

THE VELOCIPEDE FUROR.

The Fever in Brooklyn—Great Demand for the New Motor.

The velocipede fever is raging in Brooklyn very badly at present, and the prospect is that it will prevail to an alarming extent until Winter again sets in next December. The schools recently established in Brooklyn prove inadequate to supply the demand for machines and places to learn to ride them in. BURNHAM'S large hall is crowded nightly, he having nearly eighty velocipede pupils with space and machines only to accommodate a tenth of the number. WITTY has three halls, and these are crowded nightly, about a dozen waiting their turn in each hall of a night.

As skating is done for in this vicinity for this season, we are a little surprised that the proprietors of the rinks of Brooklyn, New-York and Jersey City do not at once prepare their establishments for velocipede-riding. The Brooklyn Rink Association, we believe, talk of laying down a concrete foundation in the basin of their rink, which will serve equally well as a floor for velocipede-riding and roller-skating, and for their ice foundation in Winter. All that can be said is, "if it were done well, 'twere well it were done quickly."

The nightly scenes at BURNHAM'S and WITTY'S schools in Brooklyn, constitute quite an interesting entertainment. The expert riders of Brooklyn are multiplying rapidly, and at both the above velocipede arenas the displays of skill and daring are numerous. The funny side of the picture is also exhibited nightly in the form of the collisions, falls, narrow escapes and the wabbling movements of the tyros in the art, the accidents being similar in their results to those of the skating ponds, the collisions and falls being borne with the same good humor as they are on skates. The attendance of spectators each night is such as to crowd both halls, the gallery at BURNHAM'S being specially devoted to the use of ladies and those of the other sex accompanying them, while at WITTY'S Hall the ladies have the front seats. The best riders at each place are Mr. CARLTON, D. CHAUNCEY and YOUNG DURKEE at BURNHAM'S, and ROBT. WITTY at the other hall. CARLTON is a very daring and expert rider, while CHAUNCEY is rapidly getting up to his mark, both being very graceful in their movements. ROBT. WITTY, too, rides almost as skillfully as HANLON.

Mr. BURNHAM has introduced velocipede-riding as a feature of the exercises of his lady classes, and Mrs. BURNHAM already rides with a degree of modest ease and skill surprising to those who imagine that ladies cannot ride a two-wheeled velocipede without objectionable *exposés*. The exercise is especially adapted for ladies, and it is simply as an exercise that Mr. BURNHAM has introduced it. None but ladies are admitted to the hall during the ladies' class exercise, and those who have seen Mrs. BURNHAM ride are in a fever to learn the art themselves. The ordinary dress used by ladies on these calisthenic exercises is just suited for use in riding the bicycles, not half as much *exposé* of the nether limbs being made as in the ordinary walking attire.

THE DEMAND FOR MACHINES.

Never before in the history of manufactures in this country has there arisen such a demand for an article as now exists in relation to velocipedes. Those of our most extensive carriage manufacturers whose facilities for engaging in the construction of velocipedes led them to add that branch of vehicle manufacture to their business, have been driven to their wits' end to supply the orders rushing upon them from all quarters of the Union. A perfect rage seems to have set in for velocipede-riding, and no sooner does a man try a machine anywhere, than out comes the exclamation of "I must get me one of these machines," and the result is, off he trots to the first carriage-maker, and forthwith the order is given for a first-class machine, to be ready the next day if it can be had. Velocipedes are being manufactured now at the rate of a thousand a week, and that is about the tenth part of the number of orders received for them. One contract was made this week for the manufacture of 5,000 boys' bicycles, the juveniles having begun to bore their parents for velocipedes in such a manner as to drive them wild, and, of course, they must be gratified, or there will be no peace in the house.