

THE CHESTER D. DEACONESS INSTITUTION.

The Chester Diocesan Deaconess Institution has lately issued its report for 1892. In this the work of a deaconess in a parish is stated as follows:

A parochial deaconess occupies towards her incumbent a position similar to that of a curate, and her appropriate work is the superintendence of the women's work in the parish, or so much of it as he may choose to place under her care. Of course, her work depends entirely upon his plans for his parish, as a curate's would, but its main feature is usually parochial visiting. This may be either (a) in a given district allotted to her, or (b) generally, over the whole parish, so that she may be able to talk over difficulties with the district visitors, and help them with special cases; she thus supplies a sort of centre for the other women workers, being ready to help and advise, or to supply the place of any among them who are temporarily absent, so as to fill up gaps and prevent lapses in the various parts of parochial machinery. The supervision of the nursing among the sick poor, help in confirmation classes, temperance and rescue work, work in Sunday and day schools, classes, meetings, and parochial societies, are all matters in which she is trained to assist the parish priest. Her work is reported to him regularly, and she acts systematically as his agent and messenger among the people. Five deaconesses are already working in the Chester diocese, and three ladies are in training for the office.

The Duke of Westminster, at a Diocesan Conference, described Mr. Gladstone (until lately his intimate friend) as a "minister of consummate ability, which neither age nor time seemed to impair in any measure, who had proved himself to be utterly unscrupulous, who had disregarded every shred of principle and honour." In his new book, the "Supplement" to "Notes of My Life," Archdeacon Denison relates that one night, sixty years ago, Dr. Sanders, mathematical Tutor at Christ Church and afterwards Dean of Petersborough, "a man who of all men had the deepest and clearest insight into character and greatest power of predicting consequent issues in after life," said to him in answer to the query, "What have you to tell me about Gladstone?" "I will tell you all about him in one minute; his conscience is so tender that he will never go straight."

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