

THE fourth public meeting of the Students' Missionary Society took place on Friday evening, the 15th inst. Robert Kilgour, Esq., occupied the chair. The president of the Society, Mr. Wm. Farquharson, gave an address on "Missionary Zeal in Colleges: How to Foster it." A report of mission work in South Manitoba was read by C. W. Gordon, and a paper on "China," by J. Goforth. Rev. R. P. MacKay, M.A., of Parkdale, gave a stirring address. These public meetings are usually well attended and have been the means of creating much interest in the extensive work done by the Society.

THE old story about the dreaded "spare-room" is going the rounds again. It has been told over and over again by almost every student who has filled appointments during the winter months. We do not doubt the hospitality of the friends who lodge "the minister" in "the best room," which is never used but on rare occasions. Their hospitality is sincere, but mistaken, and decidedly chilling. To suppose that because a man is a minister he can find comfort in a damp room, cold and clammy, haunted by the ghosts of his frozen predecessors, is a great mistake. It is often said that before a student has finished his theological course he is more fit for the hospital than for the pulpit. In some cases this is true, and true because he has spent too many nights in "the spare-room." The very thought of some of them is enough to make one shiver.

VACATION seems to have been pretty generally enjoyed by the students. The four or five gentlemen who remained in the college say they had "a quiet time." Few songs were sung, few noises were made, few practical jokes played. Those who went away have all returned hale and hearty, giving interesting accounts of their varied experiences. Some talk about the bad roads and small congregations. Some ring the changes on "turkey, cranberry sauce and plum-pudding." The experience of some includes the inevitable Christmas entertainment with the inevitable tea-meeting speech. The memories of some go back to the New Year's calls with the coffee and cake—and subsequent dyspepsia. Then there are others who say little but think much about their Christmas experiences. "Tommy Traddles" still has "the best girl in the world."

AT the last ordinary meeting of the Literary Society, an animated discussion arose on the question of Post-graduate Mission-work. It became evident that the majority of the students are strongly in favor of such mission work. The Assembly's law as it now stands receives little support, because it seems perfectly plain that "six months' mission work" would, in most cases, be a disadvantage to the graduate and not much benefit to the field. But let the time be made twelve months instead of six, and we feel sure the students of Knox College will be the last to disapprove or protest. Our experience in the many mission fields of the Church, our personal knowledge of the pressing needs of these fields—all the more pressing that ignorant, conceited, fanatical proselytisers are making sad havoc not only of Presbyterianism, but also of true religion—has convinced us that if our Church is to hold her own, not simply against other churches, but against worldliness, irreligion and vice, far more must be done than has yet been attempted. The younger men must go to the front.