

the fire is unknown.

Willoughby Road Wesleyan Church.

On Sunday last the Orchestral Society of the above church assisted in both the morning and evening services. The musical portion of the evening service was splendidly rendered, and reflected great credit on this young and talented orchestra, not only in their accompaniment of the hymns, but also in their rendering of Rossini's "Cujus Animam" and the "Gloria" from Mozart's 12th Mass. The only wonder is that their services are not more often utilised in connection with the Sunday services. As usual at Willoughby-road Church a large congregation listened to a powerful and impressive sermon by the pastor, the Rev. Joseph Reynolds.

Sacred Concert.

MAY 13th. Farmer's oratorio, "Christ and His Soldiers," was given by the Orchestral Society and Glee Choir. Mr. J. R. Bradford presided. About 150 people were present. Collection was £1 15s. 6d. The principal soloists were Mrs. Cross and Mr. W. Ashley; organist, Mr. G. Swindenbank; conductor, Mr. J. Thompson. Mr. Reynolds highly commended the performance and spoke of the "Sweet voices behind him and the almost perfect orchestra before him." Mrs. Cross sang with her usual care, accuracy, and sweetness of expression, and was heartily welcomed; as was also Mr. Ashley, who rendered his solos in an effective way. The choruses, were, in most cases, excellently rendered, with no lack of *verve*. The quartettes deserve great credit, especially the last, which was marked by harmony, expression, and unity. Those who know what trouble, patience, and perseverance are involved in preparing these musical performances, will be glad to give full credit to the orchestra and choir, to those who took the leading parts, and especially to Mr. J. Thompson for his indefatigable labours in connection with this oratorio.

Sunday School.

On the 18th December, the Sunday School Choir, assisted by some of the tenors and basses from the Church Choir and by the newly formed Orchestra, rendered C. H. Ward's Cantata, "Nativity," and a miscellaneous programme. Both the Choir and Orchestra are eloquent testimonies to Mr. Thompson's care and skill. The choruses in the Cantata were especially well done. In the second part one piece stood out above all the rest, viz.: Norman McLeod's "Daughter of Zion," which was so excellently sung by Miss S. Dawson that it was encored, although the chairman had stated that time would not admit of encores. The Orchestra played the overture "Le Diadème" extremely well, only the piano came in occasionally where it ought not. The whole concert was a very good one, and the schoolroom was well filled.

On Thursday, 12th December, Mr. and Mrs. Escritt gave a social entertainment to the Sunday School teachers and officers. A very pleasant evening was spent, and it is hoped that it has had the effect of bringing Sunday School workers into closer touch with each other.

Mr. Thompson's Concert.

APRIL 22nd. This concert was a complete success. The Lecture hall was crowded. The programme was attractive, bright and varied. The orchestra, ably conducted by Mr. Thompson, effectively rendered the following: March, from "Preciosa"; Gavotte, "Les Cloches de St. Malo"; Bridal March, from "Lohengrin"; March, from "Tannhauser"; an American sketch, "Swanny River"; and Suppe's beautiful overture, "Poet and Peasant." Mr. G. Nelson charmed the audience by giving three glass-ophone solos, viz.: "The Flight of Ages"; "Crystal Waltz"; and "Il Baccio Valse." Mrs. Cross sang in good style, "O! Dry those Tears," and "Daddy." Mr. Tubb sang "Torcedor," and "Oh! Oh! Hear the Winds Blow!" Each of these items was enthusiastically received. Mr. Nelson and Mr. Tubb were encored, the latter gentleman receiving quite an ovation. His popularity is deservedly increasing. Mr. Banton captivated the audience by his recital of "Rubenstein's Piano," and was encored; while Mr. D. Sullen's trombone solo, "Galatea," received a most hearty welcome. Altogether a most excellent concert, and a credit to all concerned. Mr. George Swindenbank and Miss Chaplin were the accompanists. Mr. Robert May kindly presided. The collection was about £7.