner was done full justice to.

There have been many merry skating parties at the Exhibition Skating Rink during the last few weeks and rumor says there are more to follow. If the "wintry winds" do not blow a little colder it is to be feared that those anticipated joys will be nipped in the bud, as the pleasure to be derived from skating on soft ice is not great. Since the rink opened it has been largely patronized and the ice until the last week or so has been in first-class condition. The young people who have enjoyed the sport are earnestly hoping for more frosty weather and, as the old lady said, "there's no knowin'" and blustery March may favor the skaters.

And what shall I say more? For the time would fail me to tell of all the virtues of Putner's Emulsion.