

## LAY AGENCY IN THE CHURCH.

The subject of Lay agency in the Church, is attracting much attention in England.

Lieutenant Pocock, of the Royal Navy, who is taking an active part in the movement for organizing a body of "Lay Deacons," publishes, with the Archbishop's sanction, the subjoined appointment, and rules under which those lay deacons who were, some months ago, appointed by him, in the parish of Dover, are now working.

(Copy.)

## APPOINTMENT.

"Charles Thomas, by Divine Providence, Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, to our well-beloved in Christ—, of the parish of—, in our Diocese of Canterbury, greeting.

"Whereas we are duly informed of your desire to assist in the pastoral administration of your parish, by undertaking the work of a lay deacon amongst the people, and under the direction of the parish priest, that—

"We do hereby give you our ordinary authority and commission to execute such office of a lay deacon in the district to be assigned you of the said parish, and according to the rules in that behalf revised and appointed by us.

"Given under our hand this 16th day of October, 1865.

(L.S.)

(Signed.)

"C. T. CAVEAR."

## "RULES.—ST. MARY'S DOVER.

"Each deacon to have a small defined district—He is to devote an hour a day to diaconate work—To acquaint himself by visitation with the names, persons, and calling and habits of the labouring population in his district—To specially seek out such children not baptized, attending no school, being neglected, or otherwise in an outcast state—To mark the case of any outcast adults whom there may appear any chance to reclaim—To note cases of sickness, &c., make them known to the parish priest, and assist in their visitation—To be ministrants of alms to the sick and needy in connexion with lady associates, now known as district visitors—To assist the parish priest in parochial work wherever his services can be of use."

The Bishop of Oxford closed his second Lenten Mission by a conference of the Clergy and Laity, over which he presided and after congratulating the meeting upon the success of the Mission he pointed out the duty of laymen to aid the clergy in their work.

It was wholly impossible that the Church's work should prosper unless the clergy and the laity worked unanimously together in the great work of God. In point of fact it was not the duty of the clergy to do the secular work of the Lord Jesus Christ, of which the lay members were just as essential a component part as those who held office in the Church. It was a mistake to suppose that the clergy were to do all the work, and that the lay members were to have no hand in the conversion of sinners, for it was just as much the duty of every public man to do Christ's work, as it was the duty of the ordained minister in the sacred office which God had given to him. He should be thankful if any of their lay friends or clergymen would suggest, how, under present circumstances, the lay members of the Church and the clergy could act together more unitedly and completely than they had hitherto done, not only in the kindly feeling which so eminently pervaded them in this town, but also in saying what portion of the parish work should devolve upon them. The more the clergy were relieved from the secular part of their office, in order to give them time to devote themselves to the real study of God's Word, the better, and that was just one of the things in which the welfare of the whole community was concerned. If the clergy were shallow in