

MUCH INTEREST IN DEBATE

HARD WORK IN SCHOOLS.

Dr. Mickleborough Says Young Boys Should Contest in Private.

Lively interest continues to be shown both by the teachers and the pupils connected with the debating societies in the different schools of the Greater New-York Intercollegiate Debating League...

Dr. John Mickleborough, principal of the Boys' High School of Brooklyn, in a talk with a Tribune reporter yesterday, declared the trophy would be helpful. Boys liked to have something in the way of recognition when they had achieved success...

In our schools—and I think there could be in all schools—debating societies, a junior and a senior. It would be a mistake to have the members of a junior debating society attempt public debates. They should be confined to discussions in their own buildings, and have their teachers point out to them what is valuable in debate...

A very young boy thinks he is debating when he is only making a lot of wild assertions that have no bearing on the debate. The teacher can act as a critic, and show him the essentials of good debating. A boy's mind is not yet developed enough to be able to think of an important factor, but the more difficult thing, proper refutation. And in connection with this there comes the question of standing up before your equals and giving expression to a continuity of thoughts upon a given subject.

In the senior debating society it is well for the members to have a larger audience and a more conspicuous hearing, hence the contests between schools become very helpful and stimulating.

Debating is a good, intellectual exercise, and is very closely related to the real work of the student. As a young man advances in years, nothing will more clearly indicate the supremacy of intellectual training and the value of the exercises in which thought is given English. Public speaking comes very largely through frequent exercise, and that after preparation and proper deliberation. It would be an excellent thing if the school authorities would take up this question and give it some sort of recognition, as they are now doing in the line of athletics.

It has occurred, I am told, within a year, that some of the public audiences have been largely made up of the followers of the two teams, and party spirit has gone too far in trying to annoy the young speaker. Hence the contests between schools have a tendency to break up the matter of public debates.

Official recognition would count for a great deal, and would be both helpful and stimulating to the students. The present organization, as I understand it, contemplates a minimum number of public debates for the term, so that there would be no danger of a student neglecting his academic work by having to appear before the public. The more we can surround these debates with official recognition on the part of the school authorities, the better we can eliminate what is hurtful and injurious, and stimulate that which is valuable. The influence of our debating societies has been manifest in the pronounced part taken by our Brooklyn students in their first years at college.

Judson H. Swift, of the Eastern District High School, is the honorary president and vice president of the Greater New-York Intercollegiate Debating League. Originally, he said, there was a junior interscholastic debating league, arranged by Harry B. Conlin, of Erasmus Hall. He sent notices to the Commercial High School and the Eastern District High School to send delegates to Erasmus Hall. These three schools organized under the name of the Junior Intercollegiate Debating League. Three debates were held each term, and the school winning two of the three debates was the champion. The league enjoyed a successful year, and at its close disbanded for the summer.

In the fall Mr. Judson sent out letters to form a larger league, and eight schools in September, 1902, organized the Greater New-York Intercollegiate Debating League of the eight schools in the league three were from Manhattan, three from Brooklyn and two from Richmond. Eleven debates were held, and were attended by large audiences. Enthusiastic interest was shown by teachers and pupils connected with the debating societies, and the Woodside School became the champion. Four debates have been held this year. The last were between the Commercial High School and De Witt Clinton High School. One hundred and second-street annex, on December 5, and was won by the latter.

The league has also been held along by Dr. C. H. Douglas, in charge of the De Witt Clinton High School annex, and the Stuyvesant High School; Grant W. Goodwin, of the Stapleton High School; Albenmarie Curtis, of the Port Richmond school; and Dr. Johnson, principal of the Woodside High School.

EFFICACY OF WATER DRINKING.

Ordinarily Not Enough Is Drunk Pure to Meet the Human System's Actual Needs.

An authority has emphasized the wrong commonly done the body in withholding from it daily the required supply of water. In the pitiful statement that "most people die of thirst," interpreted, this means that if health is to be preserved the water which the system uses to flush the body's sewers, and which the latter throws off constantly, in the shape of visible and invisible perspiration, must be replaced.

The water in offices is led thence by pipes from the tanks on the roof, and even the best city water, which comes directly from the mains, has not infrequently justly in taste, odor, or unhealthfulness, all that could be said against it by its critics, and it is questionable whether any standing water is healthful and safe.

But there is an alternative. For there are waters furnished to this great city which nature has put through her own cleansing and purifying processes, and the proprietors of which have exhausted every resource of modern science and invention in furnishing it as clean, as sweet, as pure and as unobtrusive as it could be made. This water, which is bottled by machines of the company's own invention from the spring at 400 feet below the rocks until it reaches the consumer it is never exposed to the air, nor does it ever touch anything but the glass bottles which are thoroughly washed and sterilized. The whole work is done by machinery, and everything about the place is kept scrupulously clean. Each bottle is sealed the moment it is filled. The bottles are packed in wooden cases, and are delivered to any part of this city at 60 cents per case of six bottles. The water will remain good indefinitely. The company supplying this water is the Crystal Spring Water Company, whose offices are at No. 222 Broadway.

The greatest care is given to the sanitary protection of the spring, around the spring is a mountainous and uninhabited, and the mountain above the spring is owned by the company, consequently it is impossible for the spring to be polluted by sewage or surface drainage.

From the spring the water is run through a glass pipe to the bottling works. The pipe is above ground, and the water runs by gravity. The water is bottled by machines of the company's own invention from the spring at 400 feet below the rocks until it reaches the consumer it is never exposed to the air, nor does it ever touch anything but the glass bottles which are thoroughly washed and sterilized. The whole work is done by machinery, and everything about the place is kept scrupulously clean. Each bottle is sealed the moment it is filled. The bottles are packed in wooden cases, and are delivered to any part of this city at 60 cents per case of six bottles. The water will remain good indefinitely. The company supplying this water is the Crystal Spring Water Company, whose offices are at No. 222 Broadway.

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X RAYS HELP CANCER.

Cuban Official Now Nearly Cured Without Knife.

The efficacy of the X rays as a cure for cancer has been shown by the cure effected on Eduardo Yero, Secretary of Government in the Cabinet of President Palma of Cuba. Señor Yero sailed yesterday on the steamer Mexico for Havana, after a three months' treatment by the X rays, which proved a successful alternative for a painful surgical operation.

WANTS DRUCKER'S BODY EXHUMED.

Request of Bellevue Superintendent Can't Be Granted—Lack of Money.

Superintendent Mabon of Bellevue Hospital is urging Coroner Jackson to exhume the body of Adolphus Drucker, so that the charges brought against the hospital may be refuted beyond any doubt. Dr. Mabon says that the charges are a stain on the name of the institution and that the public will not be satisfied of their injustice until the body has been examined.

OLD GUARD WAR VETERANS.

Old Guard Command, Spanish War Veterans, of which Captain Harry A. Ely is commander, although less than six months old, has a membership of nearly one hundred. At the last meeting, held in the lodgeroom of the Elks in the Pabst Building, Fifty-ninth-st. and Eighth-ave., it was decided by a special arrangement with the Elks to make this the headquarters of the Old Guard Command for the year 1904. Meetings will be held on the second Saturday of each month, and at the next meeting, January 3, when the officers elected are to be installed and a stand of colors presented, an entertainment will also be provided, to which the members and their guests will be invited.

NATIONAL GUARD NEWS.

Although the dinner proposed by Adjutant General Henry to Governor Odell, and the State rifle team has been declared off because the expense would fall somewhat heavily on many officers at the present time, the rifle team will nevertheless be entertained at Delmonico's on Tuesday night, by Major General Roe and staff.

Major General H. C. Corbin, U. S. A., has accepted a review of the 1st Regiment to be held at the armory of the 7th Regiment on Saturday evening, January 2.

The 4th Regiment hopes to have its armory ready for a review the latter part of January. For some time the armory has been undergoing repairs so that it has been impossible to hold any regimental affair there. These repairs, for which \$21,699 was appropriated, will be completed, it is expected, in about three weeks. Lieutenant Francis J. McCann, of Company G, has offered a gold watch to the members of the company as a recruiting prize. The officers of the regiment have decided to erect a monument to the memory of the late Lieutenant Colonel H. H. Quick. A stag entertainment will be held at the armory on Saturday evening, January 3, and will include bourseque games.

Major General Charles F. Roe will review the 9th Regiment in its armory on Tuesday evening, January 5. Company F has elected A. J. Hamblet a second lieutenant. Dr. J. Wallace Beveridge, surgeon, was offered the captaincy of Company E, but declined because he would not have sufficient time to devote to the company. The doctor has offered to Company E five prizes of \$10 each to the men who bring in the most recruits up to June 1.

The 1st Battalion of the 9th Regiment, under Major Walton, will drill at the armory to-morrow night, and the 2d Battalion, under Major Byrne, will drill on December 28. The challenge trophy shot for in the armory ranges by teams of ten men was won by Company A on a score of 391 points. The scores of the companies were: C, 382; E, 345; F, 336; G, 321; H, 325; D, 321, and H, 291.

Company C, of the 2nd Regiment, will hold a Christmas tree and "smoker" at the armory on the night of December 23. Company I will hold a similar entertainment on December 23. Company H will hold its annual dinner on January 23, and Company A will hold a theatre party on the same date. The resignation of Captain George L. Gillon, of Company D, has been forwarded to brigade headquarters. He has been promoted to major, and will be in command of the 14th Regiment, on June 23, 1897, he accepted the captaincy of Company D of the 2nd Regiment. A contest is expected in the selection of his successor.

The resignation of Carl Holmberg, of Company G, 14th Regiment, has been forwarded, with a high indorsement from Colonel Kluge. Major W. L. Garcia has applied for three months' leave, with permission to go abroad. The charges against the major, preferred by Lieutenant Griffin, will, it is now thought, be withdrawn.

Captain Daniel J. Murphy, of Company A, 22d Regiment, last Monday night received a gold stop watch from the regimental athletic association. Captain Murphy is now senior captain in the 23d, and will be in command of the 12th Regiment, which he joined in June, 1894. The non-commissioned officers of the regiment have decided to hold a dance at the armory in February. Company I will hold a beefsteak dinner some time next month. It has been proposed that a joint drill and parade of the 12th and 23d regiments be arranged the present season. Colonel Austen has already expressed a readiness to drill both organizations either in the 12th Regiment Armory or in the 23d armory, and have General Barnes, of the 23d, accept the review. Company I of the 12th Regiment has elected Second Lieutenant James A. Buck and Company D of the 23d Regiment has elected First Sergeant Adams a second lieutenant. The non-commissioned officers of the regiment will hold a ball at the armory on February 22.

The children of families of members have been invited to assemble at the armory next Sunday to receive gifts from a Christmas tree provided by Captain Wendel and his officers. It has also been decided to organize a cadet corps for the battery and a number of well-to-do citizens in the vicinity of the armory who desire their sons trained in horsemanship have already made application for them to join. The corps will be drilled by Captain Wendel in person.

In the 9th Regiment the 1st Battalion will drill on Tuesdays beginning on January 5, and the 2d Battalion on Thursdays beginning on January 5. The 1st and 2d companies of the 9th Regiment will attend the annual ball of Company D, to be held at the armory on February 12.

Brigadier General Thomas F. Barry, U. S. A., will review the 12th Regiment in command of Colonel George R. Dyer, at the armory on Wednesday evening, December 20, and the usual dance will follow. Company D, now in command of Lieutenant Vandenberg, will hold a military hop and drill at the armory at next month through the generosity of Lieutenant Vandenberg.

Colonel E. E. Britton, of General McLeer's staff, has submitted an amendment to the State Military Code which will be heartily indorsed by the officers of the guard. It calls for the payment of \$100 to all members of the guard for their uniform allowance as soon as they are commissioned.

The date for the next review of the 2d Regiment is Saturday evening, January 14.

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A WELL KNOWN CHRISTMAS CHARITY.

Contributions Asked for by the Sittig Brooklyn Christmas Tree.

One of the best known of the Christmas charities in Brooklyn is the Sittig Brooklyn Christmas Tree, from which presents are given every year to large numbers of homeless waifs and the children of the extremely poor. The tree is managed by the Sittig Brooklyn Christmas Tree Society, which was founded several years ago by Mrs. Frank Sittig, and of which she is still the president and a most active member. The society solicits contributions of all kinds from any who have even a little to spare, and on the morning of Christmas Day distributes what it has gathered to those to whom it will bring the greatest happiness.

It has been the custom to have the distribution of gifts held in one of the theatres, but for the last two or three years the crowd has been so great that there has been positive danger to the children, and this year it was planned to have it in the Academy of Music. The burning of this building has made it seem that nothing adequate in the city could be found except one of the theatres, and it is now planned to have the distribution in the 23d Regiment Armory. A letter has been written by Borough President Swanstrom to Governor Odell commending the association, and asking his favorable consideration of the application for the use of the armory. Mr. Swanstrom has also issued an open letter to the public, telling of the work of the society and heartily indorsing it. The society is managed by a number of the best known women of Brooklyn, and all contributions will be carefully used. They should be sent to Mrs. Frank Sittig, No. 373 Jefferson-ave., Brooklyn.

GAELIC SOCIETY'S PROGRESS.

The last meeting of the Brooklyn Gaelic Society, held December 13, was a most satisfactory one. The classes for the study of the Gaelic tongue continue to make excellent progress, the membership roll is constantly increasing, and, outside of this, the attendance still continues to grow. The society now has classes ranging from the first to the fifth books, and in addition to this a black-board class in which the students learn to write Gaelic. Instead of the usual lessons this evening there will be a lecture on Ireland, illustrated by stereopticon views. Mrs. Jennie Campbell Keough will be heard in the national songs and Miss Alice Cavanagh, daughter of the late Colonel Cavanagh, of the 6th Regiment, will play at the piano. The Brooklyn Gaelic Society was formed for teaching the Gaelic tongue in Brooklyn, and in addition there will be an undertaking to introduce the ancient Irish customs to the Irish people and to foster the study of the literature, music and art of Ireland. The society meets every Sunday evening in Jefferson Hall, Nos. 4 and 5 Court Square, near Fulton-st., Brooklyn. Instruction in Gaelic free, but those who wish to become active members pay dues of 25 cents a month. Further information may be obtained from the secretary, E. F. Quirk, Nos. 4 and 5 Court Square, Brooklyn.

Big Chance. \$33.10 for \$10, and \$14 for \$5. Special Wine. Special Holiday Case. 22 Bottles, Glass. Private Stock Chateau Wine given away with New Year for \$10. Write for list. Spear Wine Co., Piquette, N. J.

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