

NOTES OF CHURCH WORK AT HOME.

I. SMALL LIVINGS.

There has been considerable activity within the bounds of the Church during the past six weeks. An influential meeting was held at Rothsay on behalf of the Association for Augmenting the Smaller Livings of the Clergy. The position has not substantially changed our appeal on the subject in September last. Only about half the minimum of £10,000 a year, required for the purposes of the Association, has been realised. There is still a great deal to be done, both to increase the main Fund and it is to be hoped that so important a matter may be prosecuted with unabated zeal.

INTEMPERANCE QUESTION.

The intemperance question has been actively engaging the attention of the Church and the public. After a lengthened and interesting discussion, the Presbytery of Edinburgh, on the 18th of January, agreed to the report prepared by a Committee of their number, and recommended that attention should be permanently drawn to the subject from the pulpit, and "all wise means used for the prevention" of intemperance, and the reclamation of the intemperate; and that the claims and circumstances of the young should have special attention in the matter. They also recommend more general instruction in domestic economy, whereby the houses of the working-classes may be made more comfortable; and that better places and means of recreation be provided; and that temperance societies be formed in every parish, as approved by the General Assembly.

III. BIBLE CIRCULATION.

At a meeting of the Scottish Bible Society, held in the end of January—r. Grant in the chair—it was reported that 8455 complete copies of the Scrip-

ture, 4530 copies of the New Testament, both with Scotch metred Psalms and Paraphrases annexed; or, including portions of the prose Psalms and of the New Testament, in large pica type, 14,854 copies of Holy Scripture, in whole or in part, had been circulated, being 748 copies over the circulation of last year. As those copies are circulated at less than half the cost price, the balance lies to be made up from the Society funds—an urgent motive to liberality on the part of all interested in so important a matter.

IV. ENDOWMENT MEETINGS.

Meetings in aid of the Endowment Scheme have been held at Perth and Ayr, Maybole, and other places. It is a matter of profound sorrow that these meetings have been rendered necessary by the serious illness of Dr. Smith, which has terminated fatally since we began these notes. His loss to this great Scheme is irreparable. There are few men who lived more thoroughly for the Church, or whose place it will be more difficult to supply.

At the meeting at Ayr, on February 7th, both Sir James Fergusson and Sir W. Cunninghame were present and earnestly urged the claims of this Scheme. Sir James called attention to the manner in which the Endowment had followed the old Church Extension Scheme, instituted and urged forward by Dr. Chalmers; to what the Free Church had done to supply the spiritual wants of the country, leaving however, still a great deal to be done. "What must be the state of so large a number of people without the guidance of religion?" He begged the meeting to consider what great disadvantages clergymen labored under who had no settled endowment. There was an apostolic injunction resting on all to provide for their clergy. There were no circumstances in which there was more need for an educated clergy, than in the case of those who