

The Dominion Presbyterian

IS PUBLISHED AT

370 BANK STREET - OTTAWA

—AND AT—

Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg.

TERMS: One year (50 issues) in advance..... \$1.20
Six months..... 75

CLUBS of Five, at same time..... 5.00

The date on the label shows to what time the paper is paid for. Notify the publisher at once of any mistake on label.

Paper is continued until an order is sent for discontinuance, and with it, payment of arrearages.

When the address of your paper is to be changed see 1 the old as well as new address.

Sample copies sent upon application.

Send all remittances by check, money order or registered letter, made payable to THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

ADVERTISING RATES.—15 cents per agate line each insertion, 14 lines to the inch, 14 inches to the column. Letters should be addressed:

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN,

P.O. Drawer 1070, Ottawa

J. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Manager and Editor

Ottawa, Wednesday, Dec. 16 1903.

The stock of books in the old established Upper Canada Tract Society's rooms in Toronto is large, varied and most attractive. The managers can suit the requirements of the purchaser of limited means as well as the man with a large bank deposit.

At this season of the year many people are somewhat puzzled to know what to buy as a Christmas present. Books, we venture to suggest, are always in order, and the best of books is the Bible. Wm. Briggs, Toronto, in another column, advertises a varied assortment of Bibles, from which the most exacting can easily make a selection.

The Fleming H. Revell large book premises on Richmond Street, Toronto, is an inviting sight at this season of the year. The stock of books in general and religious literature is unusually complete; while the most exacting purchaser will find a handsome lot of Christmas cards from which to make a selection.

Nearly 40 years of success and an army of 10,000 satisfied ex-students is the record of the Ottawa Business College, Ottawa, Ont. Write for the handsome catalogue of this splendid school and arrange to enter on the opening of the Winter Term, January 4th.

The publication by the Toronto News on Saturday last of a holiday number consisting of 52 full sized pages was a unique accomplishment. This we believe is the largest one cent paper ever published in Canada. At the popular price of \$1.00 a year The News now finds its way into all parts of the Dominion. It is not so much the price of the paper, however, which is giving The News such a lead over its competitors as the fact that the public are discovering the merits of the paper itself. All who have not seen the News in its new dress should write to Toronto for a sample copy.

FROM SKEPTICISM TO FAITH.

The Homiletic Review for December contains an article worthy of being kept in every minister's library. It is written by Rev. James Orr, D. D., Professor of Systematic Theology in the United Free Church College, Glasgow, Scotland. As Dr Orr says, we have for years been hearing of the drift from faith to skepticism on the part of men of science, but we do not bear so much of the greater drift from skepticism to faith. A quarter of a century ago there was, in Germany and Great Britain, an outburst of aggressive materialism which made it appear as if science were head on steadily towards unbelief. These currents, set in motion by men like Huxley, Tyndall, Spencer and Darwin, Dr Orr asserts, are no longer the dominant ones, and it is a misstatement to say the best scientific thought is in estrangement from Christian faith.

A remarkable case is that of the late George G. Romanes, the eminent scientific man and investigator, who was for many years in the foremost ranks of unbelief. Mr Romanes swung back to faith, and died a devout believer, in full communion with the Church of England. Specially interesting is his avowal in his posthumously published "Thoughts on Religion," that one thing that specially impressed him was the number of Christian men of scientific attainments in his own University of Cambridge.

Among the names mentioned by Dr Orr is that of Lord Kelvin, than whom no man stands higher in physical and mathematical science. Lord Kelvin not long ago, at the close of a public lecture, stated that science not only did not deny, but positively affirmed the reality of creature power and of directive intelligence. In a more recent letter he adds: "I have many times, in my published writings, within the last fifty years, expressed myself decidedly, on purely scientific grounds, against atheistic and materialistic grounds."

Occasionally, young men pick up the idea that the big men of science past and present are skeptics; whereas, Dr Orr shows, the very opposite is the case. A little scientific learning may lead to skepticism; the deeper scientific research leads on to faith.

PRAYER MEETING PROBLEMS.

One of the most difficult problems in church life would appear to be the proper management of the mid-week meeting. Usually the attendance is not large; often the interest is not marked; sometimes formality and coldness take possession. What is the prayer-meeting for? If it is in any case defective, are the defects remediable? What is a good prayer-meeting? Is that the proper title for the mid-week meeting? Do the young people attend? Do the men come out? An interchange of views is often a good thing; accordingly THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN invites discussion of the whys and wherefores involved in the above queries respecting the mid-week meeting.

NEWS FROM INDIA.

(From Our Correspondent.)

Dr. Woods of the Central India Mission, who felt compelled some months ago to resign, has returned to Canada and is making his home for the present near Brockville. It is a matter of real regret that one who has spent about ten years in the work and had therefore become familiar with the people and the work at a time when medical missionaries are so much needed and have so many open doors of usefulness, should be lost to the church that has in a manner been at the expense of his apprenticeship. The Indian Mission troubles are evidently not at an end. Dr Woods will probably go back under another mission board.

The plague is now very severe in Neemuch Camp. On Sabbath Oct 18 there were 45 deaths. Dr. Margaret McKellar is in the midst of it trying to give, where possible, help to all classes but especially to the women and children.

The plague is still raging in both Mhow and Indore and Drs. Chas. Oliver and Turnbull are passing through a most trying time. The medical work was divided, Dr. Turnbull taking the plague cases whilst Dr. Oliver took charge of the maternity and other cases, but they found it almost impossible to preserve the division. Dr. Turnbull spends much time in the plague camp and in visiting the women in their homes. All bear testimony to their earnest, faithful self-sacrificing efforts. Mr. Johory, too, has proved in his trying time such a true pastor and devoted christian, fearlessly doing what he can to relieve the sufferers about him.

The plague has now also reached Dhar where already they have had over 40 cases. Dr. O'Hara is single handed battling with it as Mr. F. Russell and family have been moved to Rutlam, but probably another will be sent to be at least her companion. The care of all the famine children in such circumstances must be a serious one and we may be sure Dr. O'Hara will not spare herself in her efforts to help those seized with the plague.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and Mr. and Mrs. King have returned from Simla, the Hill Station. Mrs Taylor was at Indore but expected to go to Mhow. Whilst Mrs. Taylor and children would remain at Ujjain where as yet there is no plague. Mr. and Mrs. King were at Ujjain but were not expected to return soon to Indore.

William Briggs, Toronto, sends THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN a handsome illustrated "Holiday Book Catalogue" in which there are quite a number of works by Canadian authors.

The Ministerial Association of Owen Sound has had a religious census of the town taken, and the gratifying information has been gathered that the number of those who do not attend church is comparatively small. The veteran minister, Rev Robt. Rodgers, who compiled the results of the census, says that the results will undoubtedly be beneficial to the various churches in the Association. One pastor found on the information slips the names of some marked as adherents of his church whom he had never heard of before. All such will doubtless be visited and an effort made to bring them into closer touch with the church.