

Highland Park Department

Commencement at Military Academy

As announced in these columns last week, the Northwestern Military Academy closed last Wednesday for the summer. The commencement exercises began last Sunday morning when Rev. Pfanstiehl delivered the address to the Senior class, at the Presbyterian church.

FIELD DAY EXERCISES.

The annual field day exercises were held Monday afternoon. A large crowd was in attendance and inspired the boys to make their best efforts. The winners of first place in all events were awarded a bronze medal for the first event and wherever they took more than one prize or in cases where the winner already held a bronze medal the holder was given an additional bar for the same.

THE LITERARY EXERCISES

Were held in the Academy Drill hall Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock. Long before that hour the spacious drill hall was filled with guests, many of them from a distance, all awaiting the appearance of the cadets. Promptly to the hour the boys marched in and took their places and after music by the cadet band, Mr. Hibbard invoked the blessings of God upon the assembled multitude. The first speaker for the afternoon was Capt. N. L. Wissing of Brooklyn, who spoke on the topic "It Moves." He was followed by Capt. W. L. Lomax of Chicago, who spoke upon "Citizenship" and Capt. A. M. Chidester of Ohio, who spoke on "Men Wanted." The orations were above the ordinary and showed much careful thought and preparation along the line of citizenship and politics in the higher sense of the word. The cadet band rendered a number of very good selections, one of them being the N. M. A. Quickstep. This selection called forth great applause which did not subside until Captain Burke, the band master and composer of the piece, was brought to the platform and introduced to the audience.

At the close of the exercises, Col. Davidson presented the seniors with their diplomas, after making a short address to the seniors and then the audience broke up to reassemble on the drill grounds, to observe the

MILITARY EXERCISES.

The first exercise was battalion drill, followed by saber, bayonet, bar, bell, and signal drill, in the order named. Then came the sham battle. A company of sharpshooters under the rebel Captain Chidester was hidden in Spencer's grove and much annoyed the American troops. At length Captain Wissing threw out a skirmish line to trap them out of the woods, but were driven back. At this opportune moment the bicycle corps arrived and covered the retreat of the skirmishers. Things were getting warm now, and all at once Capt. Lomax sprang to the head of his bicycle boys and swinging his sword commanded a charge. The whole American force responded and amid ringing volleys, cheers, yells, and the inspiring strains of "Yankee Doodle" the whole rebel force was beaten back and forced to surrender. A full list of the killed and wounded can not be given, but the hospital corps was busy throughout the engagement.

After the sham battle came the competitive drill, conducted by Lieut. Crane, 15th U. S. Infantry, and Lieut. Haight, 3rd U. S. Cavalry. They awarded Sergt. Fred G. Rice the gold drill medal; W. G. Greenbaum of this city, was given second place.

Next came battalion parade, at the close of which the following medals and prizes were announced: Scholarship—gold medal, Capt. A. Chidester, but as he had won that medal once before it went to the second, Corp. J. H. Mattes of Odebolt, Iowa.

Department—a gold medal, Corp. Shaw of Evansville, Ind., and Sergt. Ridgeway of La Porte, Ind. These

young men were a tie for first place and the school generously decided to duplicate the medal.

Penmanship—silver medal, Corp. W. G. Greenbaum.

Proficiency in band work—silver medal, M. A. Compton of Chicago.

The commandant also presented to the seniors the commissions from Governor Tanner, making them second lieutenants in the I. N. G.

At the close of these exercises tea was served on the lawn to the guests while the alumni association took possession of the Mess Hall for their annual banquet. At this banquet Mr. W. E. Stokes, ('94) of Chicago was toastmaster and Colouel and Major Davidson, Capt. Trask, Capt. Reddick, Rev. Pfanstiehl, and Messrs. Barnard ('97), Chidester, Shurley ('93) Lumbard ('93), and Wood ('96), responded to toasts and Capt. Lomax spoke for the newly made alumni, or in other words, the class of '99.

THE "HOP"

In the evening the drill hall was filled to its capacity by many of our citizens and some three hundred visitors, mostly from Chicago, who were present to bid farewell to the senior class and incidentally to dance, a little. The drill hall was a mass of bunting and electric lights and the entire roof was transformed into a massive tent top. Hazen's Chicago orchestra furnished the music and gave the best of satisfaction. Early the next morning the last "Reveille" was blown and as the flag ascended the flag-staff the band played "The Star Spangled Banner."

The members of the staff have also scattered, Capt. Trask and wife going to Minneapolis, Capt. Burke to New York, Capt. Townsend to Michigan and Capt. Wood to his home in Evanston. Col. and Major Davidson will remain here for the summer, and Capt. and Mrs. Reddick will remain until the close of the public schools, after which they will go to the Winona Summer School and Assembly, for the summer.

Miss Alma Hoyt, a summer resident of Highland Park, was a Winnetka visitor one day this week, the guest of Miss Gertrude Thorne.