

SOME FINE NEW BUILDINGS

GRAND EDIFICES NOW GOING UP IN THIS CITY.

THE CARNEGIE MUSIC HALL, CENTURY, REPUBLICAN, AND ATHLETIC CLUB HOUSES, AND LENOX LYCEUM.

There are several new buildings, either in course of erection or approaching completion, which will all be ornaments to this city and, from the nature of their uses, objects of public interest.

First in importance in this group of new buildings which have been selected for description in this article comes the new home of the Oratorio Society, which is being constructed on the corner of Fifty-seventh-street and Seventh-avenue. This city has always felt the want of a properly-constructed music hall, and many abortive attempts have been made to supply this need. Steinway Hall is really the only place which possesses the essential acoustic properties, and its location has been a serious detriment to its use for concerts. Chickering Hall is too small. The Metropolitan Opera House is an abominable concert hall, and there is nothing else. Recognizing this want, the promoters of the Oratorio Society have for several years had under consideration the advisability of building such a music hall as the city really needs, but it is scarcely probable that their plans would have resulted in anything had it not been for the co-operation of Andrew Carnegie, who is a warm personal friend of Mr. Damrosch and a prominent member of the society.

The so-called Music Hall Company was organized and incorporated last March by the following members of the Oratorio and Symphony Societies of New-York: Andrew Carnegie, Walter Damrosch, Morris Reno, Stephen M. Knevals, and William B. Tuthill. A Board of Directors was chosen, including Morris Reno, President; Stephen M. Knevals, Treasurer; Frederick William Holls, Secretary; John W. Aitken, Andrew Carnegie, Walter Damrosch, Sherman W. Knevals, William B. Tuthill, and John J. Wilson, Directors. It was originally the intention to limit the capital stock to \$300,000, but it has recently been extended to \$600,000, of which Mr. Carnegie holds five-sixths. The cost of the building, including the land, will be \$1,100,000. The cost to maintain it, including the interest on the mortgage, is calculated at \$50,000 annually.

The main hall or auditorium is to be leased for concerts, and there will be a variety of smaller rooms for chamber music, studios, rehearsals, fairs, private theatricals, &c. When necessary the large hall can be converted into a ballroom, connected with a spacious banquet hall. The site is a desirable one on many accounts, with its front on an avenue and its facade on one of the broad streets. It is central, too, in view of the rapid growth of the city up town. The architectural style will be that of the Venetian Renaissance, and it will not resemble anything else to be found in the city.

Within the auditorium is to include two tiers of bayed-out boxes, two balconies, and a parquetry, the latter capable of seating 1,000 persons. The boxes on the first and the end boxes on the second tier will all open into communicating ante rooms. A corridor with eleven exits, five of them leading to Seventh-avenue, is to surround the parquetry. The grand vestibule, with seven entrances, is to be on Fifty-seventh-street. Under the auditorium the banquet chamber will be built sufficiently large to seat 1,000 guests. In addition to the chamber music hall, there will be in the lateral a smaller dining room, small parlors, dressing and toilet rooms. In the basement the kitchens will be placed. The studios are all to be in the roof story, where there will be an abundance of light. In this part of the building, too, there will be rooms adapted for choruses and quarters for soloists and conductors. A commodious chapter room will be situated immediately above the chamber music hall, while just above the stage area of the auditorium will be a gymnasium. It is expected that this music hall will be finished on Oct. 1, 1890.

The Century Club, one of the most conservative organizations in this city, has been forced finally to look for new quarters, not only because its present location on Fifteenth-street is inconvenient, but also because of the increasing demands of its constantly-growing membership, for the club which was once restricted to a roll of 100, as the name indicates, now has on its list more than 700 names. The architects have gone back to the forms of the Italian Renaissance for the house now building in Forty-third-street, just west of Fifth-avenue, and the effect of the front will recall some of the English clubhouses rather than anything which other examples of club architecture in this city show. With much wisdom the designers have laid great emphasis upon the value of the horizontal lines, thus taking advantage of the frontage of 100 feet.

The new Century will be something over 60 feet in height, but the arrangement of the facade will tend to diminish the impression of such an altitude. Architecturally it consists of two distinct stories, completely subdivided and distinguished each from the other, not only in treatment, but also in material, the basement being of a light stone and the superstructure of cream-colored brick. The extreme severity of the basement, with its plain openings, is brought into strong and distinct contrast with the ornateness and plasticity of the superstructure. In each story the central feature is the striking point, the tall and massive archway of the main entrance below and the rich and graceful loggia above. Heretofore the Century has never had any nearer approach to a restaurant than a grill room. In the new house, however, there will be a comfortable dining room in addition to the grill room. The billiard room in the basement, with the smoking and reading rooms, will occupy the rest of the available space, while the principal apartment, of course, will be the library, a very spacious room occupying half of the upper part of the building, and running through both the principal story and the mezzanine, which will be indicated on the facade by the "bull's-eye" openings.

Last Winter an effort was made to convert the old panorama building on Madison-avenue, near Fifty-ninth-street, into a music hall where Theodore Thomas could give concerts. The development of Mr. Carnegie's scheme caused this plan to fall through, but the Lenox Lyceum, which is now building on this site, is to be used for amusement purposes, and will be one of the most complete buildings of the kind in the city. The interior dimensions are 135 feet in diameter, 74 feet in height, and each of the two entrances on Madison-avenue and Fifty-ninth-street is 25 feet in width. The stage, built under a shell-shaped ceiling, can be seen from all points in the auditorium, and when used for an orchestra can seat very comfortably sixty-four musicians, with ample room for conductor and soloists. The floor space of 7,535 feet affords a good area for dancing, and there are stairways on either side leading to cloak rooms. The entire area of the hall, including the sixty-two boxes, is 12,750 feet. The dining room will comfortably seat 700 persons. The kitchens and café are directly beneath the hall, and are admirably appointed.

The stage is in the centre of the building, facing Madison-avenue, and its dimensions are 50 by 25 feet. Opposite is a balcony capable of seating thirty musicians, and immediately below this a large private box is placed. The seating capacity of the new hall will be for 1,500 people. This, of course, includes the boxes, which have seats for six. They start from either side of the stage and enclose the auditorium in tiers one above the other. The ceiling frame is of iron decorated with papier-maché. The crown of the dome has delicately-traced figures in relief and ivory tinted. The decorations of the interior of the hall are all in the style of the early Italian Renaissance. The prevailing colors are Venetian red, a delicate shade of gold, and an abundant ornamentation with blue leaf. Especial pains have been taken to insure perfect ventilation. In the basement there has been placed a huge cylinder attached to an eight-foot fan, which furnishes to the stage register pure air in equal proportions of hot and cold. It is hoped that the Lenox Lyceum will be ready for use about Jan. 1.

The Republican Club now occupies a handsome house at 440 Fifth-avenue. It is richly furnished, with parlors, reading room, dining room, billiard room, and committee rooms. The club has a membership of 650 resident and non-resident members. Its rapid growth, its marked success, and its conspicuous importance as a political factor have combined to convince the members that they require a clubhouse of more suitable proportions. Consequently plans have been accepted, and so soon as a desirable site can be secured work will doubtless be begun on the new building.

The architecture will be of the French Renaissance period, and represents a structure of seven stories, with an unusually high basement, with sub-cellars underneath. At the angle of intersection of street and avenue is a tower octagonal in outline to the height of the third story, and from that point to and above the roof circular in form, with an arcade above the line of the cornice and balustrade, which will be embellished with a series of arches, this balustrade together with those across the balcony fronts being pierced with moulded traceries. Balconies are placed wherever opportunity offers. Flanking the tower on the avenue facade is an octagonal turret supported partly by corbeiling at the third story and cornciced from there almost to the height of the main roof line. To the left of the turret an oval window is placed, which is carried up two stories and supported by moulded corbeiling and a graceful column, the base of which is on the story below. Still further to the left is a projecting bay from cellar to cornice line, surmounted by a wedge-shaped roof. To the right of this bay at the first and second stories are two deeply recessed arcades, floored at the second and roofed at the third story for use as piazzas.

The facade on the avenue will be 100 feet in width and on the side street 150 feet. The southern facade possesses several striking features, notably a magnificent entrance flanked by two square and octagonal squares, with a four-

storied, richly-traceried bay window between the towers. Over the main entrance is thrown an arch, the spandrels of which are ornamented with finely-carved work. The soffit is moulded and the arch is a support for the gallery. Above this part is placed at the fourth story another balustrade. A private entrance at the sidewalk level leads to the ladies' dining room on the main floor and also to the fencing and bath rooms below. The roof is to be extremely picturesque in outline and covered with lead and Spanish tiles.

At the corner of Madison-avenue and Forty-fifth-street the Manhattan Athletic Club is erecting a new clubhouse, which is beginning to attract a good deal of interest, even in its present unfinished condition. Iron and stone are the chief materials for this building, while the inside decorations will be in hard wood. In the basement a huge swimming tank will be placed, which it is expected will be extremely popular among the members. It is 100 feet long and 21 feet wide. Its depth is 4½ feet at one end and 7 feet at the other, but these can be regulated at will. During the cold months the water will be heated. Under the entrance on the Forty-fifth-street side a shooting gallery will be placed, and in the basement bowling alleys will be found, with raised platforms between them for spectators.

The new clubhouse is 157 feet on Madison-avenue and 110 feet on Forty-fifth-street. The first floor will contain offices, parlor, and reception room. On the second floor will be the large billiard room and adjoining it the café, several feet above the floor of the billiard room, so that a good view of the latter can be obtained by those who are sitting at the tables. A large concert hall will be on the next floor, which can be reached by a private entrance from the street. The ceiling is very high, and in all probability a portable stage will be used, so that the room may be used for balls and other entertainments. Around this hall are bachelor apartments.

Nearly the entire fourth floor is occupied by the gymnasium. Its dimensions are 107 feet long and 92 feet wide, and there are rooms on one side for sparring and fencing and lockers. There are only two columns in the gymnasium, which gives a large, clear space for the men. The running track occupies a gallery just above the floor, and will be about fourteen laps to the mile. On the roof will be the kitchen and pantry, with a roof garden also, which will be arranged so that it can be inclosed in Winter and used for lawn tennis. When the building is completed it will be beyond question the handsomest, the most durable, and the most satisfactory clubhouse for athletics in the world.

Only the other day the German Society laid the cornerstone for its new clubhouse. It has secured six lots, three on Fifty-ninth-street and three on Fifty-eighth-street, thus being assured of good light and air in the rear as well as in front of the building. The house will front on Fifty-ninth-street and the Park. It will have a sub-cellar and a basement and will be five stories high above the ground. The lower and second stories will be devoted to club uses and above them will be apartments, single rooms, and servants' quarters. The main floor will be only five feet above the sidewalk and will contain reading, reception, and card rooms, and a large dining hall with two private dining rooms adjoining, which are so arranged that they can be thrown into one large hall when required.

The main hall is to be finished in hard wood, with a wainscoting of marble and a floor of marble mosaic. The cornices and ceiling of this floor will be very elaborate. The facade of the building is in the Italian Renaissance, and is constructed in buff Indiana limestone—the architecture being massive through the basement and first story, and lighter in character above, with a central feature in the upper stories of a loggia, surmounted by the arms of the club and also the City and State of New-York, elaborately carved in stone. The fifth story is crowned by projecting and richly-carved modillion cornice and balustrades constructed of stone.