

Of those in Britain 275 were vacant. It was estimated that there were also 3000 Home Mission and Evangelistic stations.

Of ministers, England had 1989, Wales 400, Scotland 114, Ireland 24, the Continent 7, Colonies 245, Foreign Countries 156 white and 109 natives,—total 3044, of whom 2450 were in pastoral charges, and 594 without.—There were 317 students in Colleges and 242 in Institutes.

The American statistics are much more complete, giving particulars of the strength of the churches, as well as their number. An attempt has been made to secure such figures in England, but the enquiry had to be made confidentially, and was only partially successful.

There are in the United States 3,202 churches, of which more than half are west of New England, the mother of them all, and which are scattered over 38 States and Territories. There are 3,124 ministers, but of these 906 are not engaged in pastoral labour. There are also 105 foreign missionaries. Of the above, only 930 are installed pastors, 1,287 serving as "Acting Pastors," hired by the year or less; no less than 767 churches have no supply, or but occasionally. The increase of churches during the year was 81.

The membership of the churches amounts to a total of 312,054, increase 5,536, and the female membership composes two-thirds of the whole. The additions "by profession," in a year were 13, 271.

The Benevolent Contribution reported are \$1,150,814; and those for parish expenses \$5,486,000,—total \$6,900,000, or \$22 per member. But these figures are very incomplete.

There are 368, 937 scholars in the Sabbath Schools.

The gain during the past ten years is 647 churches, 446 ministers, 57,020 church-members, and 122, 759 Sabbath scholars.

The souls of Statistical Secretaries are vexed, however, by the impossibility of securing anything like full and accurate figures. The real strength of the body is much greater than these returns indicate.

ARROW-POINTS.

BY WILLIAM WYE SMITH.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.—The Holy Spirit will not come to heal and new-create us, in some exceptional and miraculous manner. His whole working is supernatural; therefore "miraculous;" but when God pursues a constant course of operations, we cease to call it "miraculous," because it ceases to be exceptional. I pray for the Holy Spirit—that he will come and regenerate me. But I must not expect my experience to be that of Saul of Tarsus. Evidently I have no reason to look for the visible descent of the Holy Ghost like a dove, or a cloven tongue of fire; or to listen for an audible voice telling me my sins are forgiven. And yet nothing less than experience like this is admitted by some to be genuine; and, not being able to produce it, many imagine it—and some alas, we fear, forge it. The Word