

Who are Members of the Vestry?

SIR.—Will you or some other learned authority explain what in strict law may be termed a member of a vestry? Suppose a man comes to a vestry meeting who never darkens a church door, who only contributes a small sum on the day of the vestry meeting, can he be considered a "member" of the vestry? Can a person who has not been baptized be a member of the vestry? Why is it not compulsory, as it ought to be, for churchwardens to be communicants?

PERPLEXITY.

The Toronto Hospital Chaplains.

SIR.—The Rev. Mr. Caswall's letters on the Toronto charities are interesting, but perhaps your readers would not object to a chapter of more ancient history, of a time comparatively recent, but prior to Mr. Caswall's residence in Toronto. Until 27 years ago the hospital was taken charge of by St. James'. This was the old parish church, and, being so, the late Dean Grasett felt it his duty, either personally or by his curate, to have the hospital regularly visited. But the hospital fell into dire straits from one cause or another. The income fell off so much that it had to be closed. Fancy what Toronto would be now with the hospital closed. All sorts of expedients were resorted to; among them, the late Dr. Beaven opened a small infirmary for poor sick people. After a little time the hospital was re-opened, but your readers must fancy with what poor appliances. As to the chaplaincy, both Dean Grasett and the late Canon Baldwin were growing old, the work was constantly increasing, and the attendance and influence of the curate, though faithful, were inadequate. At the time All Saints' parish was set off, Bishop Bethune was so impressed with the necessity of a special chaplain that in appointing the Rev. Arthur Baldwin incumbent of All Saints', he also appointed him chaplain to the patients at the Toronto General Hospital belonging to the Church of England and to all who desired his services there. I need not dilate on Mr. Baldwin's work, what he did and how he did it—the men whom he practically forced into the hospital to see for themselves, and the ladies who formed committees and supplied what would now be necessaries, and were then unheard of luxuries. But to Mr. Baldwin's appointment the present position of the hospital is largely owing. I have always regretted that no public recognition of his services has ever been given, although I know that by me and other older people they are not forgotten.

SENEX.

Lowering the Standard.

SIR.—As one observes the men ordained from time to time, he cannot but be impressed with the fact that the standard, in many instances, is very much too low. This is particularly apparent in the case of missionary dioceses, where in cases most frequent men of very inadequate preparation are ordained to the ministry of the Church; no doubt such action seems to the Bishops to be the only alternative, but it almost seems shortsightedness, as in the ultimate the Church must feel the deteriorating influence these men have upon the work. In many cases, in fact, we may say in most cases, do we find the Church in this way imposed upon; these men using the missionary diocese as an entrance to the Church, and we observe that as soon as they have been admitted to full orders, they forsake the work to which they were especially ordained, and seek to enter parish work for which they are altogether unqualified, and by so doing, often crowd out men that have spent years of study in the University and Theological College preparatory to their ordination. The Church has for many years been respected very much from the fact that her clergy have been looked upon as an educated body, and quite different from many of the dissenting ministers. Why should we allow this position to be lost, whilst we have in our Church excellent universities and colleges in which men may become properly prepared for the ministry, and each with numerous scholarships and prizes to help the student along? If it be necessary that men be ordained in this way to our missionary dioceses, let it become binding upon them to remain in the diocese as missionaries, for at least a number of years, during which time they should pursue a course of study; and should they desire to enter parish work before the expiration of that time, they be required to take a suitable course at college. Some such plan as this might keep banking clerks, school teachers and such men at their different employments until they think enough of the Church to decide to become properly prepared for the work of the ministry; give us better missionaries and greatly strengthen the Church, by thus securing, in some degree, a soundness of teaching.

LOVER OF TRUTH.

Beeton, Ont., June 10, 1895.

Toronto Hospital and Gaol Chaplaincy.

LETTER III.

SIR.—The work of a chaplain in a large institution must be systematic. I first go to the general office and take down from the entry book the names of new Church of England patients. These sometimes number seven or eight. I visit them first, as there may be amongst them more serious cases than any already in the wards. I introduce myself to them, but must of course be guided by their physical condition, as to the length and character of my visit. In an ordinary case I ascertain the nature of their sickness or accident, and their parish, and on some subsequent occasion whether they are baptized, confirmed and communicants. Many of them come from England, and my familiarity with the Old Country enables me quickly to strike up a friendship with them by conversing briefly about places or people well known to them. In like manner many of our county patients delight to find that I know their own localities and neighbours. We have in the hospital while I write two patients, brother and sister, from Regina, N.W.T., who were formerly my parishioners in Wellington County, Ont. The brother was leader of my choir (as well as in every good work), the sister was an infant whom I baptized; I must not give her away by saying how many years ago, for she is now a full-grown young woman and might not like it. But it serves to remind me how many years have elapsed since I returned again to my native land of Canada, after spending my boyhood and early manhood in England, my father's country. Many hospital visitors seek to know a patient's spiritual state by the question, "Are you saved?" and if the answer is not satisfactory proceed to threaten them with all the terrors of the future world, greatly to the injury of the bodily, mental and spiritual condition. But the patients often have better sense than their would-be teachers; and I have sometimes known a whole ward "on strike," refusing to give any hearing to such persons the next time they came around. In the Primitive Church the "discerning of spirits" was one of the special Apostolic gifts. We cannot exactly claim that it is continued to us still; yet the experience of many years in the ministry should enable one to form a very fair diagnosis of the patient's spiritual state without many direct questions and answers, which often only encourage hypocrisy—as in courts of law circumstantial evidence is often much stronger than that which is more direct. After visiting new patients one has to see cases already known to be serious as frequently as time will allow. Many have to be prepared for their last communion, which sometimes is, unhappily, their first also; some have never been confirmed, but being ready and desirous to be confirmed, the will has to be taken for the deed. About a year ago I thus gave the Holy Communion to one who had an amputation performed, and whose case was long and very serious. After much preparation he received most thankfully what might easily have been his last communion; but God was gracious to him, and he entirely recovered, and only a few days since I received a message from him, through a mutual friend, that he had just been confirmed in one of our churches in the city. I felt glad that I had fully trusted his expressions of desire to be confirmed, and that he had now taken one more step forward on the way to heaven. During the past year I administered Holy Communion to 141 persons, and baptized 9 persons. It is my duty frequently to impress upon patients the power and blessing of prayer. On one occasion I was speaking of this to a middle-aged Englishman, and he replied that ever since his boyhood he had been a firm believer in its efficacy, owing to an instance of it in his own experience. His Sunday-school teacher had been telling the boys about a visit he had recently made to the various holy places in and around Jerusalem. He was so much interested that he greatly longed to go there himself; and having been often taught by his mother to pray to God for anything he required, he went home and prayed earnestly that he might go to Jerusalem; a bold prayer, one might think, for a labourer's son, a little farm boy! and he continued praying for it frequently. After a few years some recruiting officers for the Royal Navy came to his village, and he was then a healthy, strong chap of about 14 or 15; and they asked him to come along with them. His parents consented and he went with them. After a short preparatory training he was assigned to a man-of-war, and on proceeding to sea he found that their destination was the Mediterranean. After a stay for a while at Malta and other stations, their vessel was ordered to cruise about the coast of Syria; and on arriving off Jaffa the captain called the crew together, and said that as they were now not very far from Jerusalem, he would allow those who would like to see it to go there in turn, under the charge of the chaplain, who would explain to them the places they would visit. Our patient gladly accepted the offer, and his prayer was thus fulfilled to the letter.

ROBERT C. CASWALL.

BRIEF MENTION.

India periodicals cover 16 languages.
K.D.C. the quick reliever of indigestion.
The Rev. C. Saddington, Richmond West, sailed for England last Friday.
The Bulgarian brigands are awaiting a favourable opportunity to invade Macedonia.
In the domains of the British Empire alone some 8,000 individuals vanish every year.
K.D.C. is a flesh producer; thin people should use it.
The Connecticut River took its name from the Indian word "Quonaugitoot," meaning "river of trees."
The deepest well on our Atlantic coast is that at the silk works near Northampton, Mass.; depth, 3,700 feet.
The Rev. E. P. Hannington, of Johnston, N.B., is to succeed the Rev. E. A. Warneford at Norton, N.B.
The ladies of St. James' Church, Carleton Place, realized over \$400 from their flower show, held last week.
Bishop Young, of Athabasca, has removed from Edmonton to Athabasca Landing, which will be his residence in the future.
Rev. F. E. Howitt has left the Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, and taken charge of St. George's in the same city.
A church in London still possesses an income originally given to it for the purpose of buying faggots for burning heretics.
In the twenty-one years that the White Star steamer "Germanic" has been in active service she has run over 1,500,000 statute miles.
During 1894 the circulation of Scriptures by the American Bible Society in China was 305,715 volumes, a greater number than ever before.
With a population not much over half that of London, New York City consumes daily 183,000,000 gallons of water, against 190,000,000 for London.
A beggar who died a few weeks ago in Auxerre, France, was found to have a million francs in bonds in a trunk, and in his cellar 400 bottles of wine of the vintage of 1790.
The names of Dean Partridge, Archdeacon Brigstocke and Canon Roberts and G. R. Parker, are among those of persons suggested as President of King's College, Windsor, N.S.
Russian journals are still in mourning for the Czar. They will continue to surround their front page with a border of black until a year shall have elapsed from the date of his death.
The jubilee celebration of Bishops' College, Lennoxville, will take place on June 26th and 27th. The Governor-General and Lieutenant-Governor have promised to attend and accept the degree of D.C.L.
Dr. A. Conan Doyle is living at Davos Platz, Switzerland. He declined a tempting offer for another lecture tour in this country, his principal reason being that American railway cars are so unendurably hot.
Sir Benjamin Richardson, a noted English physician, thinks that the normal period of human life is about 110 years, and that seven out of ten average people ought to live that long if they took proper care of themselves.
At the Women's Auxiliary meeting, Perth, Mrs. Rogers, Treasurer, read a lengthy report, giving in detail the receipts and expenditure of the year. The total receipts were \$2,098.98. Amount contributed for domestic missions, \$1,579.68; for diocesan missions, \$579.30.
The Rev. Reginald H. Starr, D.D., of Dedham, Mass., has been appointed professor of dogmatic theology in the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn., and has entered upon his duties. Rev. Dr. Starr is an old Canadian.
Letter carriers in London sometimes become crazy because of the vast number of streets which have the same name. There are 264 Victoria streets, 241 Cross streets, 240 Albert streets, 212 Church streets, and 191 Queen streets.