

that line, and his library will testify to that effect. If not, he should try to acquire some familiarity with scientific discoveries and speculations, even for the sake of their relation to current theological thought; and he should, of course, take his information not at second-hand but from the authors. Men have denounced Darwin and Huxley from the pulpit who had never read any of their works. Besides, one has only to read the writings of some clerical naturalist like the Rev. Hugh Macmillan to see how the physical may helpfully illustrate the spiritual.

Yet it is not for their immediate usefulness in his professional work, nor for the solving of theological problems nor for the preparation of sermons, that the minister should turn to the poets and essayists, the historians and philosophers, who wait for him on his library shelves: rather, it is in order that his own mind shall be invigorated and nourished, his outlook on life be broadened, and the best elements of his nature be developed by his being brought into touch with a larger and more varied circle of human interests. The sentiment of the Roman poet that received the applause of his fellow citizens, "I am a man and consider nothing that is human to be foreign to me," may well be echoed by the Christian minister. Besides, we must not forget Mrs. Browning's counsel about books:—

"We get no good
By calculating profits, so much help
By so much reading, it is rather when
We gloriously forget ourselves and plunge
Soul forward, headlong, into a book's profound,
Impassioned for its beauty and salt of truth,
'Tis then we get the right good from a book."

Of course there are books of reference required by the young minister, into which he cannot be expected thus to plunge soul forward. In addition to his English dictionary and concordance he will need a Cyclopaedia. The *Britannica* is the standard, but for general usefulness he would probably find Chambers' more serviceable, and, in addition to his Scripture Concordance (Young's, of course) he will find much help from the *English Bible Text Cyclopaedia*. Smith's Dictionary of the Bible is invaluable.

Of books bearing distinctively upon the work of the pulpit there is to-day a marvellous abundance. It may be questioned whether, in any other profession, the workman is so well supplied with assistance. Along whatever line his duty or his inclination may