

MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRADES.

A SATISFACTORY BALANCE SHEET.

On Wednesday evening the annual meeting of the Congregated Trades was held in the Mechanics' Institute, Mr M. M'Inerney, President, in the chair. There was a large attendance of members.

The following report was submitted by the Secretary (Mr Matthew Harvey) :—

" TO THE MEMBERS.

" GENTLEMEN—In presenting the balance sheet for the six months ending 7th March, 1901, your committee desire to congratulate the members on the financial state of the Institute. In November, 1900, your committee decided to issue an appeal to the public for funds to help to renovate the Institute. This appeal has been heartily responded to, £224 15s 3d being subscribed, for which your committee desire to return their sincere thanks to the subscribers. Your total income amounted to £368 2s 5d, out of which £190 6s has been expended on repairs, maintenance, furniture, etc, leaving a balance of £177 16s 5d to the credit of the Institute, but a good deal more requires to be done to make the Institute what it should be—second to none in Ireland. Your committee hope that the different guilds will give their aid both financially and otherwise to bring the Institute to this level. A musical entertainment and lecture was held in the institute during the latter part of the half-year, which was well attended. Your committee desire to convey the thanks of the Institute to A Hall, Esq., and the members of the Free Library Committee for their gift of books, papers, etc. Three societies joined the Institute during the half-year, making a total of 16 societies, with a membership of 600. The library and reading room is now open, and the committee hope the members will avail of the benefits to be derived therefrom. Your committee wish to impress upon the members the necessity for paying the house levy—three-pence per member—quarterly, as the present income from the guilds will not maintain the Institute in a proper manner. The committee deem it their imperative duty to bring this fact forcibly before the members.—On behalf of the committee,

" M. HARVEY, Secretary."

The Chairman moved the adoption of the report, which he said was most satisfactory.

The report was unanimously approved of.

THE HOSPITAL QUESTION.

The Chairman drew the attention of the meeting to the question of providing the contribution to Barrington's Hospital.

A long discussion took place as to the mode in which the contribution could be made up, and it was finally decided to refer the matter to the different guilds.

A vote of thanks to the chairman having been passed, and a similar compliment paid to the Press, the proceedings ended.