

for admission had been received, 3 had been declined, 3 lie over for further examination and inquiry, and 4 had been accepted. The ordinary income had been about as last year. That of the Theological Hall Fund amounted to £1,546, and the bursary fund to £879. A generous friend of the Hall had presented £55, to be equally divided amongst the students for the purchase of books—a gift which the Committee, and, we are sure we may add, the students, warmly appreciated.

All these meetings were preliminary, however, to those of

#### THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION,

which commenced with a sermon by the Rev. G. S. Barrett, B. A., of Norwich, delegate of the English Congregational Union, and a united communion service at its close. Wednesday opened with a public breakfast, at which over 200 were present. The chairman, Prof. Stephenson, of Aberdeen University, delivered an eloquent address on the "union of affinity" as contrasted with the "union of conformity"—the former being, as he thought, the true bond of Christian churches.

"Our Presbyterian brethren, he said, are finding subscription a somewhat over-tight and injurious corset, and we, as a Union, existing without any such bond of conformity, may, by our testimony, do much in aiding our brethren to get rid of this piece of man's work, which is producing such serious results in the Presbyterian bodies. The speaker concluded by pointing out that the Congregational and Evangelical Unions, and the Baptist could all unite on the principle he had endeavoured to illustrate, and they were now only kept apart by a difference of human origin." (Applause.)

The other addresses had reference to the claims of the several Benevolent Funds in connection with the Union.

The Annual meeting proper was held at 11 o'clock on Wednesday, under the presidency of the Rev. Ninian Wight, who delivered what is characterized as "an admirable and well-timed address on the character, position, and work of the churches," report of which is deferred by the *Advance* till next month, that it may then give it more fully.

The Report of Mr. McLaren, the Treasurer, showed the receipts of the Union (which is in reality their Home Missionary Society) to be as follows:—Contributions from churches, £1,243; Donations, £64; Legacies, £155; total £1,462, leaving a deficiency of £350 in view of the estimated expenditure for the coming year. The income from ordinary sources had been about stationary for several years past. The discussion that followed, *nomine mutata*, might have been supposed to have had reference to our Canadian Mission field. One brother complained that a great part of the money at the disposal of the Union was given to supporting weak churches in the poorer districts. He should like to see more done in the way of originating new churches in populous places. Another said that in Dundee it was felt that a change was requisite with reference to the administration of the funds of the Union. Without wishing to do anything against their country churches, it was thought that great advantage would take place if the committee would direct more attention to the towns. Some of their members were withholding their subscriptions on the ground that small decaying churches in thinly populated districts of the country were being supported, while sufficiently corresponding efforts were not being made in the larger towns of Scotland.

There, however, the matter dropped, nobody being able to explain, apparently, how the Committee could do more for the towns on a decreasing income, or withhold their pittances from the country churches, without "doing anything against them."

An effort is being made to secure a permanent Secretary for the Union whose entire time and energies shall be devoted to the fostering of their Home Mission work.

One of the principal subjects engaging the attention of the Union was the appointment of a