

## THE CHURCH AT WORK.

Whatever will lead to a realization of the duties and privileges of Church membership cannot fail to be greatly helpful to the individual Christian and to the Church of God. A new method for this purpose, adopted by the pastor and Official Board of the Metropolitan church in this city, has already proven to be of marked advantage. In connection with the regular communion service membership cards have been issued to all whose names are upon the church roll. This involved, in many cases, personal visitation in the homes by the class-leaders or by visitors appointed to assist them. The result was that never were so many religious calls made in this large congregation as during the busy weeks at the close of the year, and never was there so large an attendance at the covenant and communion service, notwithstanding the cold and stormy weather.

This method brings the membership into closer touch with one another. Opportunities are given for kind words of exhortation to those whose attendance at class-meetings had become lax, and of cordial invitation to persons not members to begin the new year by an earnest purpose to serve God in newness of life. The unity of the Christian brotherhood, the solidarity of the Church of God, is thus emphasized. A deeper meaning is given to the clause of the Creed, "I believe in the communion of saints." The importance, also, of obedi-

to our Lord's command, "Do this in remembrance of me," is also emphasized.

It also has its effect in reminding the membership of the privilege and obligation of attendance at class, and in making the tie of Christian brotherhood more strongly felt. It is like the military summons, "close up the ranks," or like the exhortation of the apostle, "stand fast in the faith." This means literally "stand in the phalanx" for Christian conflict and conquest. It gives, too, an opportunity for personal effort and for the forward movement of the Church of God. "The object of the Church," says Hugh Price Hughes, is

"NOT TO CODDLE THE SAINTS, BUT TO  
COLLAR THE SINNERS."

Hence the workers of his great West London Mission go out into the highways and byways, and with a Christian compulsion and persuasion bring the wanderers from God to the Gospel feast. If the Methodist Church and other Churches of this land would but realize their opportunity, would but seek a fresh baptism of power from on high, and go forth feeling the obligation for each individual member to do his uttermost for the extension of God's kingdom, they would become an irresistible force. Many forms of evil that curse our land would be abolished, civic righteousness would be established, and the liquor traffic would be destroyed.

## HUSBANDING SPIRITUAL FORCE.

One of the greatest evils of our time is the frivolous superficiality which has become so widespread. It enfeebles the brain and undermines the character. But silly youths are not likely to study these pages. Our readers are in danger from a totally different direction. They are serious, intense, enthusiastic. They do not need to be warned against the stupid idolatry of mere athletics, the demoralizing tendency of realistic novel reading, the fatal effect of everlasting sensuous excitement. But one of their easily besetting sins is to dissipate their spiritual force by attempting too much in too many directions. There are so many fascinating

spheres, so many openings for high endeavour, such a bewildering variety of spiritual and social work. We must beware of the Athenian craze for constant novelty. It has been well said that it is an essential part of wisdom to be wisely ignorant of many things. We may surely add that it is an equally essential part to leave many things undone.

It used to be said of the illustrious Dr. Whewell that science was his forte, and omniscience his foible. Let us beware of that foible. We cannot know everything, and we cannot do everything. The boy who greedily grasps at too many apples drops them all. Whatever is worth doing