

Catholics. The latter suggestion led to an animated conversation, in which Dr. Osborn, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Prest, Mr. Brown and others took part.

Interposed with the more purely business proceedings of the meeting were several references to general religious experience as are always acceptable in a Methodist gathering. Mr. Lidgett, in terms of affecting simplicity, recalled the time when he was one of eight children in the old home, when the Methodist preacher was most welcome of all guests, and when, as again and again he went with the preacher to guide him to his appointment, the good man would put his hand on his head, and ask if he had entered into personal covenant with God. Mr. Foster Newton urged greater fervency in prayer, especially for the gift of the Holy Ghost; Mr. Cuthbert Bainbridge, coming, as he said, for the first time to Conference, spoke as one in whose heart still burns the fire of revival which it pleased God to bless Newcastle. He urged the supreme importance of preaching clearly and faithfully the doctrine of entire holiness.

These interesting conversations were followed by a consideration of a scheme proposed for the formation of a Connexional Fire Insurance Society, the result of which was that the gentlemen most warm in the advocacy of the project were requested to embody their wishes in a memorial to the Conference. In this as in other schemes for the good of Methodism several lay gentlemen evinced the most praiseworthy generosity.

Friday.

THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION.

The report of the Theological Institution in its three branches was cheering. In Richmond there are 44 students, in Didsbury 69, in Headingley 89. The house governors told of the good health and godly demeanour of these young men, the tutors and examiners of their satisfactory progress in study, and the treasurer of the house in hand. This last result is due to the generous response of the Methodist people to the appeal made to them by a Connexional collection.

Among the subjects dwelt upon in the conversation of the morning, one was the necessity for providing elementary instruction for twelve months for candidates whose education has previously been neglected, before admitting them to the regular course of the Institution. This, it was thought, should be a separate preliminary school. Mr. W. W. Focock and others thought the object might better be attained by a preliminary class in connection with each Institution. We were glad to hear Mr. Pollock refer to the disadvantages arising from the separation of the students for the home and foreign work. We heartily wish they could be intermingled in each of the Institutions, so that an intimacy might always be maintained between the men engaged in the two great departments. It is thought, however, that until the present arrangement has been fairly tried it would be unwise to change it. A very warm tribute to the memory of the late Rev. C. R. Roke was paid by Mr. Prest and Mr. J. Focock.

CHILDREN'S FUND.

The statement made by Dr. Waddy agent the Children's Fund was satisfactory. The fund is working with all advantages in all parts of the country. Cornwall. There, as Mr. W. B. Smith pointed out, owing to the peculiar circumstances of the county, the principal of the fund is thought to operate unjustly. Dr. Waddy combated Mr. Smith's position, but would consent to the appointment of a committee to consider the matter, Dr. Osborn was not indisposed to meet the case of Cornwall if it could be done without interfering with the principle on which the fund was based. It was ultimately determined to defer the consideration of the subject, and to invite the Cornish District to mature some plan to be laid before the Conference next year.

Mr. J. Harvard read a report of a committee appointed to consider the question of additional provision for the education of minister's daughters. A lengthened conversation followed during which Mr. J. Chubb gave an account of the excellent school commenced at Clapton through the exertions of Mrs. Thornton and Miss Gibson, aided by the liberality of friends, and in which thirty-one preachers' daughters are being educated. He stated that the services of these ladies had been altogether gratuitous and disinterested, and that they were now desirous in order to render the institution permanently available, to transfer it, and the property connected with it, as a free gift to the Connexion. After lengthened and careful consideration, the Conference recommended the Conference to accept this generous gift, at the same time tendering hearty thanks to all concerned. They also recommended the establishment of a second school of the same character, and appointed a sub-committee to carry the project into effect. Provision will thus be made for the education of sixty preachers' daughters. This is thought may be done without requiring any public appeal. It is further hoped that the arrangements will ultimately be extended, so as to make provision as adequate for the education of preachers' daughters as is made for the education of their sons.

Saturday.

KINGWOOD AND WOODHOUSE GROVE.

In the brief conversation which this morning followed the reading of the reports on the schools for preachers' sons, Mr. Stamp recalled his own experience as one of the earliest scholars at Woodhouse Grove; Mr. Ingram expressed his joy that so many of the lads were converted; Mr. Haller spoke of the schools as holding the very first rank among institutions of the kind in the country; Mr. J. Hall and others specified cases of distinguished scholastic success among former pupils; and Mr. J. Chubb showed the kindness of his heart by the pleasure he expressed at knowing that the discipline of the schools, though firm was mild, and by saying that he hoped any governors or head masters who found it an interesting and able discipline of shaming would be got rid of. A question was raised by Mr. Currock led to remarks upon a tendency of life at Oxford to alienate Methodist youths from the Church of their fathers. At the same time the meeting heard with pleasure of the fidelity of some of the present students at that University.

THE SABBATH COMMITTEE.

We have space only to point to the report in another part of this paper of the interesting and able speeches in the Committee on Sabbath Observance. The account of eminently successful home mission work given by Mr. Chubb, Mr. J. Hall, and Mr. G. Scott, and the suggestive and practical remarks on the sale of intoxicating liquors on the Lord's-day, on the general question of Sunday trading, and on the divine authority and perpetual obligation of the Sabbath, by Mr. Bedford, Mr. Hargreaves, Dr. Osborn, Mr. Holland,

Mr. M. C. Osborn, Mr. Vasey, Mr. W. Shaw, and others deserve special attention. It will be well, if, in any case, the reading of the conversation lead to the adoption of the various practical suggestions made during the meeting, and especially if, as Mr. Vasey and others suggested, the subject be made one of frequent instruction in the Sunday-school and from the pulpit.

Monday.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE REVIEW.

The revenue of the Missionary Society, its home management, its success abroad—all these subjects, in various aspects, were touched upon in the meeting of this morning. After Mr. Wiseman had read an abstract of the proceedings of the Committee during the year, Mr. J. S. Budgett referred to the debt of £20,000 which the Society is burdened and expressed his desire for its removal. It was even more essential that the regular income of the Society should be increased. Already improved circuit organization has resulted in an increase to the home receipts of £2,000 a year. Now that local chapel efforts had in many instances been completed, it was to be hoped more would be done for missions. Other lay gentlemen during the morning spoke effectively in the same general direction. It was stated that Mr. Hoald, the general treasurer, whose absence through illness was much regretted, had already given £2,000 towards the extinction of the debt. Additional promises were also announced—some of £200, another of £100. The best way our young people can aid the Society in collecting subscriptions is one subject of conversation. Mr. S. D. Waddy pointed out the inconveniences which result from an indiscriminate distribution of the Christmas juvenile collecting cards, and expressed his preference for regular collecting throughout the year, on what is called the Blake system. Mr. J. Chubb showed that £2,794 was raised by the Christmas offering, and urged that this method of collecting should be more extensively employed, especially in the families of our well-to-do friends. Dr. Scott, Mr. C. Prest, and Mr. Wiseman offered remarks on the same subject, and advice was given, which we trust may be followed through the Connexion, that both plans of juvenile effort should be more effectively worked. This must be, and the efforts of the adult supporters of this Society must also be increased, if the hope expressed by Sir Francis Lyceyt that the minimum annual income of the Society should be £150,000 is soon to be realized. Mr. Arthur's references to the recent decision of the Council in Rome, and to the outbreak of war in Europe, and his exhortation to God's people to pray that these events may be overruled in the interests of Christ's kingdom, were extremely beautiful and effective. So also was his illustration of the marvellous success achieved by our missions in the Fijian and Friendly Islands. No sentiment was more warmly responded to during the morning than the hope expressed by Sir F. Lyceyt and Mr. Waddy, that after completing his term at Belfast, Mr. Arthur should return to England and to his Mission-house.

Mr. Bass, one of the representatives of the Irish Conference, deserved the thanks of his brethren for the earnestness and ability with which he pressed the claims of the Sister Island. He contended that no better investment could be made in the interests of the Society than the expenditure of £10,000 in missionary work in Ireland.

Though the Committee of Review differs greatly from an ordinary missionary meeting, yet we think it would be imperfect had not some of the excellent brethren who have laboured abroad an opportunity of speaking. The Committee's morning was favoured with two admirable addresses from returned missionaries. Mr. Cox, from China, lamented the extreme economy which the Society was compelled to exercise as a terrible clog upon its operations. He had come home prepared to offer himself to commence a mission in Japan, but, since learning how straitened were their resources, he had not dared to propose it. He complained also that his own mission was not strengthened. But his speech was very far from being a success. He spoke cheerfully of success, and made a valuable practical suggestion to the effect that one of the General Secretaries should make a tour through our Eastern Missions, if possible once in four years. The visit to the East of a Bishop of the American Methodist Church, of Dr. Macleod and Dr. Mullens has been of essential service to the societies with which they were respectively connected, and to missions generally.

Mr. Burgess, who has but recently returned from India, where he has laboured for sixteen years, is not yet so widely known in England as Mr. Cox, but, we believe, is held in the highest esteem by his missionary brethren. His speech in the Committee fully justified his being so regarded. He endorsed Mr. Cox's suggestion of the value of an official visit to Methodist missions in the East, and thought it would tend to render practicable what, for many reasons, is so much to be desired, the establishment of an Indian Conference. His remarks upon the growth of a native missionary agency in India, and his statement that £4,789, 8s. 4d. is raised in the Madras and Mysore Districts for Wesleyan mission purposes, were greatly encouraging. Mr. Burgess will long be honoured in the Tamil Mission for his translation of Mr. Wesley's sermons, and for the aid he rendered in the recent revision of the Tamil Scriptures, to which he very modestly referred, as well as for his missionary educational labours.

At the close of the business of the Conference Mr. Percival Bunting discharged, very gracefully, a duty to which he has now become accustomed, that of proposing the thanks of the lay gentlemen present to the retiring President for the manner in which he had presided over the various Committees. Mr. Waddy seconded the resolution, and it passed the meeting with great cordiality. After a few words in acknowledgment, the President pronounced the Benediction; and thus the Preparatory Committee came to a close.

OPENING OF THE CONFERENCE.

BURLEIGH, July 26.

The one hundred and twenty-seventh annual session of the Conference was this morning formally opened at Market-place Chapel, Burleigh. About six hundred ministers were present. The Conference was opened by the singing of a hymn given out by the President, the reading of the Scriptures by the Secretary, and prayer. After these devotional exercises the first business of the day was at once proceeded with—viz., the filling up of those vacancies in the Legal Conference through death or superannuation, which have occurred during the year. When a member of the legal hundred had been a Supernumerary four years, he is deemed to be superannuated, and his place becomes vacant. It was found that in Great Britain four vacancies had occurred by death and six by superannuation. These vacancies were then filled up as follows:—The first being by seniority, the second by nomination, and the remainder alternately:—John Edward Coulson, by seniority, in the place of James Allen (A) superannuated.

Benjamin Hallies, by nomination, in the place of John Bolton, superannuated.

Richard Talbot, by seniority, in the place of Richard Felton, superannuated.

W. T. Radcliffe, by nomination, in the place of John Hannah, deceased.

William Henry Sargent, by seniority, in the place of Peter M'Oran, deceased.

John Walton, by nomination, in the place of Thomas White Smith, superannuated.

William Henry Taylor, by seniority, in the place of Thomas Stokes, deceased.

Theophilus Woolmer, by nomination, in the place of Edward Walker, superannuated.

Samuel Simpson, by seniority, in the place of Samuel Rowe, deceased.

William Edwards, by nomination, in the place of Ererard Vigie, deceased.

The Conference then proceeded to the election of its President and Secretary. The following is the result of the elections:—

FOR PRESIDENT.

Rev. John Farrar 173

Rev. Thomas Vasey 128

Rev. Luke H. Wiseman, M. A. 25

Rev. Charles Hayes 17

Rev. John H. James, D.D. 16

FOR SECRETARY.

Rev. J. H. James, D.D. 202

Rev. L. H. Wiseman, M. A. 60

Rev. Thomas Vasey 11

minutes. A District Committee is composed of ministers and laymen drawn together from a certain number of Circuits. That Committee meets twice in the year: in the Autumn, when it is in the main a Committee of distribution and arrangement; in the Spring or early Summer, and then it is chiefly a Committee of review on the work of the year. On all matters, pertaining to the ministerial character and standing and the recommendation or rejection of ministerial candidates which come before the District for examination from the lower Courts, lay members of District Committees have an equal voice and vote with the clerical members.

In British Methodism there are certain Connexional departments of Church work over which the Conference exercises general control. There is a Foreign Missions department; a Home Missions department; a Contingent or General Sustentation Fund department; a Children's Fund department; a Ministerial Training department; a Chapel Building department; a Day School Department, and a Special department that takes charge of the rights and privileges of the Denomination in relation to the government and legislation of the day. All these departments are placed in charge of mixed Committees, composed of about equal proportions of ministers and laymen. The laymen on these Committees are on one ground or another the most influential members of the Church. They are for the most part shrewd men of business or professional men of high standing in possession of independent fortunes, and noted for their high Christian character, their intelligence and liberality in support of the great evangelistic schemes of their Church. The Committees of which they are members, with one exception, meet each year just before Conference; commence their sessions, for the purpose of reviewing the condition of their respective departments, and of making such suggestions for their improvement as may seem desirable. The conclusions arrived at, and the suggestions offered by these Committees, from year to year, are almost invariably adopted and acted on by the Conference.

From this brief statement of facts it will be seen how largely British Methodism avails itself of the abilities and energies of its lay members, and how marked the influence of the lay element must of necessity be in the management of the Methodist Church affairs. It is possible that the new methods of selecting laymen for the positions to be filled by them in the different Courts and Committees may by and by be deemed desirable at home, and that some other slight alterations may be made in the relative distribution for Church work of the lay and clerical forces, but under no arrangement practicable can the lay element obtain in British Methodism more substantial or more salutary influence than it now happily enjoys.

J. R. N.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE.

The Continental War—The Conference at Burleigh and its Committees—The Pope's Infallibility.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—The war between France and Prussia is the all-absorbing topic, and it is mournful to reflect upon the folly and pride which have thus precipitated two mighty nations into mortal conflict. A calm review of the events which have led to this result, points indisputably to one man as the real author of the mischief, and a desire to increase his popularity with his soldiers as the immediate cause. It must be remembered that in the recent public vote in France, a considerable number of the soldiers voted adversely to the Emperor's policy and they must be conciliated. The splendid victories of Prussia in 1866, and the consequent extension and consolidation of the Kingdom, deeply mortified the pride of France, and for four years there has been a rankling jealousy and deep-seated purpose of revenge, which has now borne fruit in this hasty declaration of war.

The candidature of the Prussian Prince for the Spanish throne having been withdrawn, and the reply of Prussia being satisfied, no fair cause of quarrel remained, but France was not so easily satisfied, and sent proposals to which Prussia could not possibly submit, and the French Ambassador urged them with so much pertinacity and offensiveness, as to lead to a rupture from the King in person. These appear to be the main facts which account for this terrific explosion, and which have thus embroiled a fair portion of Europe in an awful strife. Since the declaration of war events have not proceeded as rapidly as the press anticipated. Vast armies are moving on both sides of the frontier, the preparations of both Governments are colossal, and they are being conducted with all possible secrecy. No encounter has yet taken place, and it is not known when the first trial of skill and strength upon men's lives will be made. It is a momentous time, and while this is being written, and expectation waits as for the first signal gun, the complications are thickening all around, distrust prevails between friendly Governments and neutral powers, and peace appears about to forsake a grand piano, after the darkness of the river route. The boat was named after the commercial capital of the Province.

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Referring to the business transacted at the meetings of the several committees there is a marked improvement, and in one or two notable instances, the carefully prepared, cut and dried programme was interrupted, and an amendment was introduced and pressed with so much ability and strength of argument as to compel the withdrawal of the resolution. This was in connection with the Education question, and prevented the passing of a recommendation to multiply our Denominational schools by building new schools or fitting up every available

room so as to ensure a larger share of the Government grant. The condition of the Home Mission Fund, and its operation was carefully and freely reviewed. A few points of great importance were brought out, and the general feeling appeared to be in favour of a change.

There are many places urgently requiring Home missionary agencies, and yet in the absence of the required pledge to receive a married minister at the end of four years, a difficulty arises in procuring the missionary. Many pledges given in the flush of sanguine hopes have not been fulfilled, and some modification of the plans of the Committee was forcibly urged. The difficulty has been so serious in some localities as to lead to the invitation of plans, worked by lay agencies, and entirely distinct from Connexional control. These topics involved the question of the more general employment of Lay Agents as in many cases better fitted for the exceptional work to be done, also to the causes of failure in cases where there had been training of a high order, but evident want of adaptation to Home missionary work.

Much interest was manifested upon the question of Connexional Insurance, and although it is not in full accordance with the views of the Chapel Committee, the question will be urged upon the immediate attention of Conference. The difficulty of the Guarantee Fund will be met by the liberality of the Lay gentlemen present, and there is a fair prospect of a start in this direction after many years of hesitation and delay. The work of the Committee has been well done, and gives evidence of the deep seated love and earnest zeal of the distinguished men who took part in the various proceedings.

The "Fenley" Lecture by Dr. Osborn was delivered in an immense chapel lent for the occasion by the New Connexion Methodist, a pleasing illustration of the increasing liberality of the two great Methodist bodies.

Of the lecture itself it is reported that it was of marked ability; that the Doctor had a "good time" in its delivery, but that it was rather more sermonic in style and manner than the public had been led to expect. It will be fully published and speak for itself. It is to be followed yearly by lectures similar in character, and will be a valuable memento of a good and large-hearted Wesleyan layman.

The Conference assembled on Tuesday the 26th, two days earlier than usual, and proceeded to fill the vacancies in the Legal Hundred caused by superannuations and deaths. The honor of election by nomination has this year fallen upon B. Hallier, the beloved Tutor at Headingley College; W. T. Radcliffe of Manchester; J. Walton, the returned missionary; T. Woolmer, of London, and W. Edwards, the associate Chapel Secretary.

Mr. Vasey received a large vote for the office of President, but the honor devolves upon the Rev. John Farrar, D.D., who now for the second time fills the chair of the Conference. He has served the office of the high position. He has served the Conference for a long series of years as Secretary faithfully and well. The affection of large numbers of the brethren, trained by him in the Institutions, and the confidence felt in his deep piety, fine speaking abilities and unrivalled business powers have again raised him to the highest official post in Methodism. Dr. James, of Hull was elected Secretary to fill the post vacated by Dr. Farrar, and then the Conference settled down to its accustomed work. There were the usual speeches upon the acceptance of office, and the votes of thanks to the retiring officers, ceremonials which in the opinion of many might be curtailed considerably when time is so much needed for the transaction of important business; and the discussion of absorbing themes.

Then follows for several days the investigation of character, searching and minute; the reception of candidates for the ministry, and the determination of who remain on trial, who become supernumeraries, and what supernumeraries return to the active work. All these must be settled before the Stationing Committee can issue their second draft of stations, and ministers and circuits accept of stations, and deputations set in motion by the circulation of the first draft. The Conference is thus fairly at work, and averages nearly six hours per day in one lengthy session, broken only by a ten minutes rest at noon, and a short adjournment. About four hundred ministers are in daily attendance, and it forms a most imposing array of men all recognized as public servants of the Lord Jesus, and an assembly which for devotion and working power cannot be surpassed.

In the midst of the alarms of impending war, the public has almost forgotten the doings at Rome. The coveted honor has as length been won and the poor old Pope is declared infallible. Transient pressure was exerted upon the Roman Government, and by one means and another the Pope has gained his ends. It matters little to the Protestant world. His claims can scarcely be more arrogant in the future than in past years, and the great religious bodies in England have resolved to trouble themselves nothing about the matter. Italy is at present more concerned about the impending war than upon any doctrine or dogma of the Great Council, and more anxious to obtain Rome in its capital than to increase the powers of the Papacy.

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QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—No longer able to stand up with those who have long been my fellow labourers, in the Lord's vineyard, I have at length availed myself of the kindness of our Conference, who acceded to my request, that I might reside among my kindred, albeit their dwelling is outside of our Conference bounds. Hence my new home is in the Province of Quebec.

Knowing my inability to endure a great summer heat, which is usually stronger in this Province than in New Brunswick, I should not have left the sea side so early in the season, but for the pressing invitation of a relative to become his guest at the favourite watering place, from which my letter is dated. I proceeded hither the next day after reaching Montreal—taking the river route. The boat was named after the commercial capital of the Province.

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Of the lecture itself it is reported that it was of marked ability; that the Doctor had a "good time" in its delivery, but that it was rather more sermonic in style and manner than the public had been led to expect. It will be fully published and speak for itself. It is to be followed yearly by lectures similar in character, and will be a valuable memento of a good and large-hearted Wesleyan layman.

The Conference assembled on Tuesday the 26th, two days earlier than usual, and proceeded to fill the vacancies in the Legal Hundred caused by superannuations and deaths. The honor of election by nomination has this year fallen upon B. Hallier, the beloved Tutor at Headingley College; W. T. Radcliffe of Manchester; J. Walton, the returned missionary; T. Woolmer, of London, and W. Edwards, the associate Chapel Secretary.

Mr. Vasey received a large vote for the office of President, but the honor devolves upon the Rev. John Farrar, D.D., who now for the second time fills the chair of the Conference. He has served the office of the high position. He has served the Conference for a long series of years as Secretary faithfully and well. The affection of large numbers of the brethren, trained by him in the Institutions, and the confidence felt in his deep piety, fine speaking abilities and unrivalled business powers have again raised him to the highest official post in Methodism. Dr. James, of Hull was elected Secretary to fill the post vacated by Dr. Farrar, and then the Conference settled down to its accustomed work. There were the usual speeches upon the acceptance of office, and the votes of thanks to the retiring officers, ceremonials which in the opinion of many might be curtailed considerably when time is so much needed for the transaction of important business; and the discussion of absorbing themes.

Then follows for several days the investigation of character, searching and minute; the reception of candidates for the ministry, and the determination of who remain on trial, who become supernumeraries, and what supernumeraries return to the active work. All these must be settled before the Stationing Committee can issue their second draft of stations, and ministers and circuits accept of stations, and deputations set in motion by the circulation of the first draft. The Conference is thus fairly at work, and averages nearly six hours per day in one lengthy session, broken only by a ten minutes rest at noon, and a short adjournment. About four hundred ministers are in daily attendance, and it forms a most imposing array of men all recognized as public servants of the Lord Jesus, and an assembly which for devotion and working power cannot be surpassed.

In the midst of the alarms of impending war, the public has almost forgotten the doings at Rome. The coveted honor has as length been won and the poor old Pope is declared infallible. Transient pressure was exerted upon the Roman Government, and by one means and another the Pope has gained his ends. It matters little to the Protestant world. His claims can scarcely be more arrogant in the future than in past years, and the great religious bodies in England have resolved to trouble themselves nothing about the matter. Italy is at present more concerned about the impending war than upon any doctrine or dogma of the Great Council, and more anxious to obtain Rome in its capital than to increase the powers of the Papacy.

July 29, 1870.

QUEBEC CORRESPONDENCE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR.—No longer able to stand up with those who have long been my fellow labourers, in the Lord's vineyard, I have at length availed myself of the kindness of our Conference, who acceded to my request, that I might reside among my kindred, albeit their dwelling is outside of our Conference bounds. Hence my new home is in the Province of Quebec.

Knowing my inability to endure a great summer heat, which is usually stronger in this Province than in New Brunswick, I should not have left the sea side so early in the season, but for the pressing invitation of a relative to become his guest at the favourite watering place, from which my letter is dated. I proceeded hither the next day after reaching Montreal—taking the river route. The boat was named after the commercial capital of the Province.

Her length—her height—saloons—staterooms—accommodations and equipment—throughout are not unworthy of the "Montreal." She had hundreds of persons on board. Yet there was no confusion—no accident—no injury to any one. Many of the passengers were American tourists, educated, accomplished, and wealthy.

Some of them sang admirably, accompanied by a grand piano, after the darkness of the river route. The boat was named after the commercial capital of the Province.

Referring to the business transacted at the meetings of the several committees there is a marked improvement, and in one or two notable instances, the carefully prepared, cut and dried programme was interrupted, and an amendment was introduced and pressed with so much ability and strength of argument as to compel the withdrawal of the resolution. This was in connection with the Education question, and prevented the passing of a recommendation to multiply our Denominational schools by building new schools or fitting up every available

room so as to ensure a larger share of the Government grant. The condition of the Home Mission Fund, and its operation was carefully and freely reviewed. A few points of great importance were brought out, and the general feeling appeared to be in favour of a change.

There are many places urgently requiring Home missionary agencies, and yet in the absence of the required pledge to receive a married minister at the end of four years, a difficulty arises in procuring the missionary. Many pledges given in the flush of sanguine hopes have not been fulfilled, and some modification of the plans of the Committee was forcibly urged. The difficulty has been so serious in some localities as to lead to the invitation of plans, worked by lay agencies, and entirely distinct from Connexional control. These topics involved the question of the more general employment of Lay Agents as in many cases better fitted for the exceptional work to be done, also to the causes of failure in cases where there had been training of a high order, but evident want of adaptation to Home missionary work.

Much interest was manifested upon the question of Connexional Insurance, and although it is not in full accordance with the views of the Chapel Committee, the question will be urged upon the immediate attention of Conference. The difficulty of the Guarantee Fund will be met by the liberality of the Lay gentlemen present, and there is a fair prospect of a start in this direction after many years of hesitation and delay. The work of