

The Highland Park News.

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MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS.

A few weeks ago a paper was read at the Ossoli which evoked a lively discussion, and among other things were some criticisms of music in the public schools, which we supposed were leveled at our city schools, but were meant, we learn, for schools in general. We had no idea there was any musical training in our public schools, only as here and there a teacher gave some for special occasions. Learning that vocal music is a regular feature of the school we spent most of Monday afternoon in seven of the grades, conducted from room to room by Mrs. Bowen, the superintendent.

First of all, let us say, the board appropriates no money for this work. In Waukegan and most other towns, money is appropriated for a special music teacher, several hundred dollars a year. When Mrs. Bowen came, she determined to put in music through the teachers, without any extra cost, save the books, about three grades or series. This was no small undertaking, for two reasons: first, Mrs. Bowen does not claim to be a musical expert, though she understands the art; second, the several classes had all they wanted to do, without anything being added. But there is this to be said for vocal music, it can come in in most cases practically as a change and a rest without overtaxing the overworked pupil. Hence, Mrs. Bowen is entitled to great credit for putting it in and making it the success she has; no one who sees what has been done, and has any appreciation of the value of this instruction can deny that.

For results we found a regular orderly and scientific course of training on the system of the summer school of music held at the Military academy every summer. It is a Boston idea, and hence up-to-date in every respect. The pupils sing by note, and not by rote, and even in the first grade, with Miss Barlow, those little tots, in six months, had worked in three keys, and their ideas of notes, time, rests, etc., seemed to us phenomenally correct and advanced. There were similar evidences of good, solid attainments in the second grade, where they explained to us several matters somewhat intricate and so on all the way up, through to the eighth grade, save the seventh, which we did not see, as the day was too short, or we lingered too long in the sixth to be decorated with the class colors. We found, as we should naturally expect, a difference in the teaching ability of the teachers, and some also in the several grades: that is, taking one grade or class as a whole there is more musical talent, ability or aptness to learn, skill in reading music than in another grade or class, and that class will show to better advantage now, and all the way through the school course.

Some teachers, too, as above suggested, have a natural inborn "knack" or gift of instruction, in this as in other lines, greater than others have. Whether "matches" are made in heaven or not, we can't say, though evidently some were not, for heaven turns out no defective or bungling work. But teachers and preachers, leaders of all kinds, like poets, are made there, and it is utterly futile for one to attempt to teach music or anything else, with-

out this special divine endowment with the best human training obtainable.

Finally, we were pleased; more than pleased with the results we saw; the real substantial service rendered these pupils is of inestimable value, especially when it don't cost the district a cent, beyond a few cheap music books, and the results obtained are a great achievement and worthy of very high praise.

THE BAPTIST SOCIABLE.

The members of the Baptist Church gave a sociable and reception to their new pastor Vines and his wife, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin H. Brown, down in the "Pocket" Saturday evening. There was a large attendance and the Browns made everything just as pleasant as possible. Most of the people had met Mr. Vines, but this was the pastor's wife's first appearance among this people, and she produced a most favorable impression, as a bright and charming Christian woman, a southern lady of the best type. We regretted being obliged to forego the pleasure of being there, at the last moment.

The two chief special features of the evening were a musical program and an "ideal auction." Of the former Mrs. C. H. Warren and Miss Bessie Cheverton gave a piano duet; Irving Evans and Miss Minnie Streiber on violin and piano; H. M. Prior a violin solo. Coffee, sandwiches, and doughnuts, such as mother used to make, were served in abundance.

The Ideal Auction was highly amusing and remunerative. Packages of all sorts were done up neatly and labeled in some artistic or fantastic manner and then sold at auction. For instance three New York nut cakes or doughnuts were done up labeled "three gems," and sold to his honor, the mayor, for 50 cents. An old file and a raw onion were neatly put up as "rank and file" for which rare treasure De Witt Clinton Purdy put down "four bits." An attractive looking bundle marked "the tie that binds" drew a silver half dollar, from Charles H. Baker, esquire; it was a last years washed and laundered white cotton necktie; "The Missing Link," which excited the evolutionist curiosity of Arthur E. Evans, to the tune of eight nickels proved to be a somewhat ancient strand of Bologna; and so on till the excited, eager crowd, which rivaled the Board of Trade wheat pit, bid and bought till they had parted with \$13. of their precious money, when the supply of curios gave out. About 10:30 everyone went home pronouncing the affair a "grand success."

CAME TO GRIEF.

January 10th a soldier left a bicycle with Earl Purdy to be enamelled, giving the name of C. Smith. Later a soldier named Malloy called for the wheel and as it was not done he paid Mr. Purdy part of the price of the repairs, and said he would leave it there till the roads were fit for wheeling. Later Night Engineer Haydn of the Fort heating plant, called at Mr. Purdy's and claimed the wheel as his own, which had been stolen from his place of business. A warrant was sworn out of Justice Dooley's court for the arrest of Malloy, who had his trial Saturday afternoon, and in default of \$400 bonds held to the grand jury for larceny.

CITY COUNCIL.

J. McGregor Adams wants the three bridges on Waverly avenue rebuilt before the season opens. One of the bridges is a large one and will cost something like a thousand dollars. Referred to street and alley committee. Alex. Robertson wrote calling attention to the fact that he was the successor of Robertson & Nolan and ready to carry out the old firm's contract; Mr. Phillips thought Mr. Robertson entitled to the trade. On motion of Col. Davidson, the lumber contract was continued with A. Robertson. Bills read and passed amounting to \$391.28. The new storm windows for city hall cost \$8.80. Alderman Cobb was temporarily ill and not able to be present and alderman Obee was out of town. City collector's new bond approved. Col. Davidson reported on the communication from city treasurer, suggesting two new ordinances governing the city treasurer. These new ordinances make some very radical changes in the administration of this office. The second ordinance designates the Northwestern National bank of Chicago as the depository of all city funds which must be deposited in the name of the city and all checks on said bank must be signed by the treasurer and the mayor. Both ordinances were passed. An order was passed to put in a 10-inch water main from Central avenue, or Mr. Sampson's corner, to Hazel avenue, or Mrs. General Flint's corner, down Linden avenue, at an estimated expense of about \$1500. The clerk will call for bids for the work, in parts and in whole.

Alderman Fritsch, for the street and alley committee, reported against all the petitions for rebates, including Messrs. P. A. Montgomery, John K. Walsh, C. B. Rice, H. H. Chandler et al. The order for supplies for the month was passed and at 9:30 the council adjourned and went home.

The meeting was a very pleasant one, albeit the absent ones were missed. Alderman Cushman suggested that the shock of such an early adjournment might be more than our families could bear. The zero weather and piercing winds made the hall rather cool.

Is the Preservation of Man's Health More Important Than the Preservation of the Health of Woman?

Much has been done during the last decade to lighten the work of man, by time and labor saving inventions, which men have taken advantage of, regardless of expense; yet many women continue to use heavy running, noisy and injurious sewing machines, with their accompanying annoyances of bobbins, shuttles and tensions.

Prominent physicians agree that no other one cause has done so much to injure the health of women, as running such machines.

That intelligent ladies, who keep posted with advances, are awakening to an appreciation of this important subject, is fully demonstrated by the large sales of the light running, health saving, "automatic, silent sewing machine, manufactured and sold by the Willcox & Gibbs sewing machine company.

Ladies who value their health will do well to examine this machine.

Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Purdy are off for a week or two in Michigan, while the "Doctor" and Arthur keep bachelor's hall.

JANE AUSTEN.

The second lecture in Professor Rolfe's course at the Highland Park Club was given on Tuesday evening to an audience which overflowed the hall. The lecture was even more delightful than the first, and the success of the course is assured.

The lecturer told the marvelous story of Jane Austen's life and work, how she, a simple country-bred girl, produced those novels which are among the greatest masterpieces of the world's literature.

Miss Austen had enjoyed no unusual advantages of education, nor had she any knowledge of the world beyond what she could gain in a quiet country parsonage; she had never exhibited any ambition of authorship, yet before she was twenty-two years old she wrote within a period of ten months, at odd times and on scraps of paper "Pride and Prejudice," one of the greatest novels in the English language.

The greatness of this book consists chiefly in the individuality of the characters it portrays. Like Shakespeare's men and women they stand out each in his own proper person, they are not the puppets of a book, but people we have known. Elizabeth Bennet, Mr. Darcy, and Mr. Collins are characters as admirable in their way as Hamlet or Falstaff, and it is in this, the highest faculty of creative genius, that Miss Austen's greatness consists. All this was pointed out in a charming way by the lecturer, and we venture to say that for the next fortnight half the town will be reading "Pride and Prejudice."

The next lecture will be February 15th, upon Thomas Carlyle.

THEY ENJOYED IT.

Sleighting parties are so numerous since the recent big fall of snow that one cannot keep track of them, and to record all the Neys would have to devote all or more of its 40 columns to them. However, there is one which we think is worthy of special mention, that of the little kids of the United Evangelical Church, which took place Monday afternoon. Mrs. Sijas Brand, who is their Sunday school teacher, chaperoned them. It was a bitter cold day and those in charge did not dare go far from the thickly settled portion of the city, only going as far as the lake or some like distance and then returning to the home of Mrs. Brand, which was the starting point, when she, with motherly solicitude, would pick up the youngsters, one at a time, carry them in, warm them and return, repeating the operation, until all were comfortable, when another trip would be made. All seemed to enjoy it immensely.

THE ELECTRIC ROAD.

We are very glad to know that what promised to be a sad affair in Lake Bluff has been amicably adjusted and Mr. Loss' time for completion of the road through that village has been extended. He promises to gravel two miles of street his road occupies and put everything in good shape as soon as the frost is out of the ground so the telephone folks can move their poles out of his right of way. He also gives the town a cash bonus in view of its extension of his time and now, so soon as spring shall open, the road will be pushed through to completion between this city and Waukegan.

THE AZTEC CLUB.

Col. Parmenas T. Turnley, our friend and neighbor, is irrepresible, as well as irresistible. Think of a man of his years—he was born in 1821—going off to New York to deliver the presidential address before the Aztec Club at its jubilee meeting in that city last October. The original Aztec Club was organized Oct. 13, 1847, in the City of Mexico by seven men, not one of whom is now living, to perpetuate the memories of the Mexican war. All old Mexican war soldiers and their descendants are eligible. Originally the club numbered 100 members, about a dozen of whom are now alive and of this club. Col. Turnley is the president, and we have before us, in a dozen page pamphlet, a printed copy of his address at the October jubilee. Of that meeting he said—and we never saw it better stated: "We meet today not to indulge in the savage exultation of war, but rather to declare a dividend of benefits over the injuries of war." We were brought up to believe the Mexican war a wicked enterprise, but the Colonel makes it but a blessing in disguise to Mexico, as well as to the United States; his logic seems sound and his facts indisputable. The Mexican people, he says, welcomed our troops and the politicians learned to fear and respect us.

There are now in the club 11 of the original 100 members, 50 old veterans since joined and about 170 sons of the old Mexican soldiers, making in all 231 members. The club meets annually in various parts of the country in October and it must be a delightful time. The Colonel's address, like everything he writes, is decidedly readable and instructive; he has the somewhat rare faculty of, saying what he means.

A NEW BAND.

We think the citizens of the Park will read with pleasure the announcement that August Enmark, formerly director of the Crescent band of Englewood, has come to the Park to live and has started an organization here. We have long needed such a good band, and Mr. Enmark has proved his ability as a director in other localities. The organization is not yet complete and there may be some changes in the final adjustment of the several parts and musicians, for we can't well have an efficient band where all are drum majors. The parts stand as follows, as we go to press:

August Dannemark, director and cornet.

William Smith, cornet.
Jacob Zimmer, cornet.
George Zimmer, tenor.
Edward Cole, alto.
Elmer Palmatier, alto.
William Farmer, drummer.
Carl Thoren, drummer.
William Sheridan, alto.
Mr. Lumeree.
Mr. Brinkman.

They had their first meeting in the dining room of Goldberg's opera house, Wednesday evening.

We learn with pleasure that the King's Daughters are preparing another of their unique entertainments for next week Saturday, the 12th inst. It will be chiefly an exhibit of pictures of special design and merit. Just bear in mind the fact and date—next week we will give full particulars.

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