The Highland Park News.

Published in the interests of Highland Park, Highwood and Ravinia, every Friday afternoon by Evans & Forrest.

Terms, $1.00 per year, 50 cents for six months, 30 cents for three months.

Office: in News Building, 255 Central Avenue, Highland Park, Illinois.

Entered at the post-office at Highland Park, Ill., as second class matter.

Advertising rates made known on application at this office.

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 21.

THIS is just the kind of weather for coasting and skating. Has any provision been made for coasting for the school children.

THE more people think it over the more they seem to be pleased with the four-ward division of the city, and we think with good reason.

THE justices of the peace in an Iowa town are acting in a very unjudicial manner; they are cutting rates on marriage fees, and then to get customers, one who is an artist gives each bride a crayon portrait of her husband. The other offers a free sleigh ride about town with a skilled driver to point out the chief attractions of the place. Such rivalry is creating great excitement among the Hawkeyes.

W. H. RUSSELL of the Sylvan Dells school, thinks that because a man knows the difference between the "heaves" and "founder" in a horse, he is not thereby entitled to be called a veterinary surgeon or "Professor," and the man who knows the muzzle from the breach of a rifle "Colonel" and the man who has just looked at Haines treatise casually for fifteen minutes a "Judge" We are impressed with the profound conviction that Principal Russell is right: empty titles are a bit too common.

VERY many people, including many west side school children go down through the depot yard and so across the track to the west side. It is contrary to the law and contrary also to the rules of the railroad company. Men and women ought to know better; it is dangerous and parents ought to teach their children to keep off the tracks. The railroad company don't want to kill folks, old or young, and it don't want folks on its tracks. The tracks are private property and people have no business there.

WE are glad to know that the Daughters of the Revolution propose to observe Washington's birthday as well as some half a dozen similar days during the year. We think this ought to be done in the public schools so as to reach all the children alike, rich and poor and especially those of foreign parentage who are not as familiar with these things as native born Americans. These children should have as good a chance to learn about Washington and Bunker Hill and Burgoyne and Cornwallis, etc., as boys and girls whose ancestors were in those historic events. Put patriotic work into the schools now if you want patriotic men and women in the twentieth century.

A LADY asked us a day or two since if there was a way of securing clean sidewalks after a snow storm. We confessed ignorance. She wanted to know if it was not the council's business to see that the ordinances were enforced. We supposed it was, but as the little boy said of his papa's religion, they "are not working at it much now." Then she wanted to know if the women could do anything? Yes, they can do several things. First they can go out as a "broom brigade" and sweep off the walks, or as a "snow-shovel brigade" and shovel them off. Second, they can "blow up," their men folks for not doing it, or having it done. Third, they can have their own sons, scores of them have such sons, clean off the walks immediately after every snow storm; it would do the boys good, as well as the side walks. Fourth they can use all their personal, social powers, like the "sweet influence of the Pleiades" to bear on their masculine friends to this end. Finally they can organize a "side-walk crusade" through the Ossoli, or outside it, and attack the citadel of the council and public opinion, till it is done.

A RIGHT MOVE.

Wisconsin statistics show that from three to four per cent of the pupils of the high schools go to college, and yet as a rule, the high schools are run on the theory that all or nearly all the pupils go through college, and become lawyers, doctors, ministers, bankers, etc. As a matter of fact, not over two pupils out of every hundred in our public schools ever go to college and into the professions; what are the other 98 going to do for a living? Or, in other words, what does the public and high school do for these other 98 towards helping them to get a living. A smattering of Latin and ancient history, etc., are all right, we never knew them to hurt anobody; but when a boy leaves the eighth grade, or graduates from the high school, what will they do toward helping him get a living and so get on in the world?

In these latter days a move has been made toward teaching the pupils in our public schools trades in wood and iron, so that when a boy leaves the eighth grade he can do almost all kinds of wood work and not a few in iron, as well as any expert carpenter or ironworker. It is a great advantage and has our sympathy. A lady from Winnetka spoke in its behalf at the Club house the other day for a few minutes and created a very favorable impression. So long as nine boys and girls out of every ten have got to earn their own living, we think they ought to learn a little toward how to do it the twelve to fifteen years they spend at home and in the public schools. Clean out the fads, and put in something sensible and useful.

THE OSSOLI CLUB.

This is not a report of any meeting, but some of our own thoughts on the Club, its members and their work. The Club is an organization of the women whose families are members of the Highland Park Club, so that in one sense it is the woman's side of the original Park Club. But when we have said that we have only indicated in a general way the personnel of the Club, not its character or work. Such being the range or limits of membership of the Ossoli, it follows that they are, as a rule, society women, and therefore women of social and general culture and impliedly, of intellectual culture also. We do not mean that every member, or perhaps a majority of them, are what are known as liberally "educated" women; that is, women with college diplomas and degrees, but many of them are. Still, we think we may truly say that the great majority of them are women of no small degree of intellectual culture. They read and study largely in certain lines, and many of them keep abreast of the literary movement of the day. Not that they read every new book, novel or philosophical treatise; that is not necessary, or ever wise and desirable, for the overwhelming majority of books issued are not worth attention: many popular ones are ephemeral and valueless. Nor do all of these women write papers: they have no taste or talent for that, but they can appreciate those, which others write, and that is no small attainment.

Moreover most of these women have homes, husbands and children, all of which imply care and work and anxiety, aside from social and intellectual work. We are very frank to say the average grade of intellectual work done in and by the Club is much higher than we had supposed. It shows work, good hard, honest, successful work, and no woman can do that without profit to herself. Then the range of topics for a season is a broad one and while there is but one essayist to each topic, every other member feels impelled to study up, more or less fully that special topic, for the president, in true oriental despotic style, calls on this and that and the other one "whom she will" for an expression of views on the special topic under disscussion, and no one thus called out can decline. The golden sceptre of that silver voice means obedience.

Finally.—It is, to us at least, a delightful surprise to see how orderly, systematically and according to "parliamentary rules," all the business is done. It is a training of inestimable value, to any company of women, or men either, to be able to do that with no fuss or flurry. Of gossip, that proverbial sin of women, there is absolutely none, or we have not seen or heard it; they are too well bred, and too intent on more serious things. The "social hour" is limited to fifteen to twenty minutes and a good cup of tea. We give our benediction to the Ossoli.

"HE IS POOR INDEED."

It was observed, in connection with the recent opening of a great hotel in New York city designed for people of limited means, that the projector, in the simple speech outlining his purpose, failed to use the word "poor" in connection with the class of people for whom his establishment is designed. The explanation of this failure to use a term which is such a favorite with most of those claiming to be the champion of the "deserving poor" is to be found in a remark he has been heard to make: "No; I do not design this for poor men. There are no poor men in this country if they have health and good habits. Their income may be limited for the time, but they have capital. The only poor man in America is the man who is sick or has bad habits." This is sound American sense, and we cannot have too much of it in the discussion of our social and economical problems. The standard of money may be gold or silver; but the standard of true wealth is manhood and womanhood. Let us never forget that.—Good Housekeeping.

A fellow was lodged in the tramp house Sunday night who had just arrived from Seattle, Wash. He was on his way back to his home in Oshkosh, where he had always lived until last fall. Getting the gold fever, he, like many others, sold his property and in August started for the Klondyke. He bought a complete outfit and made all preparations for his journey. Arriving at Seattle, with nothing in his possession except his outfit, he was compelled to give up in despair. Pawning his outfit, he began his homeward jonrney on foot. His advice to expectant gold seekers is: "If you can earn fifty cents a day at home, stay there."—Waukegan Daily Sun.

A lynx has been seen in the woods between here and Fort Sheridan by several parties from Highland Park and Lake Forest. It is thought to be the one that escaped from Lincoln Park a few months ago and created so much excitement in Evanston.—Lake Forester.

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