

Highland Park News.

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THE RELIEF AND AID SOCIETY.

The Relief and Aid society of Highland Park held their annual meeting Monday Jan. 11th, 1897, in the reading room of the Athenæum. Twenty four ladies were present. After the usual reading of reports the old constitution was abandoned and a new one which had been framed by a committee appointed for that purpose, was adopted.

The object of the society by the new constitution being to reduce vagrancy and pauperism and ascertain their true causes; to prevent indiscriminate and duplicate giving. To protect the community against imposition. To see that all deserving cases of destitution are properly relieved. To make employment the basis of relief and to elevate the home-life, health and habits of the poor.

In order to carry out these ideas, the society have secured rooms over the Highland Park News, where clothing, etc., is disbursed each Wednesday and Saturday afternoon by some of the officers.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are Mrs. H. P. Davidson, president; Mrs. Silas Brand, vice president; Mrs. John Finney, second vice president; Miss A. R. La Bar, secretary; Mrs. K. R. Smoot, treasurer; visitors: Mesdames Dyer, H. D. Green, T. H. Spencer, W. M. Dooley, William Millard, H. I. Morris, Bowman, Dingle, and Misses Belle Dickinson and Turnley.

The treasurer's report shows \$223 spent during 1896 by the society in relieving families.

A NEW SEWER.

Perhaps lots of folks don't know there is a scheme hatching for a new big west side sewer, but there is, and it is a necessity. Before the water works were introduced typhoid fevers were almost chronic, over there especially, down in the "brick bottom" lands. Half of that evil is gone, now that those poisoned wells

are out of the way. Put in a sewer and compel people to connect and enforce right sanitary rules, and the other half of that typhoid plague will disappear. Everything is all right, but where or how to discharge the sewage is the serious problem. A big catch basin is thought of, and it will work all right if the liquid overflow can be disposed of, but to let it run off down the slough, unless there is water enough to greatly dilute it would be a great nuisance, as well as a menace to public health. We have lived through one such experiment and know just how it works. It is all a very grave problem and demands careful consideration.

THE ICE SUPPLY.

The problem of ice begins to be a serious one in many places in these parts. Waukegan is decidedly stirred up. There are only a few weeks left in which to make and harvest the year's supply. The best and purest ice we ever saw was in Fort Worth, Texas. It was machine-made, forty tons each day, from a 1200-foot artesian well on a large farm at the stock yards, one mile from the city, and as soft as any rain water. We believe the problem of ice for this city is yet to be settled by a small plant out west, near the city limits, where the water from our old artesian well can be used. Then we shall have absolutely pure ice and plenty of it, no matter what the winter is, and there will be no deadly poison and danger as now in this slough ice. We want absolutely pure ice, so we can put it into our drinking water, lemonade, iced teas, etc., without danger of poison and sickness.

That was a capital suggestion of Alderman Rice that the inside line of the new plank sidewalk be straight as well as the outside line. The inside line of some of them look like a cross-cut saw, with here and there a tooth knocked out. Mr. Rice is right, let the owners trim them off.

ROUND ABOUT JERUSALEM.

What a full house. Every slip and chair and standing room filled. Tuesday night in the Presbyterian Church to hear Mr. Bennett tell his story of the significance of 50 to 75 pictures in and about the Holy City, with a few of outside localities, as the Dead Sea, Bethlehem, Joppa, the new railway, the fords of the Jordan, etc. The veins of Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, and the historical environs were intensely interesting, though sometimes he failed to give us clear ideas of the points of the compass. Two or three additional slides would add immensely to his list, one a map of Palestine, showing location of the railroad, one of Jerusalem and its environs, and sectional slide, showing comparative elevations of the city, the Mediterranean and the Dead seas. The house was literally packed; the lecture lasted one hour and a quarter and every one was entranced. It was a grand success as a single entertainment. To us it is vastly more. It shows what these men of this club can do when they set about it, for the public good. When these Presbyterian men can furnish such an entertainment as that and such lectures as Dr. Hall's, and the others to follow, to the people of the Park, free of cost, they commend, not only themselves, but their Christianity to this public in a very emphatic manner.

The Presbyterian Church may or may not be the "social" head centre of this city. Social status don't count in a church of Jesus Christ, but practical Christianity does. One deed of Good Samaritanism counts more in the eyes of heaven than a pedigree running back to the Norman Conquest, or a fortune rivalling the Duke of Westminster's. This Men's club is in the Good Samaritan business.

Council meeting Tuesday night, don't forget: take the new Electric street car and get there.