

MIRFIELD MECHANICS' INSTITUTE SOIREE.

Last night the annual soiree of the above institution was held in Mirfield Town Hall, the MAYOR of HUDDERSFIELD (Mr. Henry Brooke) being in the chair. He was supported by Mr. Huth, of that town; Mr. M. Fox, of Mirfield; and other gentlemen. During the evening the members of the Leeds Arion Quartette sang several glees and other pieces of music at intervals.

Mr. YOUNG, hon. sec., read the annual report, which stated that the subscriptions this session are £49 5s. 8d., as against £35 2s. last, but there was a balance due to the treasurer of £6 15s. 6d. The amount required to work the institute upon its present scale was about £55 per annum, so that if its magnitude were increased more substantial assistance would be required. The classes during the past winter had been better attended than in any previous year. The elementary chemistry class comprised 16 members: 13 had presented themselves for examination, 10 had passed, 2 of whom obtained Queen's prizes, and 5 had obtained the laboratory grant. In practical geometry there were 7 students, 3 of whom had passed, and 1 had gained a Queen's prize. In machine construction and drawing 16 had been examined, 4 passed, and 1 got a Queen's prize. In the second grade drawing examination 4 had passed, and 1 had obtained a Queen's prize. In the elementary girls' class for reading, writing, and arithmetic there were 24 members, and an average attendance of 20 each night. In the elementary classes for boys 46 were on the books, with an average attendance of 23. The library was far from being what the committee would like it to be, both with respect to the quantity and the nature of the books it contained; it was, however, intended to spend a few pounds in suitable works during the coming session. The reading room was supplied with nearly all the principal daily papers and periodicals, and had been fairly attended. There had been two entertainments and one lecture during the year. There are at present 120 members of the institute: the same number as last year. The committee meetings had been well attended.

The CHAIRMAN, in the course of his address, spoke of the value of the unpaid efforts of the committee and teachers of the institute, and said, though the report as a whole could not be considered as altogether satisfactory, there was much encouragement to be derived from what was stated about the chemistry and other science classes. He was glad that classes for girls had been formed, for the education of the daughters of the working men had been lamentably neglected.

Mr. MOORE SYKES, of Huddersfield, said a few words to the teachers to encourage them in their labours, and to the young members of the Mirfield Mechanics' Institute to persevere in the studies they were engaged upon.

Councillor GLENDINNING, of Huddersfield, spoke to same effect, and gave several instances of success in life arising from the prosecution of their studies by the young men of our country. His address was very well received.

Mr. EDWARD HUTH, also of Huddersfield, delivered an address upon education; and before the meeting was brought to a close the Mayor distributed the prizes to the successful students in the various classes.