

tense appreciation of the great importance of the rite, such as perhaps can only come from a study of such results as appear in these tables. When personal advice is impracticable, some ministers have found that the presentation to the newly married couple of one of the little manuals on marriage has brought many grateful acknowledgments and done great good.

Prison Reform.

SIDE by side with the questions of divorce and intemperance, in their practical relation to the clergy of the country, is that of prison reform, not merely theoretical and legislative, but practical; such as lies within the reach of every Christian man, especially the Christian minister. We shall be very glad if our readers will send us as full answers as possible to the following questions:

1. What prisons and poor-houses are there in your immediate vicinity, and what is the average number of inmates?
2. What is the condition of the buildings? Are they well kept, clean, and healthy? How much space is allowed each individual?
3. What efforts are being made to reach the inmates with the gospel? Are there Sunday and week-day services, and what proportion of the inmates attend those services?
4. What results of Christian work among the inmates are seen in the adoption of Christian life, during and after confinement? What proportion, so far as can be ascertained, lead a reformed life after serving the term of sentence?

THE recent disclosures by Dr. E. M. Hunt in regard to some of the prisons in New Jersey reveal a condition of things that would be supposed impossible in Christian America. To confine eighty-five men in twelve rooms, each seven feet by nine, thus giving to each man scarcely nine square feet, barely enough to lie down in, is only less inhuman than the exile systems of Siberia. The women fared somewhat better. There were only nineteen, black and white, of all ages and nationalities, in a

room twenty feet by thirty! What hope of reform to those who are herded together in this way? Yet each one of them has a soul, a soul for which Christ died, and for which the Master will hold his disciples, at least in a degree, responsible. Brother pastor, do you know about the prison, or the poor-house in your own vicinity? Are you doing all in your power that those who have broken the laws of men as well as of God may know of the pardon for all, and the hope for each, however degraded, of attaining to the glory of the Saviour's image?

THE popular verdict on the recent outrage at Wesleyan University, at Middletown, Conn., and the discussion in regard to the "fast set" at Harvard, are indications that the public is genuinely alive to the welfare of those who are soon to take the lead in national life. That there has been a great advance in the general tone of college life will be admitted on all sides. There is, however, still room for improvement. Churches, parents, and especially pastors, should keep in mind that character grows during vacation just as fast as during term time, sometimes faster, and that outbreaks of college life are largely but the natural result of home and community influence, or perhaps lack of influence. Pastors, keep an eye on your college boys when home for their vacation. Sympathize with them, encourage them, check them if necessary, help them all you can.

A GENTLEMAN, well known in literary circles, was speaking the other day about patience, and said:

"There is one thing that almost everybody, especially a minister, needs; that is *intellectual* patience. You get hold of a good idea. You feel sure it is good. But somehow it doesn't develop as you would like. You work at it, twist and turn it, but it stays about the same, and you are very apt to let it drop, with the feeling that perhaps it was not so good as you thought. Be patient. Let it rest. Ideas, like children, and grown people, too, have to sleep. Don't drop it, but quietly lay it aside for the time being. After a day or two take it up again; it will probably have grown. Wait a little longer and you will be astonished at its development."