

# THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

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## REVIEW SECTION.

### I.—THE BEST METHODS OF GETTING CHURCH MEMBERS TO WORK.

NO IV.

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THE methods of church work can neither be furnished ready-made nor adopted second-hand. "The best methods" can hardly be the same for any two. After all theories shall have been expounded, each one must still blaze his own way to success. God marks our aptitudes and circumstances as distinctly as our features, and we need to pay sacred respect to individuality.

I. The personal point of view will be fundamentally determined by the *definition* which is given to "work." What are the peculiar functions of church members? Speaking generally, work is the exercise of power, directed toward some observed end. It includes activity and purpose. Modern science assures us that the power to perform works depends upon the possession of energy. Hence the gifts and motives of spiritual life are the primary condition of doing the characteristic work of church members. Church membership is meaningless except in so far as it is a true representation of regenerate life. Christian work consists in the normal manifestations of that life. If that be really vitalized in a person, it must express itself in proper activities. Thus, the question of work resolves itself into the prior question of union with Christ. Our potential energy is wholly in Him. He is the standard of our working forces. The true scope of our work as church members is outlined in the life which we share with the Master.

"Work," then, is no mere technical term, confined to the formal operations of the Church. It is as comprehensive as Christ's communicable qualities. Our appointed works are catalogued in the fruits of the Spirit, "love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, self-control."

This view accords with a common use of the term "Work" in the New Testament. The case of Cornelius taught Peter that in every