

## NOTES.

We are very pleased to have with us this term Mr. Harold Horsey, who has resumed College work, after laboring very successfully for several months in the Sarnia church.

The students have been entertained during the past month at the homes of Messrs. Weir and Granger, of Zion church; Mr. Dougall, of Calvary church, and Mr. Harries, of Emmanuel church, and a very enjoyable time was spent on each occasion.

A similar kindness has been enjoyed at the hands of some of the Granby friends, since the return of Messrs. Day, Pollock and Kelly; which would indicate that these gentlemen, during their visit, must have ingratiated themselves with the ladies.

The Christian Endeavor Society of the First Congregational church, Kingston, gladdened the hearts of the students who remained in College during the holidays by sending a box of delicious cakes, pies, etc., along with their New Year's greetings. Their kind act was thoroughly appreciated by all who shared the contents of the box.

The annual meeting of the McGill University Y. M. C. A. was held Saturday evening, Dec. 13, and a very satisfactory year's work was reported. A lively interest has been manifested in all departments of the Association. One of the most interesting features of the work for the past year is the marked increase in the subscriptions to the Building Fund, which now amounts to nearly \$8,500. The increase is largely due to a recent generous donation of \$5,000 from Mr. George Hague.

We deeply regret the sad affliction which has fallen upon our fellow-student, Mr. J. A. Mair, of Lanark. Mr. Mair went home on Friday, Dec. 22nd, and the following Sunday morning his father died. The severity of the stroke was all the greater owing to the absence of Mr. Mair's mother, who was in Manitoba at the time of her husband's death, visiting a recently-widowed daughter. Mr. Mair and his family have our heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement. Mr. R. G. Watt and D. S. Hamilton were appointed a committee to forward a letter of condolence.

Y. P. S. C. E.—State Sec., A. E. Dewhurst, of N. Y., reports an increase of 13,200 members for the last year. The record of societies is 2,600 Young Peoples, 456 Junior, and a total membership of 168,200. Nine thousand conversions have been reported for the 12 months.

## Review.

## THE CHURCH HYMNARY.

It is hard, in these days, to get a new title for a hymn book. And as there is no special need for a strictly denominational hymn book, the difficulty of getting a general and appropriate title is increased. "Hymnals" and "Psalters" we have in plenty, but this is a "Hymnary."

Like most American hymn books, it is large, well-printed, and somewhat costly. The copy we have before us is 8½ x 6 inches size of page, on very white paper, with exceeding good and clear type—a pleasure to read. Red edges, cloth, Morocco back: \$1.35. The edition with hymns only, is 90 cents. Both editions in gilt, or better bindings, more. The publishers, Maynard, Merrill, & Co., 43 East Tenth St., New York, offer to send a "returnable" copy, free to any minister or church-committee, wishing to examine it. It is a good book, and we don't mind giving them this little advertisement.

The book is not perfect. We never saw one yet: and we shall take good care never to compile a hymn-book ourselves; so as to escape criticism! We have looked through it to see if there are many alterations in the words and lines. Not many: though some could have been spared. It would be vain to lay down a rule that no alterations or omissions must be made; it would simply debar us from the use of some of our best hymns. Seldom does the compiler give us more than four stanzas of a hymn. Indeed the United States use is to seldom sing more than four "verses"; in England the general custom is to sing all the hymn, as found in the book. We think the American custom the better one. It gives a larger variety of hymns in the book, and relieves the pastor or leader of the responsibility of indicating omissions at the instant, or finding that the tune chosen, or the "time" to which it is sung, is making the hymn wearisome.

The compiler, Mr. Edwin A. Bedell, of Albany, has managed to give about 1,000 hymns, and 800 tunes in this handsome book; and he says 200 of these tunes have never appeared in any hymn-book. Indeed, it is obvious that much of the best and newest sacred music must be here put under contribution, when we find credited to recent composers 29 tunes to Sullivan; 13 to Stainer, 9 to Kettle, 49 to Dykes, 11 to Calkin, 17 to Burnap, and 42 to Barnby; while the older composers, Beethoven, Bradbury, Mason, Gauntlett, Hastings, Webbe, etc. are lavishly represented.

The indexes are full and good. The author makes the curious distinction between "American" and "English," though both write in the