

able man whose name stands in the foremost rank in the world of science ; who is at once a devout and single-minded Christian and a leader in the very department of science which bears most directly on the subject of Christian evidences. For it is no slight matter that Sir William Dawson is one of the greatest geologists of the age and is, probably, the leading palaeontologist of the world to-day.

In order to place the subject of this afternoon's discussion fairly before our minds, I propose to answer briefly two enquiries : 1, What is the aim of a theological education ? and 2, What course of study is best adapted to the accomplishment of that aim.

1. In reference to the first question, it is easily perceptible that everything turns on the answer which shall be given to the enquiry. The question as to "the course of study in Theological Colleges" might be considered wholly apart from the preparation of candidates for the ministry. It is conceivable that a theological college might exist without students at all. It might, perhaps, be desirable to have at least one such institution in this country where the professors alone would be the students ; where the work of original investigation could be prosecuted without teaching ; where the problems of Apologetics, Biblical Criticism and Sociology—as the last bears on religious life—could be studied by men specially fitted for such work, and the results be given to the world. There would be prodigious advantages to the cause of truth in such an arrangement, but I suppose that we are not yet ready for it. It is therefore taken for granted that "The Course of Study in Theological Colleges," in this comparatively new country, has reference to the preparation of candidates for the ministry. But even then the course of study to be pursued will be determined by the conception that is formed as to the function of the Christian ministry and the work to be accomplished. It would sometimes seem as if one of two things must be done, and that before long ; either the popular conception as to the work of the ministry must be modified or the course of study