

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES : I.

THE course of education prescribed to the candidates for admission to the learned professions, must necessarily change with every advancement in knowledge, and with every new demand which society makes upon these callings. The training of doctors, for example, is now quite different from that which prevailed in the days of our fathers. Many additional facts and principles are known, and methods of operation and treatment must be harmonized with the discoveries of science. The demands of this generation on the Christian ministry have caused a number of additions to be made to the ancient theological curriculum. And the question is constantly in order whether our present course of study might not be still further extended, whether the vast sweep of theological science might be made to touch still more points of living interest in those phases of society which are most characteristic of to-day. Towards the solution of this problem, a brief outline of the newer features of theological education among our neighbors to the south of us, may furnish some material.

We have taken our forms and ecclesiastical traditions very largely from Scotland, but in the United States, the social and territorial conditions of ministerial work are more similar to those which prevail here. Consequently the course of training in the best American seminaries forms a better ideal for us than the curriculum in either Britain or Germany. Their fuller endowments and larger teaching staff have enabled them to provide facilities for courses of study, which have not as yet received much attention in this country. In referring to these, my purpose is certainly not to make any Canadian student dissatisfied with his course. Perhaps it is, on the whole, fairly well adapted to its end ; and it usually provides the average student with work enough to keep him busy, if he does it well. My object is to indicate the direction which the development of theological education among ourselves will take, when the supply of men for Home Mission work is more nearly equal to the demand, and when our resources for ministerial training are either increased or consolidated. It may also serve to suggest courses of reading by which the students of to-day, in the early years of their ministry, may supplement their studies and thus increase their usefulness.

SACRED LANGUAGES.

The critical questions regarding the books of the Bible, which have lately attained such prominence in theologic thought, have caused special