

THE WEEK IN THE CLUB WORLD.

Pool tournaments at the Metropolitan and Calumet Clubs, picture exhibitions at the Colonial and Manhattan Clubs, the opening of the new house of the Engineers' Club, and the annual meeting of the Manhattan Club have been the chief incidents of interest in the club world during the last week. The pool tournaments at both the Metropolitan and Calumet Clubs have been well attended, and have quite enlivened the two clubhouses. There has been some excellent playing at both clubs, and this morning finds the contest still undecided. Pool seems to have a perpetual hold upon the affections of New York clubmen, and the annual recurring tournament now held in most of the larger clubs, is the most interesting event of the year to a majority of their members. There has been some talk during these tournaments in both the Metropolitan and Calumet Clubs of a movement to change their constitution or by-laws so as to permit pool playing on Sundays. As a rule the billiard and pool rooms in the New York clubs are closed on Sundays in consequence of a provision in the majority of the clubs' constitutions and by-laws closing their rooms on that day. It is not probable, however, that any change will be made in this respect at either the Metropolitan or Calumet Club this year. Such a question would have to be brought up at an annual or special meeting, and would be bound to encounter decided opposition. The tendency of the times is toward the utmost liberty in matters of Sunday observance as far as the clubs are concerned, and it is safe to predict that before many years have elapsed the New York clubs will permit pool and billiards on Sundays.

As was predicted in this column last Sunday, the annual meeting of the Manhattan Club on Thursday night proved an interesting and critical one, and the fact was divulged that the club has run behind about \$15,000, or a few thousand more than did the Calumet during the past year. With this announcement before them, and with the knowledge of the Calumet Club's success in building up its membership by the removal of its initiation fee, it was only logical and natural for the Manhattan members to vote favorably upon a resolution to suspend their initiation fee also. This resolution carried with it the understanding that the number of resident members to be elected without initiation fee should not exceed 150, and this number of new members paying annual dues of \$100 each will, it is thought, about meet the club's annual deficit without consideration of the factor of new business which they will bring. The initiation fee will, therefore, be suspended during the year beginning April 1, 1897, and ending April 1, 1898.

There was no action taken at the meeting relative to an amalgamation with or an absorption of the Democratic Club, which has been much discussed, both in and out of the Manhattan Club, for some months past. As the dues of the Democratic Club are only \$25 a year, while those of the Manhattan are \$100, no amalgamation was possible, and as most of the men in the Democratic Club who would care to pay the difference of \$75 a year in club dues are already members of the Manhattan, there was no opportunity for any successful consolidation. Some of the reports of the Manhattan Club meeting incorrectly stated that there had been talk in the meeting of amalgamation with the Calumet Club. It is almost unnecessary to state to New York clubmen that no such question was alluded to. It is hardly likely that the Calumet Club, which, having been refused admission to the Racquet, developed sufficient inherent strength to settle its indebtedness and to elect so many good men that its future is now assured, would consider the question of amalgamation with the Manhattan or any other club for a moment. Mr. Frederic Coudert presided over the meeting on Thursday evening, and made an earnest address, calling for united action on the part of members to insure the club's future. Messrs. Arthur Ingraham, Charles W. Dayton, David B. Gilbert, S. J. O. Sullivan, and Ashbel P. Fitch were elected managers, to serve for three years, and Mr. James H. Parker was elected to serve one year. The new members of the board are Postmaster Dayton, who takes the place of ex-Secretary Whitney, and Controller Fitch, who succeeds to that of Mr. G. G. Haven.

The result of the Manhattan Club's meeting is to place another club, which has been in financial difficulties, on a surer foundation and to enable it to go on successfully. First, the Calumet, second, the Manhattan—what club will be the next to reorganize and start anew? There is danger of overdoing the matter of suspending the initiation fee, and it was said in the clubs on Friday and Saturday that if this tendency was developed further a man wishing to join a New York club by waiting a little while might be able to obtain entrance to almost any of the larger organizations without paying an initiation fee. As the Calumet was the first of the larger clubs to remove its initiation fee, the New York Club, which suspended its entrance fee about two years ago with successful results, having restored it, it has had its pick of eligible men who either wanted to add another club to their list or who did not feel like putting down \$250 or \$300 initiation for any club just now. The Manhattan Club has a somewhat different field from the Calumet, but with a lessening number of candidates from which to choose, the Manhattan's move may somewhat reduce the Calumet's estimated successes. It is understood, however, that with the sixty or seventy men already elected to the Calumet since the initiation fee was removed, and the number now posted for election, that that club will soon reach 500, its limit of resident membership.

A special meeting of the Democratic Club has been called at the clubhouse, on upper Fifth Avenue, for Monday night, at which the question of the sale of the house and the removal to less expensive quarters will be debated and settled. There are two respectably large mortgages on the clubhouse at present, with an additional small indebtedness. It is probable that the club will decide to sell its house and move.

The opening of the new quarters of the Engineers' Club, the Coleman Drayton house, 374 Fifth Avenue, on Wednesday evening, was largely attended by members and guests. The new house is admirably adapted to club purposes, and has a very accessible location, and the members of the club are more than jubilant over the club's move and its prospects for the future. Comparatively few alterations had to be made to make the house comfortable, and there is every reason to believe that the Engineers' Club has entered upon a new lease of life, with its lease of these new and handsome quarters.

The annual election of the Lotus Club took place last evening. There was no opposition to the regular ticket, which was headed by Frank R. Lawrence for Presi-

dent, so that the old board of officers, headed by Mr. Lawrence, were retained in the posts which they have filled so well.

Last night brought the long anticipated "smoker" at the New York Yacht Club. The model room was crowded from 9 o'clock on with members and guests, for each member was accorded the privilege of bringing one guest, and an interesting and excellent musical programme, which had been arranged by the House Committee with the assistance of Mr. J. Norton Winslow, was rendered. There was much discussion of the report that the new Commodore, Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan, intends extending the annual cruise next August as far as Bar Harbor, but although there were many arguments advanced both for and against such a cruise, there did not seem to be any definite consensus of opinion reached. So enjoyable was the evening that the wish was expressed that the club could hold more such reunions.

With the near advent of Spring, the country clubs in the New York suburbs are being cleaned, painted, and put in order for their Summer business, which will soon begin. The competition of these country clubs during six months of the year, at least, with the larger social clubs in New York, has not been sufficiently considered by those writers and talkers who have been wrestling with the problem of club conditions in New York, and particularly with their general lack of prosperity during the past few years. Since the establishment of the many suburban country clubs, and more especially since the development of the wheeling and golf crazes, the large New York clubs from April to November are almost deserted on Sundays, holidays, and even on Saturdays. The bar, restaurant, and billiard receipts that used to be theirs, flow into the tills of the country clubs instead. Even on Winter Sundays and holidays, unless the weather is very bad, there is apt to be a diversion of business from the New York City to the country clubs, and take the year through, the loss of receipts to the New York clubs in this way alone must make a tremendous aggregate.

Dr. A. F. Schauffler delivered a lecture entitled, "Constantinople, the Queen City of the East," illustrated by stereopticon views at the Century Club last evening. A memorial exhibition of pictures, by Homer D. Martin opened in the club's gallery last evening. CLUBMAN.

CURIOS IN NEW YORK CAFES.  
PICTURES AND STATUARY TO DELIGHT CUSTOMERS.

Pioneer in This Line Was Reilly's Fifth Ward Museum Hotel—Some Odd and Interesting Relics.

The man-about-town of to-day sits and sips his cocktail in the up-to-date café surrounded on all sides with valuable canvases, relics, etchings, sculpture, and curios. All that may, by pleasing contour or suggestion, delight the patron, catches the roving blasé eye. Plushes of an inch depth and subdued electric lights encase many of these art treasures from the studies of men whose names belong to history, while brass rails keep at a respectful distance the overzealous or extravagant.

Bacchantes, nymphs, Hogarth's suppressed plates, Franz Hals jolly genres, and wash drawings of English sporting events are favored in these bar room permanent exhibitions. The frequency with which these are consulted, and the accuracy of the off-hand information revealed by these hapazard critics would surprise those of the more sober vocations who find nothing but contamination in the dram shops. Just off from Broadway, near City Hall Park, where some fifty odd canvases bedeck the wall—a few of which have merit—the selection seems to have been quite catholic. Domestic incidents afford subjects for many of the pictures. Gray-haired men with the drip-pings of their last toddy on their beards, in a hurry though they are to catch the ferry boat, will pause with a kindly line about the mouth, and perhaps study "The Morning After the Party," when the mother is doing out medicine to her convalescent brood.

The pioneer in having collections grouped about his place to interest his guests was probably the proprietor and founder of Reilly's Fifth Ward Museum Hotel, which a generation ago stood at the northeast corner of Franklin Street and West Broadway. Just mention the name to an old New Yorker, and then observe the reminiscent look he will take on. If he will come out of the trance that the name induced and talk he will spend a moment or two in expatiating on the good things to be had there when he was a well-grown lad, and then you may expect a list of the curiosities and attractions that Mr. Reilly had gathered together. There was, of course, Tecumseh's rifle, and a pipe that Gen. Jackson smoked, and a stuffed pig that had butted a man off the Canal Street bridge, besides clubs from the South Sea Islands used by the natives in fatally attacking Capt. John Cook. There were many valuable portraits of prominent men of that day, and Mr. Reilly had also gathered a collection of Colonial relics of the utmost value. There was nothing there that a prim young girl might not see. In fact, it was the Mecca of the small boys. They would stop on their way from school and beg to be allowed to roam through the rooms. If they demonstrated to mine host that they had been good students he would give the required permission.

One of the items of this collection is now the property of the New York Historical Society. It is the mutilated statue of William Pitt, Earl of Chatham, which was erected by his American admirers on the steps of the Royal Exchange ten years before the outbreak of the Revolution. When the British troops occupied New York they broke off the head and arms to retaliate on the Continentals who had melted King George's statue, then in Bowling Green, and cast it into bullets. The statue, or what was left of it, was found years afterward in a junk yard by Mr. Reilly, who was in search of it, and he placed it on the Franklin side of his hotel and built a rail around it.

Old firemen delight in telling of the essays of the first steam engine to throw water over Reilly's flag-pole, which stood about where the uptown L station now is.

A big office building long since supplanted the Fifth Ward Hotel of Mr. Reilly.

GOOD FOR DINERS OUT.  
Raines Amendment May Bring Back Little Table d'Hotes.

Senator Raines will doubtless win the plaudits of many New Yorkers if he puts through the amendment to the liquor tax law allowing table d'hote restaurants to exist by taking out a two-hundred-and-fifty-dollar license instead of one for a hotel at \$800.

Statistics of the number of persons who live in furnished apartments and go out to dine would reach far into five figures. New York either has not arrived at or has passed the point where the "lodger" may have meals on the premises. It is "board" with the surrender of privacy, unpleasant to so many people, or lodging and restaurant. The table d'hote is dear to the lodger as relief from the boredom of choosing a meal from a monotonous bill of fare, and represents the ingenuity and skill of a chef not to be despised.

When the Raines tax came the modest little holes in the wall, with their savory sauces and occasional surprises of piquancy, went out of existence by dozens. Those surviving and paying the tax increased the price of the dinner, or cut-out one or two courses or the usual bottle of California claret, even though it did represent a cost of only five cents to the house. Customers learned to index and schedule the survivors, including the limits of the tips. Those who happened upon an unusually good menu would pledge themselves not to expolit it, so that there would not be the decadence of viands and service sure to come with prosperity—for it was learned by hard experience that as tables filled, pioneer customers found themselves neglected.

Then former table d'hotes made a picturesque feature of the night, and were a real boon to thousands who will welcome with delight their return to their former glory.