

Regular Meeting of Woman's Club.

The first evening meeting of the Highland Park Woman's Club was held on Tuesday, October 3d, at McDonald's hall. The room was beautifully decorated with American and other national flags, and pictures of statesmen, musicians, and men and women of letters, adorned the walls. The topic being "Ireland," the stage (under the direction and supervision of Mrs. Hipwell) was a charming bit of effectiveness, with its green, white and gold coloring. Nothing seemed left in the way of happy suggestions from the pictured faces of Ireland's greatest statesmen and poets, to the bits of shamrock and the Irish harp.

At the time designated for the meeting to begin the hall was filled with the members of the club and their guests, and never was audience so patient and courteous at the delay caused by the sudden illness of some of the members of the quartette. It would have been perfectly excusable if the musical part of the program had been omitted, but so interested were St. Mary's church choir to be of service to the Highland Park Woman's Club that they made it possible to carry out all the details of the evening on Ireland—and to the St. Mary's choir the Highland Park Woman's Club offers its most sincere thanks.

The paper by Miss Stoddard was listened to with unabated interest from first to last. It was the description of a visit made by Miss Stoddard to Ireland two years ago, and through her eyes we caught realistic glimpses of many phases of life in the Emerald Isle. One item of surpassing beauty that will surely linger in the minds of all present was the description of the day spent in Killarney. At the conclusion of the paper the president introduced Mr. Hipwell, who read with great force and pathos portions from Emmett's farewell address, and then that graphic, thrilling bit of rhyme concerning "The Trial and Escape of one James O'Brien," after which the club was favored with short addresses from Father Madden, Rev. P. C. Wolcott, and Rev. A. A. Pfanstiehl.

After the singing of "Oh, Steer My Barque to Erin's Isle,"

and "Rory O'Moore," by the quartette, the meeting was adjourned.

At the first meeting of the Highland Park Woman's Club (after its formal organization) the subject of a home was the topic discussed, and two offers were formally made. The first was that the Highland Park Woman's Club was cordially welcome to the use of the council chamber for its meetings at such times as the city did not need it. This offer was sincerely appreciated by the club, and would have been gratefully accepted had the council chamber been sufficiently large to hold the members of the club even at that time, and for this reason it was respectfully declined. The second offer was that the Highland Park Woman's Club were welcome to take and to occupy that portion of the Young Men's Club (or Atheneum) known as the billiard and gymnasium rooms. A committee was appointed to see the rooms and if they were found satisfactory were empowered to accept the offer and as speedily as possible make the rooms habitable for the club's home. In the two rooms mentioned the committee saw the possibilities of a good hall with seating capacity for a hundred or more people, also room for a platform eight to ten feet wide. This committee laid their plans before a member of the Atheneum board (who was also a member of the library board) and were assured that they might go on with their alterations. Bids were therefore asked, and in some instances accepted. The carpenter had torn down the partition, the mason had brought the sand to begin the patching, the painter had begun to wash the walls, when an unexpected halt was called and the committee were most courteously invited to meet the library board, and had to face this situation. The library board had purchased the ground under the building known as the Atheneum building for library purposes; the city had bought the building, floating bonds for that purpose. The library board now proposed to take the two rooms known as the billiard room and gymnasium and knocking down the partition, (which was already knocked down)

make it into a hall, to be called "library hall." This hall positively "because legally" under the control of the library board, was to be used, at the discretion of the board, for literary purposes, and would be by them given for meetings to the various organizations of helpfulness and usefulness in the city of Highland Park. Among these organizations the Highland Park Woman's Club was considerably mentioned, and it was suggested that the Highland Park Woman's Club furnish and decorate, with their pictures and hangings the walls and windows of library hall—as Alderman Phillips truthfully suggested that the Highland Park Woman's Club had the interest of all good work in Highland Park at heart." This left the Highland Park Woman's Club in a negative position. When the library board was ready, and the city had arranged its bonds, and the building (that has to be fixed up by subscription) had been fixed, then the Highland Park Woman's Club could, at certain fixed times and seasons, have library hall, upon what terms there was no mention made.

The Woman's Club of Highland Park has come to stay, and like every other well regulated family it prefers a home to a boarding house, and so it went home hunting (having learned a wise and useful lesson in its rather expensive partition moving.) Every citizen in Highland Park realizes the need of a good hall, centrally located, in this city—a hall on the ground floor and out of the din and constant confusion of street and rail car noise. For such a hall the woman's club committee sought in vain.

At this juncture Mr. Henry Coolidge Sampson came forward and offered to the Highland Park Woman's Club (making his offer in writing) his empty house on Central avenue, free of all rental, even providing the lighting for any evening use. As a temporary home for the club, and the study classes and business meetings this offer has been most gratefully accepted, and the women's club will take all their pretty belongings—pictures, curtains, etc., and be at home.

At their first study class, over