

Our Alumni Conference has come and gone. A very full account was given in the daily papers, so that it will be unnecessary for us to do more than give a very brief outline of what was said; we prefer to confine our energies to commenting on the character of the Conference as a whole. The proceedings opened with a sermon by the Rev. Principal Henderson, President of the Association. The subject which he had chosen was Episcopacy, and he handled it in a most logical and convincing way. The sermon was followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion, at which the Rev. Rural Dean Sanders assisted. The conference began in the afternoon with a paper on the Higher Criticism. This was a most able essay, setting forth not what we ought to think on the question to be orthodox, but putting in as fair a way as possible the views of the "Higher Critics" before his audience and leaving them to follow out for themselves the rights and wrongs of belief. On this as on all the other subjects the discussion was fairly well maintained.

The morning session was occupied with a paper on Inspiration by the Rev. G. Abbott Smith, B.A., and one on The bearing of recent excavations on Holy Scripture, by the Rev. James Elliott, B.A. Both these papers were full of interest, and presented carefully thought out productions of studious minds. Mr. Smith stated the various views which have been held on Inspiration and added some very helpful comments thereon. He did not pin his faith to any one man or set forth any one theory as that which all men should accept, but in a most impartial spirit stood for the defence of the Word of God.

In the afternoon there was a paper on Self-denial, by the Rev. T. E. Cunningham, M.A., and another on the Social Duties of a Clergyman, by Rev. F. Charters.

Both of these papers were on very practical subjects and on very helpful lines. The discussion on Self-denial we thought exceedingly disappointing. But as one member of the Association observed afterwards, it was a deeply spiritual subject and very difficult to deal with extempore. We quite agree with him, and would therefore urge all those who wish to help to make these conferences a success to help them, not only by their presence and speeches, but also by a prayerful consideration of the subjects beforehand and a thoughtful study of them in quiet, in order that when we are assembled for our mutual edification and profit we may have the benefit not only of one paper and two prepared speeches on the subject, but of a number of helpful pithy speeches, which will do much to make the debate of interest and profit. The discussion on the social duties of a clergyman brought forward many helpful points as well as difficult questions to which the answers given were very diverse. On the whole the Convocation was one of great interest, and we feel