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Motes of the Meek.

DR. JOSEPH T. DURYEA, of Boston, recently, in the course of his prayer-meeting talk, criticised the tendency to multiply societies within the Churches. There are organizations, he said, for all sorts of objects, until nothing is left for the Church to do, and it simply becomes a collection of wheels within wheels. There is a danger just in this direction, but activity is better than stagnation in almost every shape.

THE Brockville Recorder states that a Handbook of Psychology by Professor J. Clark Murray, of McGill College, Montreal, formerly of Queen's College, Kingston, and personally known to many of our readers, has met with great success, the first edition being nearly exhausted. It has been introduced into a number of colleges in Great Britain and into several universities in the United States. Professor Murray has received a letter from a publisher in Warsaw, asking permission to translate it into Polish.

AT a recent meeting of the Toronto City Council by-laws received their first reading providing that the duty to be paid for tavern licenses to be issued for the year, commencing May 1 next, shall be \$600 in ad dition to the \$150 payable under the Liquor License Act, and that the number of tavern licenses shall not exceed 100, also, that the duty for shop licenses shall be \$500 in addition to the \$100 payable under the Act, and that the number of such licenses shall not exceed twenty. Such a move is decidedly in the interest of Temperance.

The father of the Free Church and of all the Churches in Scotland is Dr. Beith, of Stirling, ordained in 1822 and Moderator of Assembly in 1858, of the Established Church, Dr. Grant, of St. Mary's, Edinburgh, ordained in 1824 and Moderator in 1854, and of the United Presbyterian Church, Dr. Peddie, of Edinburgh, ordained in 1828 as colleague to his father, Dr. James Peddie, who was minister of Bristo Place congregation from 1783 to 1845. The above are not the oldest men in the ministry. The fathers of the Churches respecting age are, in the Established Church, Rev. James Fleming, of Troon, and in the Free Church, Rev. David Waters, of Burghead, and Rev. James Beattie, of Balmullo, Cupar-Fife, who are all in their tenth decade.

A NEW departure in the public school affairs of New York has been instituted by Mayor Grace, in

the appointment of two women to the Board of Education. The appointees were Miss Grace H. Dodge, daughter of William E. Dodge, and Mrs. Mary Nash Agnew, wife of Dr. Agnew. Both are ladies of the highest social and intellectual standing. Both are already well known in philanthropic work, Miss Dodge in particular having striven long and successfully to brighten the lives of young women in New York City. The sentiment in regard to their appointment seems to be one of almost universal gratification, not only in the fact that they are women, but such women. Woman is the natural trainer and educator of children up to the age when they may be supposed to have completed the common school course.

THE fact that there will be two vacancies to fill up in the Free Church College at Aberdeen, says the Presbyterian Messenger, has furnished an opportunity for some suggestions to be made which look in the direction of abolishing it as a distinct theological institution. It has been said that it costs too much in proportion to the number of students trained at it. We imagine, however, that the good folks of the Granue City will rise up in arms against having their college taken from them; not to speak of the fact that it might prove rather difficult to transfer the endowments to Edinburgh or Glasgow. One suggestion is that the college at Aberdeen should be made a missionary college. The matter, however, has only begun to be discussed, and nothing will be settled, at any rate, till the Assembly meets.

At the October simultaneous meetings, organized by the Church Missionary Society in Dublin, Mr. Blacknew, R.N., summed up the missionary enter prise of Reformed Christendom in the following words. The Church of England contributed to the cause \$2,655,000; the English Nonconformists, \$1,265,000; Scotland and Ireland and the Colonies, \$1,220,000, and the Americans, \$3,535,000, embracing in all 140 societies, spending on the grand object, \$10,714,000. In all, there were to day 3,000 ordained Christian missionaries, 2,370 orda ed native missionaries and 815 Christian laymen working in the mission field, while there were 2,430 women engaged in that work abroad. There were native workers, evangelists and catechists to the number of 26,800; native communicants 776,000, and close upon 3,000,000 of native Christians.

WHAT Mr. Ashe says in his last letter from Uganda reads like the narratives of the first Christian century: Most of our work is now carried on in secret and under the cover of darkness. At first, when the storm broke upon us, all was darkness and fear. We knew the slaughter had been terrible, but who the slain were we knew not. After a while, at dead of night, one well-known face was joyfully well omed and then another. Soon many came, and with thankful hearts we found that though many had fallen, many, many more had escaped, and are now hiding. On June 30, Bekweyamha, the young chief whom I mentioned of the royal family of Unyoro, came, as also an old reader named Lukai, and were baptized; also a boy named Mudembuga, who is a very earnest little reader, and who would have been baptized some months ago but was hindered from coming on the day fixed. The same letter contains the account of other baptisms, making twenty-three in all subsequent to the massacres.

At a recent special meeting of the London, Eng., Presbytery there was an animated and interesting discussion on the following motion submitted by Dr. Oswald Dykes. That, in the judgment of this Presbytery, the condition of our home population, both in town and country, calls not only for a vigorous prosecution of home mission work through existing agencies, but also for the employment by the Church, under suitable regulations, of ordained missionary ministers for evangelizing among those classes which absent themselves from the ordinary services of the

Church. The Rev. William Fraser moved an amend ment to the effect that the ministers of the Church ought to be employed in evangelizing for five or six weeks at a time, as was done in the Free Church of Scotland. He contended that the adoption of the motion would tend to lower the status of the ministry. After prolonged discussion, two voted for Mr. Fraser's amendment and thirty for Dr. Dykes' motion. The English Presbyte an Church recognizes the necessity for earnest, energetic and properly-organized evangelistic work.

Why such a genial man as the Autocrat of the Breakfast-table should have committed the inexcusable blunder he did in his poetic reference to Princeton at the Harvard celebration is a fresh illustration that the unexpected happens. Referring to this matter, the last number of the New York Independent says: It is sincerely to be regretted that any such unpleasantness should have resulted from the Harvard celebration as that existing between Princeton and Harvard. The breach, however, has been partially healed. Dr. McCosh has written a letter expressing his acceptance of the explanation given by Dr. Holmes, that only two lines of his poem relate to Princeton. But there remains to Dr. McCosh the grievance in the matter of degrees. He says, "I still feel that I have the same right to give expression to my feelings of indignation as Harvard had to withhold the recognition she gave to others." Of course he has the right; and it is not strange that he should feel as he does. We can hardly believe, however, that Harvard really intended to slight Princeton, although we are not a little surprised at the oversight. President McCosh, as is well known, received his honours from Harvard nearly a score of years ago, and he personally could receive nothing more. But it is a little curious, when honours were flying about so freely, that nothing fell on the Princeton sands. Princeton, in its college and its theological seminary, is rich in men whom the world honours. The names of Young, Brackett, Dr. Alexander A. Hodge, who has since died, Dr. Green and Dr. Patton, instantly occur among others to any scholar. Perhaps some of them, like Dr. McCosh, have already been recogby our senior university.

In the death of William Tassie, LL.D., Ontario has lost one of her most distinguished educationists. The end was sudden and unlooked for. He died at Peterboro' on Sabbath week after a very brief illness. A man of rare culture, sensitively conscientious and honourable, he was a sound Presbyterian and a sincere Christian. Dr. Tassie was to be ordained to the eldership in St. Paul's Church, Peterboro', the day he died. He was born in Dublin, May 10, 1815, and spent his boyhood in study in his native city. In 1834 he came with his father's family to Upper Canada, and taught and continued his studies at Oakville and Hamilton until 1853, when he took charge of the Galt Grammar School, which some years later became a collegiate institute. Under his skilful management the school acquired more than a national reputation, and boys were sent to it from c.ery part of Canada and from nearly every State of the Union. The school was noted for its excellence of discipline and the thoroughness of its training, and its pupils were always amongst the most successful of the matriculants at the Provincial University. A few years ago Dr. Tassie severed his connection with the Galt school, and for a time taught a private school in Toronto. He was subsequently head master of the Peterboro Collegiate Institute, which position he held at the time of his death. He was at one time a member of the Senate of Toronto University, from which institution he graduated in 1855. In 1871 Queen's College, Kingston, conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws, a distinction rarely granted by that institt tion. The tidings of his death will be heard with sorrow by many to whom he was well known, and especially by the thousands of his former pupils who are scattered throughout Canada and the United States,