AFTER the tremendous initial success of last year, it was thought that L'Avenir would have the greatest difficulty in maintaining the high standard established at that time; the performance of last Thursday evening, however, showed that such fears were unwarranted. Both in the quality of the French and the character of the acting, the plays were much superior to those given last year, and the ballet, although, possibly, less artistic in conception, was excellently trained.

The performance opened with a comedy by Ernest Legouve and Eugène Labiche, "La Cigale chez les Fourmis." The plot was briefly as follows:—A rich bourgeois, his wife, and daughter discuss the projected marriage of the latter to a young nobleman, when a letter to the fiancé falls into their hands, from which they learn that they are obnoxious, on account of their ignorance of the art of spending money, and that, in fact, they are considered merely a colony of ants. At this point a young spend-thrift, Paul de Vineuil, entering to pay a bill, discloses in the course of conversation the fact that the young nobleman is his friend, and that he himself, after spending his private fortune, now makes it his profession to assist his friends in the expenditure of theirs. He is welcomed with open arms by the family of Chameroy, and proceeds to make arrangements for the furnishing of the room and for the costuming of the young lady. At the last moment a letter arrives breaking off the proposed marriage. Paul very unselfishly writes to his friend an urgent denunciation of this course, which, however, Miss Henriette tears in fragments. After Paul’s departure she acknowledges that he is the man whom she will marry; an avowal which he hears in returning for his umbrella which had been inadvertently left. The future developments, after the fall of the curtain, are obvious.

Mr. Nichols as M. Chameroy, a retired manufacturer, played his part well, with make-up and action very appropriate to the character. Mr. Smith as Henriette was especially good. His make-up was splendid; his gestures and movements were so entirely feminine that it was hard to believe the part was not taken by a woman. Mr. Winslow as Paul de Vineuil showed a great deal of ease in both speech and manner. His French was excellent. Mr. Mason as Mme. Chameroy, and Mr. Drake as the domestique, were enjoyable characters.

The part of Robert in Le Théâme Americain was by far the finest piece of acting of the evening. The actor was apparently perfectly at his ease, and none of his gestures seemed studied. The eccentric Lucie was excellently taken by Mr. Hill. His acting has improved wonderfully since last year, and as in the case of Mr. Smith, it was difficult to believe that the part was not taken by a woman. Mr. Fitzgerald acted the part of the confidential valet in a very skillful manner. The ballet was as usual the hit of the evening. Mr. Tobey was very amusing as the football. His entrance was greeted with roars of laughter. The dancing of the Tech. trio, Messrs. Alden, Denison, and Thomas, was especially fine, and received a well-merited encore. Mr. Page and Mr. Jackson, as Harvard and Yale, both danced solos, which were well applauded. The fainting of the Harvard representative, and her removal on a stretcher by two red imps, caused a great deal of laughter. A vast deal of credit is due to Mr. C. H. L. N. Bernard and his brother, Mr. L. Bernard, who trained the actors to such perfection, and to the dancing master, Mr. J. J. Coleman, who, out of raw material, made a most successful and artistic ballet.

The society was fortunate in having as patronesses, Mrs. James M. Crafts, Mrs. Charles Fairchild, Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. William B. Rogers, Mrs. William E. Russell, Mrs.