

A SOCIALIST "SOCIAL."

On Saturday night the members and adherents of the Aberdeen Socialist Society held their fourth annual social meeting and dance. The function came off in the Northern Friendly Society's Lecture Hall, and those who think the Socialists a serious people ought to have been there. From four o'clock till half-past eleven the fun raged fast and furious.

J. Leatham presided, looking very much the worse for wear—his new duties having evidently disagreed with him during the first week. In his opening speech he referred in encouraging terms to the progress made during the year and to the future prospects of the movement in Aberdeen. Since they met on a similar occasion a year ago they had lost the support of some of their former co-workers; but in spite of the defection of those who had left to form an Anarchist group, they were at least twice as strong in numbers as they were before that exodus from the parent body took place. To-day they had more members than many a city congregation; their funds were in a flourishing condition, considering the amount of work they did; they were holding more meetings, and these were better attended than was ever the case before. Even the things which had been done apparently to hurt them had turned out to be for their advantage. During the year they had brought a large number of well-known lecturers to the city—Hyndman, Burrows, and Melliet being among the number—and after every visit the names of more members came pouring in. At the social meeting last year he had stated that the things they had done were but an earnest of the things they yet should do; and the record of 1891 had shown that that statement was no empty boast.

A first-class programme of songs, recitations, and "step dances" was rendered by members of the society, their "sweethearts and wives"—Mrs. Findlater playing the accompaniments and the dance music with her wonted efficiency. Where all did so well, distinctions would be at once impossible and invidious.