

ence, and my observation of the methods of some sagacious physicians of sick or troubled souls. If there be any class in the congregation to whom a pastor's door should always "stand ajar," and who should always have a cordial welcome, it is that class who are seeking spiritual guidance. However busy you are, gladly lay aside your sermon or your books, and give attention to those with whom the Holy Spirit is striving. It is a good plan to have a fixed hour of some afternoon or evening in every week, when you will be happy to see any one who may call for strictly religious conversation.

But there are times when the spirit of God is manifestly moving upon the hearts of your people, and you will require more frequent opportunities to get into contact with awakened souls. Shrewd old Dr. Lyman Beecher, who had great skill in conducting revival work, used to say that he never publicly appointed an inquiry meeting unless he knew that there would be one or more persons to attend it; but as soon as he discovered any inquirers, he arranged at once for such a meeting. The most commonly chosen time for such interviews is at the close of the services on the Sabbath or during the evenings of the week. The place for the interviews may be either in the lecture-room or the pastor's study, or whatever other convenient place that may be most free from interruptions. The invitation to all seeking souls should be as cordial as possible. Many cases will come before a pastor that require more full and extended treatment than can be given during the brief time allotted to a meeting. The best way to reach these individual cases is to visit them at their residences, or to appoint an hour when they can call at your study. Some people are very shy about speaking of their inner heart-experiences before others, and must be seen, like Nicodemus, privately. Others have complications of difficulties and hindrances that require long and patient handling. One of the best men in my church crept along like a snail for many weeks, and wanted to have every stone removed out of his path. It is very important for a pastor to study human temperaments; and there are some persons of naturally slow and cautious temperament who will not be hurried even in securing their own salvation, push them as much as we may.

There is no place on earth where a minister of Jesus Christ should more fervently seek his Master's presence and the guidance of His Spirit than in a meeting of anxious inquirers. No rash, inexperienced person or fanatical rider of religious "hobbies" should be allowed to enter an inquiry-room. Some very well-meaning people are only successful in bungling. Surely we would not call in the first person who was passing our doors to prescribe for a case of dangerous sickness in our family; and it is no less hazardous to permit an inexperienced Christian to come in and apply his crude and unwise methods to one who is settling the most momentous of all questions. An earnest zeal and a copy of a limp-backed Bible are not always a sufficient equipment for an inquiry-room. When there are but few to be conversed with the pastor had better conduct the