



Their Excellencies, Lord and Lady Grey (latter with umbrella) receiving their guests at a Garden Party given by them in Toronto on Saturday last.



The Refreshment Tent, which was well stocked and well patronised.



Mr. D. D. Mann's House, where Their Excellencies lodged during their Toronto visit.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY A. A. GLEASON

Royal Society of Canada

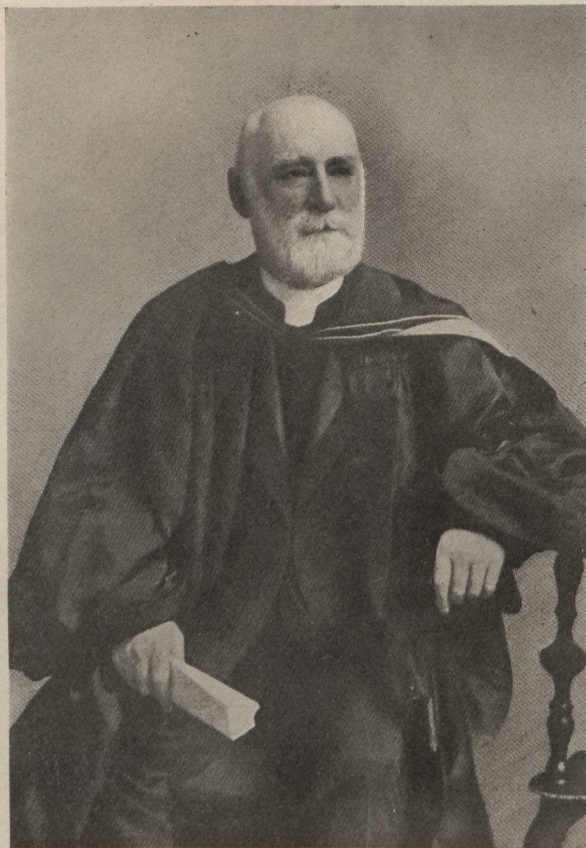
By J. M. PATTON

THE Royal Society of Canada, the country's court of last resort in matters intellectual, has been in session during the past week in Ottawa. It is a venerable body to which every respect is due; for it is composed of men of prestige and position in their respective fields of work and is, moreover, eminently representative of Canadian intellectual life.

Indeed, the highest honour in the gift of the Society, the presidency, goes this year to a Western man, Rev. Dr. George Bryce, of Manitoba University. Dr. Bryce is, to be sure, a native of Ontario, owning as his birthplace the little village of Mount Pleasant. He is, too, a graduate of the Provincial University at Toronto and of Knox College, but he has been for many years identified with educational and other interests in the West. He was the first pastor of Knox Church, Winnipeg, and was instrumental in founding Manitoba College and Manitoba University, at which latter he now holds a professorship. Prof. Ramsay Wright, of Toronto University, is the new vice-president, whilst Mr. Lawrence M. Lambe of the Canadian Geological Survey and Dr. W. D. LeSueur, both of Ottawa, were honoured by being re-elected treasurer and secretary respectively.

The meetings of the Royal Society do not appeal strongly to the general public, even in Ottawa. That this should be the case is a fact which at first strikes a person with some surprise. In the face of this comparative indifference on the part of the public and the press he is led to ask what are the supposed functions of this assembly of notables, how does it endeavour to perform them and in how far is it successful in its efforts? It cannot, at present, be said of the Royal Society of Canada, as it has been said of the French Academy, that its paramount function is "to impose a high standard in matters

of intellect and taste." With the energy of our Anglo-Saxon ancestry surging in our veins, with



Rev. Dr. George Bryce, of Manitoba University, recently elected President of the Royal Society of Canada.

our American admiration of "the man who does things," and with so great a mass of raw material yet to be sifted in our history and literature, our attention must be turned more to the investigation of sources and the examination of first-hand materials. At a later stage in our intellectual development we can properly welcome the predominance of selection, of conservation and of refinement. Now this preliminary work that is first required in the literary and historical spheres of the Royal Society's labours is of as little interest to the general public as is the highly technical investigations of science.

While, then, the public may seem indifferent to the proceedings of such bodies as the Royal Society it is by no means so apathetic towards the great body of writers and investigators who build upon the results obtained by the members of such societies. Both the savant and the practical man are essential to each others success; it took Faraday and Bell together to give us the telephone, and the efforts of both Hertz and Marconi were necessary to give us wireless telegraphy. It must be admitted that the Royal Society of Canada is doing excellent work in these preliminary and basic investigations and that it is solicitous that the results of its labours should be available to those who can use them. During the past year it issued some twelve hundred copies of the reports of its transactions, a great many of which are placed in public libraries throughout Canada, where they can be consulted by all who desire to do so. Through its affiliated societies it is reaching into special and local fields of research, while its membership is being kept in touch with the latest development in literature and science by such means as the Society's delegation to the British Association which meets in Winnipeg the coming August and by being placed on the mailing lists of similar foreign societies. Canada needs such institutions as the Royal Society and as she grows the need for them will be all the more evident.