

Notes of the Week.

THE Provincial Board of Health has recently issued, by order of the Legislature, its fourth annual report. This Board has rendered excellent public service since its appointment, and especially during last year. There is no doubt that by the unremitting vigilance of the officials the ravages of small-pox were averted from the Province. The amount of useful hygienic information disseminated by the Board is productive of the best possible results.

IN his final sermon to the Third Church congregation, Chicago, Dr. Kittredge stated that, during the sixteen years of his pastorate, the Church had received 1,684 members on profession and 1,784 by letter. Its present membership is about 2,300. It was also stated that the attendance upon the weekly prayer meetings during the past year had been from six to eight hundred, and that during the last sixteen years the Church had gathered 2,000 children into its Sabbath school.

ONE of the greatest undertakings of the century, so far as Canada is concerned, is the successful completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. This gigantic highway is now open from ocean to ocean. Its enterprising managers evidently have the ambition to girdle the globe, so that if their projects are realized, one could make a tour round the world *via* the C.P.R. This material triumph, which will largely benefit the North-West, should impress us with the conviction that moral triumphs must not be left to lag behind.

THE *Liverpool Journal of Commerce* states that the Beaver Line steamer, *Lake Superior*, took out to Quebec a batch of youthful emigrants, consisting of 200 boys from Dr. Barnardo's Homes, and 150 boys and girls from Mr. Middlemore's Home in Birmingham. The boys and girls, who were all smartly dressed and healthy-looking, and had the appearance of having been well cared for, were marched down to the steamer. Dr. Barnardo, with his assistants, and Mr. Middlemore were present, the latter accompanying the children to Canada to superintend the placing of them in situations. The character and conduct of each boy and girl had been carefully inquired into, with a view of making them citizens of whom Canada might be proud. Certainly, judging from their physique, they were all that could be desired, and will receive a hearty welcome in Canada.

JOHN RUSKIN, with his accustomed paradoxical emphasis, has been giving expression to his views as to the evil of incurring debt to build churches. What he says is deserving of serious consideration. If debt is an evil there is no good ground for believing that debt on a church thereby becomes sanctified. Mr. Ruskin lives up to his principles. He will not be a party to incurring a church debt, neither will he put his hand in his pocket to help to pay one. Mr. Shepherd, son-in-law of the late Mr. W. H. Vanderbilt, considers church debt quite objectionable, but he does not aim at being so strictly logical as John Ruskin. Last week at a congregational meeting of one of the oldest Presbyterian Churches in New York, he announced his willingness to pay off an existing debt of \$16,000 on the church. It is needless to add that the offer was cordially accepted.

ONCE more in Toronto an energetic effort is being made to secure the earlier closing of retail stores. Everybody is convinced that the number of hours out of the twenty-four in which these stores are open is far too many. It is also admitted that such a state of things is altogether unnecessary, and that it occasions a condition of servitude akin to slavery. People speak of the drudgery and pitiable pittance paid for labour in former days, but no one thinks of advocating a return to the good old times. Some storekeepers suggest Saturday, and others Wednesday after-

noons, for a half holiday. The end would be gained by each adopting the day that suited them best. The payment of wages during the week would enable people to make their purchases in the daytime, and thus obviate the necessity and the excuse for keeping stores open till Sabbath morning, a practice which of late has been far too common. The movement calls for a common understanding between buyer and seller.

FROM a glance at the calendar of Toronto Baptist College it is evident that this well-equipped institution is doing excellent work in training candidates for the ministry of the Baptist Church. There was a large attendance of students, no fewer than fourteen of whom graduated last session. In McMaster Hall there are six professors, who give instruction in Exegetical, Historical, Dogmatic and Practical Theology, and Christian Ethics. There is one important branch for which some other institutions have made no provision as yet, Biblical Interpretation in English. In this department a professor takes the Old Testament and another the New. Another important chair is that of Christian Ethics, ably filled by Professor Malcolm MacVicar, LL.D. In another respect McMaster Hall is most favourably circumstanced, the calendar says. The honoured founder of the college has assumed the payment of the salaries of all the professors, under certain conditions. What privileges are possessed by men of wealth!

A NOTED Congregational preacher in Scotland, the Rev. William Pulsford, D.D., after a long-continued illness, died on the 15th ult. He had reached his sixty-fourth year. Dr. Pulsford was born in Devonshire, educated at Stepney and Cambridge, and completed his theological course at Halle. Ordained in 1845, he spent some years in London and was then called to the pastorate of Albany Chapel, Edinburgh. There he attracted considerable attention as a profound and thoughtful preacher. Many students of the university and of the theological halls were to be seen weekly among his hearers. In 1862 he was called to Trinity Church, Glasgow, then recently formed with a membership of thirty, but which now numbers upward of 500. In 1868 from the university of Glasgow he received the degree of D.D., and in 1871 he filled the honourable position of chairman of the Congregational Union. He was laid aside by illness in December, 1885. His eldest son, the Rev. W. H. Pulsford, M.A., is settled in Dumfries.

GEORGE MULLER, whose name is so intimately associated with the Bristol Orphanage, died recently in Australia. He was born in 1805, at Kroppensstadt, Saxony. He embraced the doctrines of evangelical Christianity at a time when rationalism was popular in Germany. He went to England in 1829, and laboured for a time as a preacher of the Gospel. Seven years later he opened on a small scale his orphan house at Bristol, where by his devoted life and humble trust in God, he was enabled to accomplish a most important work for the benefit of the helpless and the distressed. The orphanage is carried on by Mr. Muller's son-in-law, Mr. James Wright. In 1875 he felt constrained to visit various countries as a preacher of evangelical truth. On this mission he travelled over Europe. He also visited America, and was in Toronto, where he spoke on the work to which the greater part of his long life had been devoted. He visited Asia Minor, Palestine and India, and last year he left for Australia, where he finished his course about a month ago.

THE *Glasgow Christian Leader* says. The proposed annexation by the French is the question of the hour in New South Wales, where the people, under the virile leadership of Sir Henry Parkes, are indignantly denouncing the policy of compromise favoured by the Government. The pulpit and the press are united on the question, the only exception being Bishop Barry, who, though professing himself strongly in sympathy with its purpose, refused to take part in

a public meeting on the ground that the subject had become "intimately associated with the struggles of political party." With this excuse he justified himself in doing nothing to further the wishes of the natives of the New Hebrides to be British subjects, and in withholding his aid from the threatened cause of Protestant missions. The bishop seems to have inflicted a severe blow on his reputation and influence by this timid policy; and it certainly reduces his liberal talk about union among the Churches to a nullity. In Victoria and New Zealand, as well as in New South Wales, the courts of the Presbyterian Church have not been slow to make their minds known; and a fire has been kindled all over Australasia which trimming politicians will find it hard to put out.

MR. MATHISON, Superintendent of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Belleville, writes: Kindly allow me to say to your readers that the Institution is open to the deaf children of the Province, and every deaf mute child in Ontario, whether the parents are poor or rich, may share in the many advantages the Institution affords, such as tuition, board, care, etc. There are many parents of such children who do not know of this place, and persons who will inform them of what the Province has so generously provided for their children will confer a lasting obligation. With such an education as may be had here, the mute is enabled to take his or her place as respectable members of society and law-abiding citizens and learn of the glorious life beyond. Over 700 mute children have been entered upon our books and the large majority of them spread over the Province bear testimony to the good work already accomplished. We have a full staff of capable, devoted teachers in the literary and industrial departments. We are doing all we can for those afflicted in this way and we are anxious to do whatever work of this kind there is to do. There will be room for all who can come in September next, and in the meantime, it will give me pleasure to supply application papers and necessary information to any one who may apply.

IN an excellent article on the annual assemblages of the Churches the *Orillia Packet* says. Quite frequently we hear and read that preaching is losing its power; that the Churches are losing their hold upon the community; that infidelity in its different phases is honeycombing society, and that the time is not far distant when men will do without Church or Bible. The cry is a huge delusion so far as Canada is concerned. There never was a time in the history of this country when the different Evangelical Churches made greater progress than they are making at the present time. There never was a time when they had more influence, or were on the whole better supported by the people. It is also asserted, often with thoughtless flippancy, that the people are restless, weary of and disgusted with old theology, old creeds, old catechisms, and old symbols of every kind. This is another huge delusion. If there is one Church more than another noted for its firm adherence to its standards, that Church is probably the Presbyterian. The returns submitted at the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church at the late meeting in Hamilton, show that the Presbyterians of Canada raised last year over a million and a half—an amount quite as large in proportion to their numbers as the amount raised by the American Church. Whatever else may be said about Presbyterian people, it is a long time since anybody tried to prove that they are fools. They never would have paid these millions unless they had confidence in the object for which they were paying their money. What is true of the Presbyterian Churches is true no doubt of every other Evangelical Church in the country. Whatever talk there may be about waning power in the pulpit, loss of influence over the people, and all that sort of thing, when the returns are made up at the Church parliaments in June, it is always shown that in every, or nearly every, Church there has been gratifying progress, made during the year.