

REPORT OF CHURCH BOARD.

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In accordance with our established usage, it devolves upon the Church Board to present a resume of the life and work of the Church during the tenth year of its history.

It is matter for thankfulness that they are able to report that, during the past year, the health of our esteemed Pastor has been such that he has been enabled with regularity to carry on his ministrations among us, and that the grave anxiety once felt on account of his health has been dispelled by a marked improvement. Death, however, has not spared our ranks. Mrs. Haight, truly "a mother in Israel," and Mr. Henry Vennor, an honoured member and office-bearer, in both the parent church and in this, have been called to their rest and reward in a ripe old age; whilst Mr. Macphie, after a lingering illness, has been removed in the prime of his manhood—all these, though dead, yet by the uniform consistency of their lives and the excellence of their characters, speak to us who survive, calling upon us to imitate all that was good and wise in them. The death of Mr. Vennor and the advancing years and infirmities of some surviving members of the Diaconate, seemed to indicate the expediency of filling up its ranks. The Pastor and Deacons, after careful consideration of the matter, laid before the Church a recommendation to this effect; and the Church resolved to elect three additional Deacons, which was duly done in accordance with the provisions of By-Law IX. The choice fell on our brethren Messrs. J. M. M. Duff, Thos. Costen and C. T. Williams, of whom the last-mentioned desires to be relieved from the duties of the office, much to the regret of his brethren. Thus the number of the Diaconate is nine, to which the number of the elective members of the Church Board will have to correspond. It is hoped that by these changes greater efficiency will be given to the administration of the affairs of the Church, especially in the matter of the systematic visitation, in the various districts of the members of the Church and congregation.

In the month of June, the Congregational Union of Ontario and Quebec, by invitation of the Church, held its meetings with us. Our brethren, Messrs. Wm. Reid and Popham were appointed delegates to represent the Church on the Union, and Mr. Scholes at the meeting of the Provident Fund. The meetings were of more than ordinary interest, and the arrangements for the entertainment of our guests were made with great care and success by the Committee charged therewith and the Ladies' Aid Society, for which service both received the well-deserved thanks of the Church.