

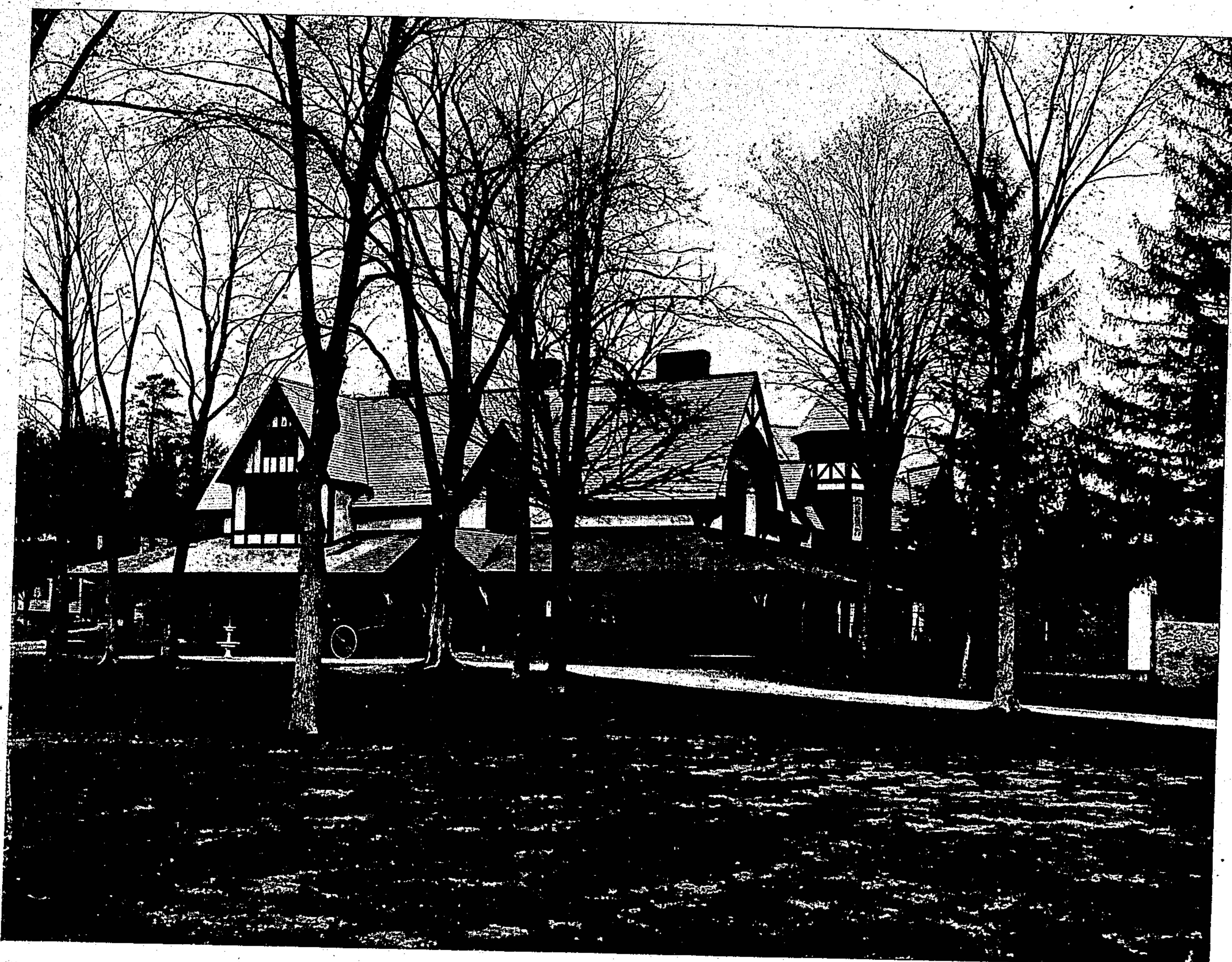
THE ARGUS

ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENT.

ALBANY, N. Y., SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1899.

THE ALBANY COUNTRY CLUB.

An Interesting Sketch of the Association and its Members, with Handsome Illustrations of the Club House.



Photographs by Wendell.

View of Albany Country Club House.

UNUSUALLY fine climatic conditions, the absence of the expected rainy season and the June weather that has characterized April have aroused the members of the Albany Country Club to early activity, and for the past two weeks this famous retreat of Albany's four hundred has been alive with city folk who appreciate the rare advantages of so excellent a club-house, surrounded by grounds artistically arranged, and scenery so beautiful as to create a wealth of sentiment in every human breast. The spring grass is green on the links and the air has been a tonic far better than any of the usual remedies so heartily advocated about this time. Green grass, blue skies and sun rays are, to the city folk who have been shut up in mansions throughout the winter, the things worth living to enjoy, and, to the golf enthusiast, they are indispensable attributes for the success of the old Scotch game, which has, of late years, become so fashionable. The jaded city men and the tired city girls have enjoyed immensely the freedom of the golf links at the Country Club, and roam over hills and dales with their little caddies and golf sticks with the feeling, no doubt, experienced by birds that have been caged and are suddenly released to again fly anywhere 'neath the skies.

A drive of four and a half miles from the City Hall, over the Sloan's road, will bring one to that most popular of local institutions, the Country Club. Daily, in the morning, the afternoon and the evening, gay and fashionable equipages are seen going and coming from the rustic retreat. A sidepath recently constructed affords bicyclists a chance for an enjoyable nine-mile spin, and many members of the club, ladies and gentlemen, prefer the exercise and enjoy-

ment of the wheel. For those who desire it, a stage is operated from the terminus of the Madison avenue line of the Albany Railway to the club-house. The entrance to the club grounds is on the right or north of the road, but before one reaches the turn the golfers are seen on the links, which stretch out nine holes, over a course of a mile and a half. Dignified and distinguished Albanians are seen on the greens attired in the customary plaid knickerbockers, golf stockings, etc. Albany's fairest daughters, healthful and muscular, swinging the sticks about their heads and knocking the ball for many yards, form striking pictures and account for the admirable and exquisite figures usually possessed by the American girl, or woman, who loves and enjoys out-of-door sports. The caddies, too, with their blue French blouses and striking, red capes, are deserving of mention and certainly add to the picturesqueness of the scenes, panoramic in their changes. And right here it may be stated that the Albany Country Club is the first American organization to put the caddies in full uniforms.

Driving through the grounds in front of the club, one admires the arrangement of the surrounding acres and wonders if the golf mounds are not earthworks used during Revolutionary times. Pines are on either side of the driveway, and the club-house itself is nicely situated on a plateau. It is imposing, this structure of English, half-timber style, and has been admired by hundreds of visitors from all parts of the State and country. It is the ideal Country Club, surrounded by a certain indefinable air, which, however, must be that of simple rusticity. It is so different from the stately and gorgeous city clubs and mansions that one accustomed to the splendors of a

modern palace gives a sigh of relief as he drops into the rustic armchair on the piazza or one of the wickerers in the general reception room.

It is not the purpose of the writer to give a description of the Country Club's fine house, for that was given in The Argus last year after the new wing had been erected. But the place has been improved and decorated and the board of governors has spent many thousand dollars in beautifying the retreat, so that the public should be kept informed of the idea to make the club the greatest of its kind in the State or country. Such great progress has been made during the past few years that the club, although now only ten years old, has become a popular and indispensable attribute to the social life of Albany's leading set.

Most important of all improvements is the appointment of a competent club steward and a chef. The steward's wife will have charge of the cuisine, and the club is now prepared to serve anything, from a most modest luncheon to the grandest and most elaborate banquet. The steward and his wife are trained English servants, and the latter has, on numerous occasions during the past winter, proved her ability to serve the grandest feasts. They have been at the club for over a month, and the early season lunches have been a feature of the new era. Two Sunday dinners have already been served, and each week a greater number avail themselves of the pleasures of the excellent service.

The entrance hall to the club now, as before, arouses the admiration of visitors. To the left is the men's room, which is finished in cypress and furnished with an oak centre table, Austrian bent-wood chairs, wickerers and window seats with green cushions. On either side of the huge fireplace are cosy corners, also fur-

nished with green cushions. On the walls are hunting scenes, and resting on the oak table is an immense punch bowl. Golf trophies are to be seen on various shelves.

The main reception room is on the right of the entrance and is beautifully furnished, the wall paper having a green figure which harmonizes with the wicker chairs. The centre table is of mahogany and near a bay window is a table on which is a tea service, including the daintiest and prettiest of little cups and saucers. Water colors by Walter Launt Palmer add to the beauty of this room, and the air is sweetened by the fragrance of cut flowers always on the mantel and table. The fireplace is screened now with blooming azaleas, and about the room is bric-a-brac, rare and costly. The music or yellow room is in the rear of the parlor. This contains a piano and mahogany furniture. This room also has a fireplace and a secretary, where may be found the dainty club stationery. The walls, which give a yellow effect, have on them many beautiful landscapes in oil. The new main dining hall, in the addition erected last year, has now been decorated and furnished. The color of the walls is Pompeian red, and the furniture, which includes leathern covered chairs, a large table, twenty-four by six feet, four square tables and one large round table

scribed \$1,000 each—Mr. Robert Pruyn, Mr. Dudley Olcott, Mr. Anthony N. Brady and Dr. Howard Van Rensselaer. The active membership numbers about a hundred, and so popular has the club become that there is now a waiting list of twenty-five.

The old Country Club occupied an old road house on the sand plains from 1833 to 1893, and as there were no sports, no games, no views and nothing in particular to attract the members except the Saturday afternoon teas, the membership dwindled and it seemed that the club must close on account of lack of support. In 1894 the club was incorporated and the Knowles place was purchased for a little over \$12,000. Bonds were issued at \$100, and it was arranged that no one should be a member who was not a bondholder. The sale was made on April 1, 1895, and the property paid for. There are two classes of membership, aside from the four life members, resident, who paid full dues and had a family ticket, and associates, who hold individual tickets. The club has gradually gained in membership, affluence and popularity, and while the membership in the secretary's books is shown to be about 230, about 600 persons enjoy the advantages, for family tickets include all members of families except the adult sons, who must have personal tickets. Great progress was made during

Donald McCredie, Isaac D. F. Lansing, John T. Norton, Amasa J. Parker, Jr.

Grounds and Sports Committee.—Charles V. Winne, chairman; Edward Bowditch, Howard Van Rensselaer, Auditing Committee.—Edward Bowditch, chairman; Isaac D. F. Lansing, Donald McCredie.

Auxiliary Committee.—Mrs. William Barnes, Jr., chairman; Mrs. William L. Green, Mrs. Albert Rathbone, Mrs. Horace G. Young, Mrs. John B. McElroy.

Greens Committee.—Howard Van Rensselaer, chairman; William Barnes, Jr., Sutherland Ransom, Montgomery H. Rochester, Horace G. Young.

Shooting Committee.—Henry M. Sage, chairman; Nathaniel Wales, Robert L. Banks.

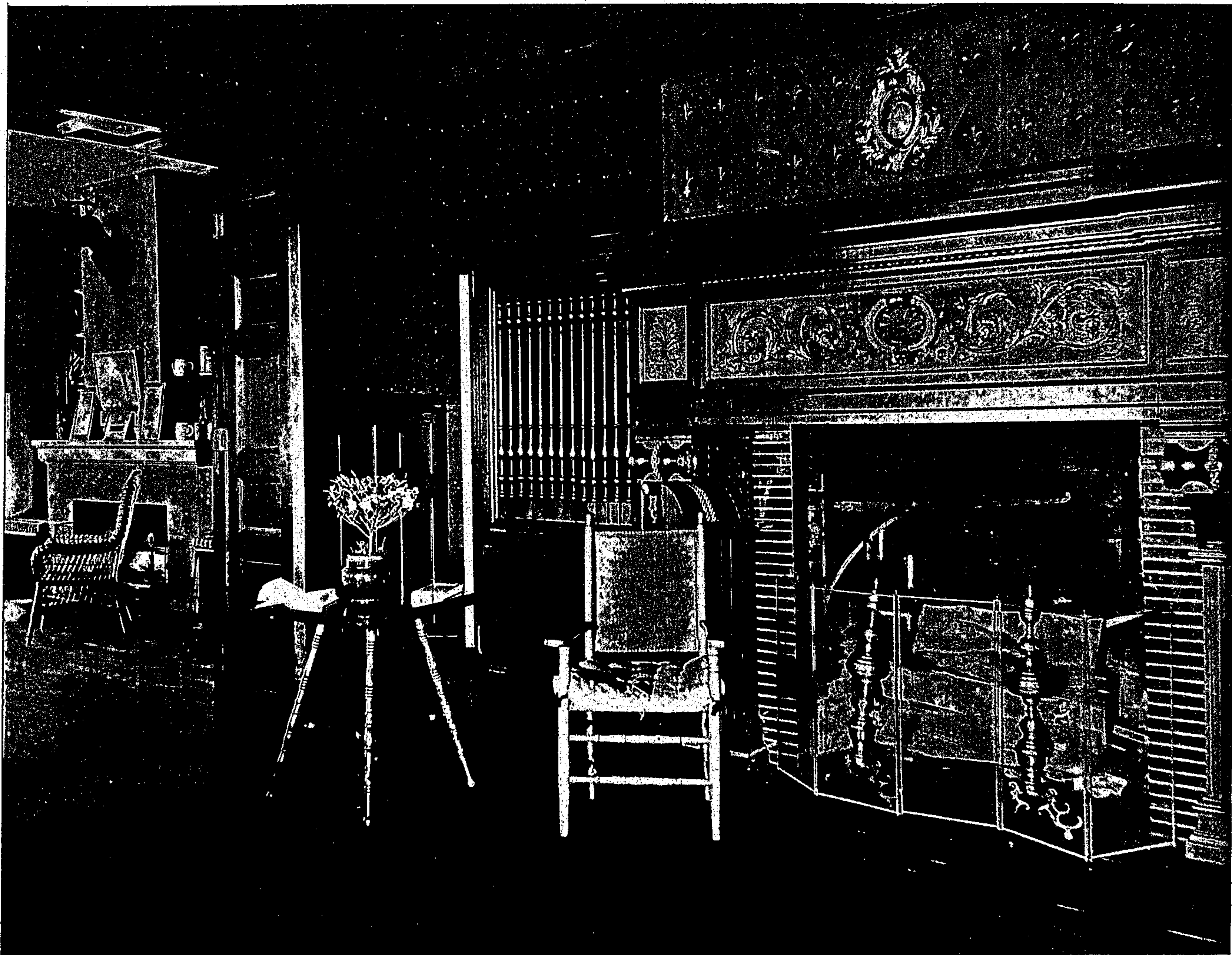
Tennis and Winter Sports Committee.—Gerrit Y. Lansing, chairman; Douglas W. Olcott, Lewis R. Parker, Henry T. Walsh.

Life Members.

Brady, Anthony, N.; Olcott, Dudley; Pruyn, Robert C.; Van Rensselaer, Howard.

Active Members.

Arnold, Benjamin W.
Boyd, James P.; Bowditch, Edward; Banks, A. Bleecker; Barnes, Mrs. William, Jr.; Buchanan,



Main Entrance—Copied from an Old English Castle.

In the bay, is of Flemish oak, of original design. The timbered ceiling and huge open fireplace add to the general effect of the whole, which is intended to represent an old Dutch tavern. The copy would be correct if the panes had been leaded, as they are on the floor above. But without them the view of the surrounding country is unobstructed. The floor is of Georgia pine, cypress filled, and the hall will also be used for dancing purposes. There are also window seats, appropriately cushioned, and those who viewed the eastern addition last week were delighted with the splendid improvement.

On the second floor many improvements have been made. The ladies' dressing-room has been furnished, and adjoining it is a ladies' bedroom. Over the eastern addition is the ladies' locker room, bath room, with needle shower apparatus. On the second floor, over the main structure, are three bedrooms, each containing two beds and all the necessary furnishings. On this floor, also, is an airy and spacious locker room, the lockers being all screened and well ventilated. The windows are screened with opaque glass. In an adjoining room is a shower bath and all the necessary equipments. The club has a water-works of its own, with a reservoir on a hill in the rear. There is always running water, summer and winter, hot and cold as may be desired. The surroundings are all that could be wished for. Looking to the south and west, one may see plainly the Helderbergs and the outlines, further south, of the Catskills. To the rear is a grove of cathedral pines, and to the east a lake where members row in summer and skate in winter. An icehouse, stables and carriage houses are also on the west, while the golf links are on the front and to the south and east of the club.

The Country Club has four life members, who sub-

scribed the presidency of Dr. Howard Van Rensselaer, who held office from 1893 to 1899, being succeeded by the present incumbent, Colonel Bowditch. To Dr. Van Rensselaer is due great credit for his energy and labors in behalf of the Country Club, and he may feel assured that all who enjoy the benefits of the retreat feel grateful to those who made the comforts and pleasures possible. About \$28,000 has thus far been expended on the Country Club, and the management intends to continue adding to the attractions of the club.

Golf is by far the most popular sport at the Country Club, over 100 persons having paid the extra golf fee of \$5. The links have shown a steady improvement and this year have been thoroughly drained. Great interest is shown in the various competitions and team matches, and it may be truthfully said that golf has occasioned a radical change in the social activities of Albany's swell set. Those who do not understand the game are trying to learn the mysteries, for they know that it now triumphs over everything else as a social and sportive attraction. The Country Club, as has been said, is admirably situated for golf, and the course has been praised by professionals for its general excellence and sporty features. Golf has given a snap and tone to the Country Club which has caused that worthy institution to swell in importance and become an institution second to none in Albany.

The following are the officers, trustees, committees, etc.: President, Edward Bowditch; Vice-President, Dudley Olcott; Treasurer, Charles V. Winne; Secretary, Gerrit Y. Lansing; Trustees, Henry A. Peckham, Donald McCredie, Isaac D. F. Lansing, Howard Van Rensselaer, Henry M. Sage.

House Committee.—Henry A. Peckham, chairman;

Charles J.; Becker, DeWitt C.; Bender, Harry H.; Bulkeley, Alpheus T.

Cooper, James F.; Cushman, Henry C.; Cox, Frederick J.; Cogswell, Ledyard; Cox, Edward G.

Durant, Edward A.; Durant, Clark T.; Douglas, Curtis N.

Fiero, J. Newton; Farrell, James C.; Fuller, Albert W.

Gray, John Clinton; Green, William Lawrence; Gray, James S.

Hun, Henry; Herrick, Frank C.; Hunter, Dexter; Hamilton, Andrew; Herrick, D. Cady; Hamlin, Mrs. Charles S.; Jones, Charles E.; Kidd, Mrs. James; King, J. Howard; Knowles, Charles R.

Leonard, Edgar C.; Learned, William L.; Lansing, Abraham; Lansing, Isaac D. F.; Liscomb, Orlando P.; Lansing, Gerrit Y.; Leonard, Gardner C.

Manning, Mrs. Daniel; Merrill, Frederick J. H.; Merrill, Cyrus S.; Miller, George D.; Marvin, Selden E.; McCredie, Donald; McElroy, John E.; Myers, Miss Jessie; Munson, Samuel L.; MacDonald, William.

Nellis, William J.; Newcomb, Thomas; Norton, John T.; Newman, Charles; Oliver, Robert Shaw; Ord, Joseph P.; Olcott, Robert.

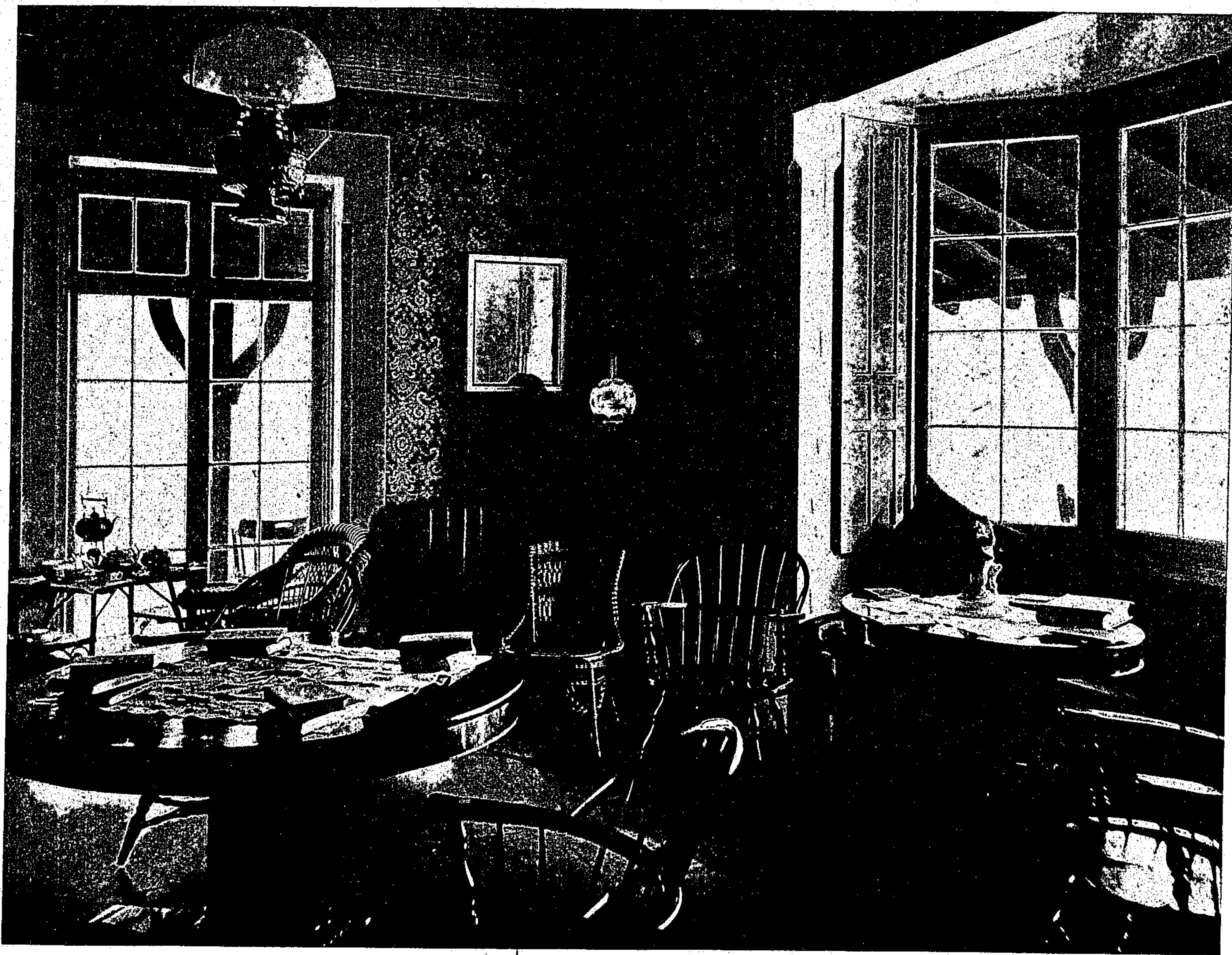
Pruyn, Mrs. John V. L.; Pruyn, Charles L.; Peckham, Henry A.; Parker, Amasa J.; Peltz, John DeWitt; Parsons, John D., Jr.

Reed, Edward T.; Read, Mrs. Harmon P.; Rice, William G.; Rosendale, Simon W.

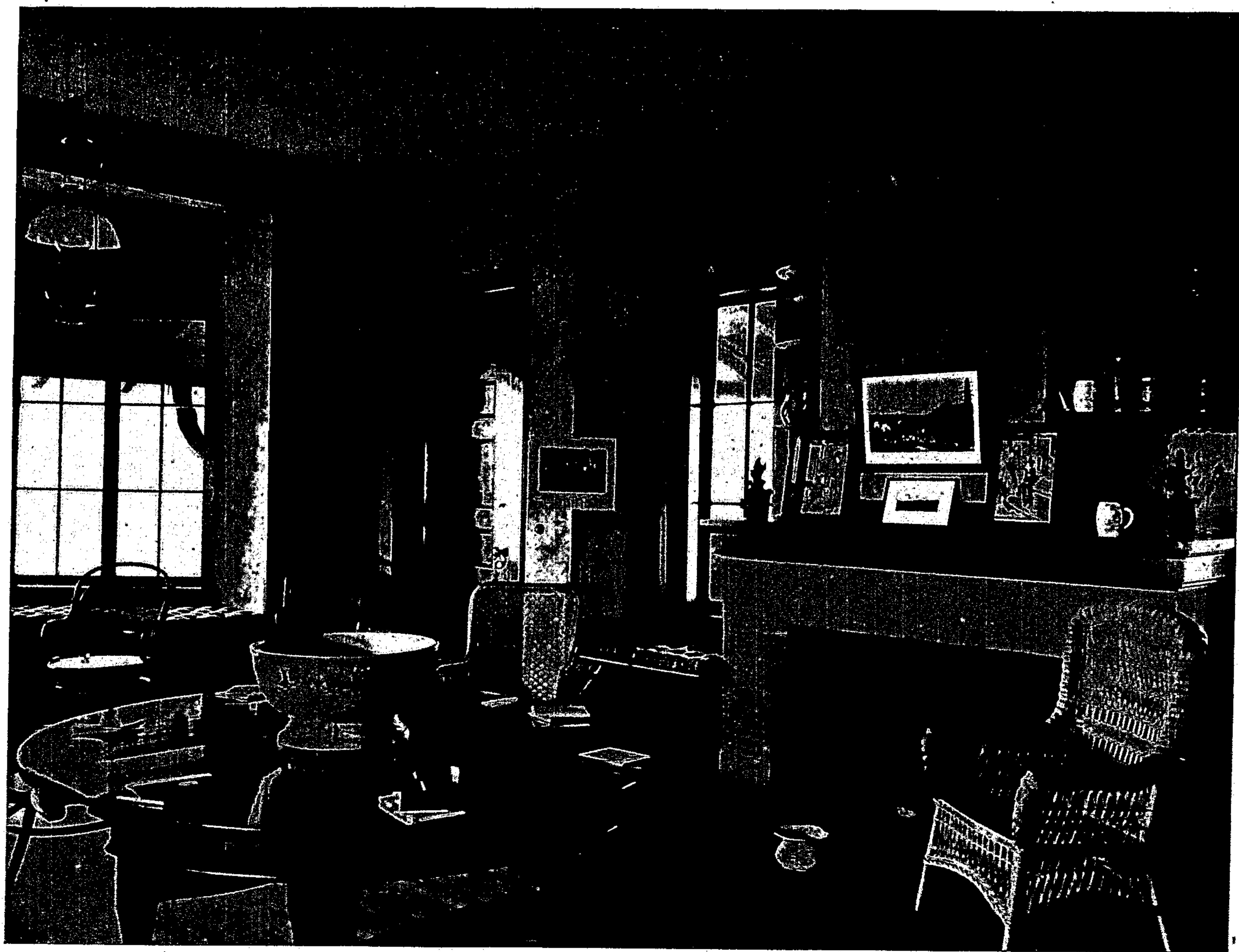
Sage, Dean; Sage, Henry M.; Sard, Grange; Sanders, Mrs. J. G.; Sturdee, H. King; Sweny, Henry Roy; Sage, William H.; Stanford, Charles.

Tracey, James F.; Townsend, Frederick; Tillinghast, J. Wilbur; Thacher, John Boyd; Thacher, George H.

Van Antwerp, John H.; Van Rensselaer, William



Ladies' Reception Room, where Afternoon Teas are Enjoyed.



Gentlemen's Smoking Room—Showing Immense Punch Bowl and Golf Trophies.

ENTHUSIASTIC COUNTRY CLUB GOLFERS.



Photograph by Pirie MacDonald.

Miss Cora Oliver.

Bayard; Vander Veer, Albert; Visscher, Edward W.; Visscher, William L.; Van Heusen, Charles M. Wasson, Miss Jennie; Ward, Samuel B.; Wadhams Frederick E.; Whitney, William M.; Winne Charles V.; Wing, Albert; Williams, Robert D. Young, Horace G.

Resident Members.

Bott, J. Warner; Burdick, Joel W.; Battershall, Walton W.; Banks, Robert Lenox, Jr.; Brown, W. Howard; Bullons, Samuel S. Craig, J. Sherman. Douglas, Kenneth Root; Dun, Henry W.; Dunscomb, James K. Egerton, William S. Gould, Charles; Gregory, Clifford D. Hun, Marcus T.; Hun, Mrs. Edward R.; Harris, Frederick; Howell, Frederick S.; Hand, Learned; Hilton, George P.; Hasey, Oscar L.; Huyck, John; Huyck, Edmund N.; Huyck, Frank C. Irwin, Mrs. Margaret P. Jones, Andrew B.; Johnson, Edward P. King, Rufus H.; Kibbee, William B.; Kernochen, Henry P., Jr. Lee, Thomas; Lansing, Cooper Nott; Lawson, Joseph A.; Lyon, Mrs. T. Littleton. Morton, Warren G.; MacDonald, Pirie; Martin, Henry T.; McClure, William H. Newman, Clarence E.; Newman, William P.; Newcomb, Edward T. Olcott, Douglas W. Parker, Amasa J., Jr.; Pruyn, Augustus; Parsons, J. Russell, Jr. Rowell, Sidney W.; Rathbone, Albert; Richmond, Charles A.; Russell, Howard; Rathbone, Clarence. Sabin, Charles H.; Steadman, Frank W.; Stott, Mrs. William H. Tucker, Wentworth. Van Benthuysen, Charles F.; Van Heusen, John M. Whitney, Charles L. A.; Walsh, R. V. DeWitt; Wales, Nathaniel; Williams, Chauncey P.; Whitney, Samuel W.

Sustaining Members.

Baldwin, Catherine C.; Boss, Bertha. Charles, Frank T.; Cassidy, William R.; Carr, Lewis E., Jr. Davis, C. E.; Douglas, Duncan. Farnsworth, Emma J.; Fonda, Douw H. 2d; Farrell, John F.; Farrell, John A. Gavit, Palmer E. Houghton, George H. Johnson, J. Henry; Johnson, Russell M. Kelly, Frederick W.; Kernochen, Edward L.; King, Egbert B. Lansing, Abby S.; Leonard, Jesse H. McClure, Archibald J.; McElroy, Charles; McHarg, John; Meneley, Eleanor. Newman, Henry L. Pruyn, Foster; Parker, Lewis R.; Pierson, Henry R.; Palmer, Worthington. Reynolds, Marcus T.; Rochester, Montgomery H.; Robinson, Walter F.; Reed, Albert M.; Rodgers, Frank S.; Rathbone, William F.; Ransom, C. Sutherland; Russell, Robert D. Stevens, Frederick B. Thompson, MacNaughton; Ten Broeck, Lydia; Treadwell, George Curtis. Van Benthuysen, Boyd; Vosburgh, Miss; Van Tuyt, George, Jr.; Van Allen, Theodore F. C.; Van Slyke, George W. Walsh, Henry S.; Wackerhagen, William B.

Non-resident Members.

Bishop, H. Reginald. Cassidy, Edward R. Dix, John A. Fuller, Mary. Greenleaf, Louis S. Harrison, Mitchell; Harrison, Mrs. Mitchell; Hendrick, Charles; Hendrick, James B. Kirkland, Hugh N. Leake, Richard B.

Three of the Most Charming and Proficient Golf Players.



Miss Grace Marvin.

McNaughton, James. O'Brien, Dennis; Orr, Alexander M. Partridge, John N.; Prentice, William P. Robin, H. B.; Roosevelt, Theodore. Sage, Henry. White, Horace; Woodruff, Timothy L. Youngs, William J.

Absent List.

Davis, Charles E. McHarg, John H. Miller, George D. Newcomb, Edward T. Russell, Robert D.

In Memoriam.

Banks, Robert Lenox. Marvin, Selden E.

LOCAL EXPERTS AT GOLF.

A Team of Six to be Selected for all Challenge Matches.

Among the many who are in the habit of going over the club's golf course are a score, perhaps, who are well up in the finer points of the game and would not be ashamed to swing a driver on any teeing ground in the country. Of these there are a few who are more than ordinarily expert, and one or two who have considerably more than a local reputation. It was generally admitted at the close of last season that Rev. Charles A. Richmond, the pastor of the Madison Avenue Church, stands at the head of the local amateurs. He has won more of the tournaments in which he has contended than any other member of the club, and his record for the course of nine holes is the best that has been made by a local amateur, with the exception of Mr. Harry L. Sweny. Mr. Richmond's record is forty, while Mr. Sweny's is one lower. The latter is now a professional, having engaged in the manufacture of clubs and having acted as the instructor of the Cohoes Golf Club last year. The record mentioned, however, was made while he was still in the ranks of amateurs. It is said, by the way, that Mr. Sweny has made application for reinstatement as an amateur, so there is a chance that he will be able to lower the record still further this year.

Next to Mr. Richmond, the majority of the club men would probably place Mr. C. S. Ransom. The latter is a much younger player than the clergyman, but his record is almost equally good. Last year he made an excellent showing as the representative of the club in more than one out-of-town tournament. With these two leaders three others are classed. They are Messrs. Cooper Lansing, Montgomery Rochester and Dr. Howard G. Van Rensselaer. Following these are a number of others, including Messrs. William L. Green, William Barnes, Jr., Foster Pruyn, William P. Neyman, Lewis R. Parker and Amasa J. Parker, Jr.

Mr. Cooper Lansing has the distinction of having made the best record for one hole of the course. The hole in question was the fifth, called the "Mouse Trap," and its distance of the teeing ground is about



Photograph by Pirie MacDonald.

Miss Elizabeth Oliver.

150 yards. The record will never be beaten, for it is one stroke. The ball did not roll into the cup, but fell in clean from the drive, not touching the ground between the tee and rim of the cup. This performance has been seldom duplicated on any course in the country.

The best professional record for the round of nine holes is thirty-seven strokes, which was made by H. R. Rawlins some time ago. There have been few professional tournaments since the course was laid out, the managers preferring to devote the money which such affairs cost to the improvement of the grounds.

The ladies who enjoy the privileges of the club are fully as enthusiastic over the game as their fathers and brothers and husbands. Last season in particular a large number of them learned to play, and many who had already mastered the rudiments became so proficient that they were matches for the members of the sterner sex. Miss Oliver, Miss Cora Oliver, Miss Marion Oliver, Miss Bowditch and Miss Marvin are the best of the women players, but a number of others, including Miss Margaret Pruyn, Miss Cornelia C. Cogswell and Miss Anderson, are not far behind them. Last year there were a number of handicap tournaments for the women, and toward the latter end of the fall came every Saturday.

The men's tournaments have already begun, and every Saturday many gentlemen can be found roaming over the hills and valleys of the links. The cups given by Mr. William Lawrence Green and Mr. Horace G. Young are the most coveted, and the contest for their possession is fought out each Decoration Day and each Labor Day.

It is the intention of the club this year to form a team of six players to represent it in all out-of-town and local challenge matches. These men will be selected by a committee in accordance with the scores which are handed in in competition during the next few weeks. The six cards containing the best record for thirty-six holes made in consecutive play will entitle their holders to positions on this team. From the six a captain will be selected, who will have entire charge of the team and will have authority to pick the extra men who are added when teams larger than six are played. The team will be made up on the 13th of this month, and after that the efforts of the captain will be to get his men in shape for the State Association tournament, to be held at Olsego in July.

NOTES.

The road which leads from the city is crossed several times by the course, and makes one of the best natural hazards.

The golfers are always glad when the public schools are over in the summer, for until that time there is some difficulty in getting enough youngsters to act as caddies.

The player who is careful of his clubs has kept them during the past winter hanging in a dry room suspended in a frame, with the handles up, so that they did not touch each other.

From ten to twelve men are kept constantly at work on the club's course during the season to keep it in perfect condition. At present an elaborate system of blind drains is being laid, which will make the course fairly dry even in the most rainy weather.

To play the eighth hole on the club's course in the best manner requires a drive for more than half the distance over the end of the lake. There are very few balls used by the members of the club which do not get a bath in this body of water before their season of usefulness is over.

Until further notice it has been decided to give a small prize to the winner of each of the weekly tournaments played on Saturday afternoons. These are purchased by the entrance fees, which amount to three or four dollars each week. The trophies stimulate the interest in the small matches.