ITEMS OF LOCAL INTEREST.

The Nottingham City Council decided to-day to try the experiment of meeting at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, instead of at ten, as hitherto. It was understood that the later hour should apply only during the winter months, subject to any decision the Council may come to later.

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The exhibition to be held in connection with the conversazione to-morrow, celebrating the seventieth anniversary of the establishment of the Nottingham Mechanics' Institution, will be of a very extensive character, embracing some unique items.

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It will appeal to lovers of Byron, Kirke White, books, engravings, pictures, coins, medals, the local volunteer movement, the earlier forms of letters and photographs, as well as swimming and life saving. It promises to be more popular and interesting than the one held in connection with the jubilee celebration in 1887.

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Earl Manvers, who was so severely injured in the hunting-field some time ago, has sufficiently recovered to enable him to take walks in Thoresby Park, and he has also been for one or two motor-drives.

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Lord and Lady Manvers, with their daughters, Lady Cicely and Lady Alice Pierrepont, intend going to the Riviera at the end of the present month, where it is hoped that his lordship's health will be completely restored.

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A signal honour has been conferred upon the West Bridgford company of the Boys' Brigade, which has repeatedly distinguished itself by smartness and efficiency.

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The boys comprising the gymnastic corps of the company have been chosen to represent England at the displays of boys' brigades to be held in Dublin on February 20th and 21st.

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In all twelve boys will give the exhibition, along with two officers, under the command of Captain R. H. Swain, and the display will consist of exercises on the vaulting horse and parallel bars.

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A memorial window has been placed in the parish church of St. Michael's, Hedon, Holderness, by Mr. W. H. Dowson, of Mary Field, Redford, to the memory of his late wife. The window, which is in stained glass, is the design of Burnett and Grylls, and depicts the Temptation and the Adoration, and has been inserted in place of a plain glass window at the north doorway.

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His Honour Judge Allen dealt with several hundred judgment summonses at Mansfield to-day.

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The annual dinner of the Nottingham and District Stationary Engine-drivers' Society was held at the Albert Hotel, Derby-road, Nottingham, on Saturday evening, and the function was a very pleasant one. Ladies were present at the after-dinner proceedings, and the musical programme was greatly enjoyed.

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Councillor H. B. Halford presided, and an attendance of about 150 included Messrs. H. Talbot, G. Head, G. Dickenson, E. A. Parker, J. Orange, and R. Greenstreet. Mr. R. Fletcher (treasurer), and J. Bradshaw (secretary).

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Dr. C. Liebbrand, who has written a number of plays, one of which is the "Republicans," has just received the following letter from the private secretary to her Majesty the Queen:—

"Dear sir,—I am desired by both the Queen and Princess Victoria to express to you how much pleasure the books you were so kind as to send them. Let me at the same time thank you for my copy of the "Republicans," which I shall read at my first leisure moment."

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We also understand that by the same author there is a comic opera, "Julia's Dream," of which Mr. Harold Bayley, of Langar Hall, grandson of the late Mr. John Farmer, has written most of the music. This comic opera will be produced, with Mr. Bayley's music, in a leading West End theatre during the course of the year.

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"The vicarage of Kinoulton had only two changes of incumbent in the whole of the 19th century. In the same time it seems to have been in three dioceses, and to have had three different patrons." This statement appears in "Churches of Notts.," by Godfrey, and is certainly very remarkable.

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The Rev. A. E. Reader, who has been acting as curate to the Rev. F. C. Copeland, vicar of Coalville, left the district last week-end. Mr. Copeland also leaves about the middle of January to reside in Devonshire, having made an exchange of livings. The two gentlemen were formerly associated in ministerial work in Tasmania.

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The funeral of Mr. Joseph Gibson, coal merchant, of Sleaford, took place on Saturday. By his special request, his coffin was drawn to the cemetery by a heavy horse attached to one of his coal drays, the novel sight attracting a large number of spectators.

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The sight of corn crops being gathered in January was seen last week in Braston Fen, Lincolnshire.

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In consequence of the late sowings the crops, which consisted of wheat, barley, and oats, ripened later than usual, and they were recently sold by auction as they stood in the fields. Mr. Thompson, miller purchased the cropping, and the frozen condition of the land has enabled the reapers to run during the past week, and the bulk of the work was gathered up on Saturday. It is proposed to celebrate the novel event with a harvest supper.

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At Colsterworth, also in Lincolnshire, the cutting of beans was also witnessed at the end of last week, but only a portion of the crop has been so gathered. Another farmer in the same locality was seen carting barley on Boxing Day.

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Captain Popham, D.S.O., Sherwood Foresters, has been transferred from the 1st Battalion at Bangalore to the 2nd Battalion, at Kinsale, Ireland.

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Trade in Long Eaton last year is regarded as being generally satisfactory, although there was a falling-off towards the close.

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The Derby Corporation are trying the experiment of covering in their swimming baths and fixing them as skating rinks. So far it has proved fairly successful, as during the first three weeks the arrangements were in progress the receipts amounted to £150.

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL.

THE MAYOR'S WISH.

FUTURE OF THE SCHOOL OF ART.

THE CONTROVERSY WITH WEST BRIDGFORD.

A meeting of the Nottingham City Council was held at the Exchange Hall this morning, the Mayor (Councillor J. T. Spalding) presiding.

The Mayor wished a happy New Year, not only to all the members of the Council, but to all the inhabitants of the city.

THE SCHOOL OF ART.

In reply to Mr. R. Sands, Ald. Sir J. T. McCraith said that the School of Art Committee had not received any report from the special sub-committee which visited certain schools of art on the Continent, nor could he, for the moment, say whether the committee would submit any report to the Council. The School of Art Committee would very soon, however, present to the Council a report connected with the enlargement of the school. The matter had been under consideration for over two years, but they had hesitated to ask the Council for a large sum of money. When that report was presented there would be an opportunity of discussing the whole situation.

TRAMWAY FACILITIES AND PRECAUTIONS

Answering Mr. H. G. Ford, Sir John McCraith, as vice-chairman of the Tramways Committee, said that the Board of Trade recommendations, based upon the Halifax disaster, had been issued since that committee was formed with regard to the recommendation that the conductor should always be at the back of the car in order to apply sand in the wheel, if necessary. Going back, they claimed to have gone further, because they were applying to the cars an apparatus by which the motor-man could instantaneously apply sand at the rear of the car, irrespective of the conductor, and the Council might take it that the question of brakes was constantly before the committee, and that they were always ready to adopt the very latest improvements.

Sir John McCraith was unable to say when the Tramways Committee would submit another report with regard to a circular route to Sneinton.

BOWLING GREEN FOR THE MEADOWS.

Mr. G. Tustin asked the Public Parks Committee to take into consideration the question of providing a bowling green on the Meadows recreation ground, expressing the belief that it could be made to pay.

The Sheriff (Councillor W. H. Carey) intimated that it would be advisable if Mr. Tustin could guarantee the membership.

A CARRINGTON NUISANCE.

Mr. James Shipstone inquired by whose authority the land on Loscoe-road, Carrington, which had been used as a recreation ground, was fenced in, and at what cost.

Ald. Sir John McCraith said that the work was done on the authority of the Tramways Committee at a cost of £ 0, their action being based upon strong recommendations as to the nuisances arising from the unrestricted use of the land.

NOTTINGHAM AND WEST BRIDGFORD.

Ald. Dr. E. H. Fraser, submitting the report of the special committee appointed by the West Bridgford water supply, said that there had been long negotiation with the West Bridgford Council, conducted on both sides in a very neighbourly and conciliatory manner, and they had taken the ratepayers of both districts from "the very heavy expense of a Parliamentary contest. He was not at liberty to state the details of the negotiations, but, in the result, they offered to West Bridgford an abandonment of the surcharge that was at present made upon the district, and place it, as regards charges and other terms and conditions, in exactly the same position as the ratepayers of Nottingham. In doing that he thought they had taken the line to the limits of generosity—(hear, hear)—and he was not at all sure whether the Council might not consider that, while they had a legal right to a surcharge, they had gone almost too far in agreeing to give up that surcharge in order to make peace. At the same time they were anxious to end the dispute. They were now waiting for the answer to their offer, and he hoped that the terms would be accepted. They were prepared for war, if it came to it, but he was not without hope that, even at the eleventh hour, West Bridgford would accept.

Mr. E. G. Loveseed said that there had never been such a climb down on the part of a large city to a small constituency. He had his opinion then, but, in the result, they offered to West Bridgford an abandonment of the surcharge that was at present made upon the district, and place it, as regards charges and other terms and conditions, in exactly the same position as the ratepayers of Nottingham. In doing that he thought they had taken the line to the limits of generosity—(hear, hear)—and he was not at all sure whether the Council might not consider that, while they had a legal right to a surcharge, they had gone almost too far in agreeing to give up that surcharge in order to make peace. At the same time they were anxious to end the dispute. They were now waiting for the answer to their offer, and he hoped that the terms would be accepted. They were prepared for war, if it came to it, but he was not without hope that, even at the eleventh hour, West Bridgford would accept.

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