

THE Y. M. C. A. AS A CHURCH AUXILIARY.

There is a feeling prevalent in some sections of the Church, of dislike, if not hostility, to the Young Men's Christian Association, which seems to me very unfortunate, inasmuch as this organization of small beginning is meeting a long-felt want of young men and has attained to a marvellous growth.

The methods it pursues may not be exactly what we would choose ; we might wish that our Church were more recognized in its services, but it is its "undenominationalism" that proves its success, and we must be careful that in our love for our branch of the Church we prevent not, as did the disciples of old, those who cast out devils in His name, because they continue not with us.

These methods objectionable (as they may appear to us) will largely disappear under the touch of charity and common sense, and still more readily under personal contact with the Association, where, meeting with Christians of every part of the Church Catholic, an opportunity is given for testing the reality of our religion by "our love of the brethren."

The Association has for its object the developing and training of the body and mind of man while not neglecting (yea, rather with this as the foremost aim) the spiritual part. This latter end it endeavours to reach by following the example of St. Paul, becoming all things to all men that it may by all means save some, holding out to young men those things in which they so much delight, athletics and socialintercourse, along with opportunities of intellectual improvement, and surrounding all with a practical Christian influence. This work, of course, includes many and various departments from the summer camp and outings, to the snow-shoe tramp, educational classes, and gymnasium in Winter ; but all amusements indulged in are only such as are considered legitimate and consistent with a Christian profession.

These methods are acknowledged to be such as could not be undertaken by the Churches, and it remains for an organization outside the Churches to make use of such means to draw young men into the Churches. Amusement young men will have, and statistics show that the amusement provided by parochial gatherings (concerts and the like) is not sufficient to retain them within the pale of the Church, and it is here that the Association strives to supply the missing link.

In some countries not yet Christianized, the Association offers to young men the only place of recreation free from immoral temptations, and the value of this phase of Christian work is so highly esteemed by those who labour for the Master in heathen lands, that appeals come to the International Committee, which sometimes for lack of means cannot be com-