

828 ; of members, the increase is 148,966. The increase in the number of Sunday-schools is 816 ; of teachers, 8,659 ; of scholars, 86,212.

#### THE METHODIST CHURCH.

The Western Section of the Book Committee reports one of the most successful years since the Union. The continual increases in business year after year makes it more difficult to keep up the record, much less to surpass it. The net profit of the year has amounted to \$24,024, an increase of about \$500 on the previous year. Of this sum \$10,000 was appropriated to the Superannuation Fund, the largest sum ever so paid. This leaves only \$14,000 to defray cost for the accommodation of the premises to the growing business and other necessary expenses.

The *Christian Guardian* reports an increase in subscriptions and a brighter outlook than it has exhibited for some time. This MAGAZINE reports an increase in circulation of 226. The Sunday-school periodicals also report a large increase amounting in all to 13,337. This is the more remarkable as these periodicals have steadily increased by "leaps and bounds" till it would seem till they could leap and bound no more. The circulation already reaches about one and one-half periodicals for every scholar in our school. A much higher average than this it would seem impossible to secure.

But there is one opening which seems to offer very large possibilities of increase, namely the Home Department. This has nearly doubled every year for the last three years, and promises to create a very large demand for our Sunday-school and other connexional literature. Most important of all, it is uniting parents and children, the invalids and shut-ins, and others unable to attend Sunday-school, with the school-going part of the family in the study of the same portions of the scripture. It is thus creating common interest, common sympathies, and a common enthusiasm in the grandest of all lore—a knowledge of God's will and word.

#### VICTORIA UNIVERSITY.

It is very gratifying to the friends of this institution to know that it has had the most successful year in its history. The total attendance of students has reached 320. About 150 of these are studying theology ; nine of them received the B.D. degree, and thirty-six more are proceeding to that goal. We were more than ever impressed with the immense

importance of conducting the higher education of our young people under pronounced Christian auspices. The Chancellor publicly stated that of the large fourth-year class in arts he did not know one who did not keep before him high Christian ideals and was proposing to use his education and endowments for the glory of God and the welfare of his fellowmen. This is a fact of unspeakable importance in the history of our country and of our university. The baccalaureate sermon by Dr. Courtice was an argument and an appeal of immense power on the right use of life and God as the only satisfying portion. Neither it nor the Chancellor's address will, we think, ever be forgotten by those to whom they were addressed.

There is something of thrilling interest in seeing this large class of young recruits for life's battlefield receiving their accolade. God give them glorious victory, and at last the "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Another interesting fact of the year is the large portion of young women in the graduating class. It is only fifteen years since the first girl graduate left Victoria's halls, and now one-third of the class will be of the gentler sex.

The honorary degrees conferred will command the approval of the whole Church. Dr. John Wakefield has "earned a good degree" from his brethren and received the highest honours his Conference can confer, and the University but endorses that general encomium. Dr. Courtice, as editor of the *Christian Guardian*, occupies one of the most influential positions in Canada. No pulpit in the Connexion is of more importance. His scholarship and ability entitle him to this recognition. Dr. S. D. Chown is one of the most thoughtful, scholarly, able preachers in our Church. May these brethren long live to wear worthily the honours conferred upon them.

[Notes in type on the Montreal Theological College are crowded out.]

#### DR. CARMAN IN JAPAN.

The wide extent of our missionary operations, reaching from Bermuda to Chentu, is illustrated by the visit of the General Superintendent to Japan. When in Yokohama Dr. Carman will still be about three thousand miles distant from our West China Mission. The services of our Chief Superintendent are simply invaluable in giving unity of interpretation and administration of discipline throughout our far-extended field.