

be President; and the Rev. George Osborn, D.D., was elected to that important office. Dr. Osborn is 73 years of age, and is the oldest in years of all former Presidents, except Mr. Wesley. He has been in the active work since 1828. Besides doing much hard work in some of the most important circuits, such as Liverpool, Manchester, and London, he was for seventeen years one of the missionary secretaries. Victoria University had the honour of conferring upon him the degree of D.D., a distinction of which he is eminently worthy.

The Conference, though one of the largest ever held, had a somewhat saddened appearance, owing to the absence of several who have long occupied seats on the platform. Revs. Dr. Jobson, Dr. Punshon, S. Coley, and W. O. Simpson, have been removed by death, and Dr. John Farrar and Dr. Gervase Smith were absent through illness.

The Conference prayer-meeting, at the hour of noon, and the open session in the evening of the first day, were seasons of rich spiritual enjoyment. At the latter, addresses were delivered by the Revs. J. Tobias and J. Donnelly, from Ireland; J. P. Cook, B.A., and W. Gibson, B.A., from France; Rev. J. Watford from Australasia. The latter is the first native-born Australasian minister who ever visited England. He has been a missionary in Fiji, where he had the honour to baptize King Thakombau. The representatives from the various Conferences delighted their English friends with the account of what God is doing in those countries from whence they come. Ireland has lost heavily in its membership from well-known causes. All France is now open for the heralds of salvation. The people everywhere flock in great numbers to hear the story of the cross. Dr. Payne astonished his hearers when he told them of there being 1,700,000 members and 12,000 ministers, with as many local preachers in the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States.

The death roll is an unusually large one, there being no less than

thirty-one ministers who have finished their course; three had been in the ministry more than sixty years each, seven others exceeded fifty, and eleven others forty years. Three died during the sessions of Conference. The Rev. W. Arthur said that "he had never felt any other loss as he felt the death of Dr. Punshon. He could never forget him, as the Doctor was such a wonderful man, but he trusted they would not dishonour God by saying, "We shall never look upon his like again."

A series of out-door services were held in various parts of the town, both on the Sabbaths and on the evenings during the week. The civil authorities pledged themselves to maintain order. The President felt assured that the sons of John Wesley would avail themselves of the privilege of preaching the Gospel abroad. During one of the morning sessions an hour was spent in special prayer on behalf of the country at large.

*Probationers.*—Sixty-six probationers, who had completed their term as required by the Discipline, were received into full connexion and ordained. The question of receiving probationers excited a lengthy discussion. Owing to a variety of causes the supply of young men for the ministry is much greater than the demand. Taking into account the number of young men at college, and others who will soon be eligible for circuit work, there are about 186, yet there did not seem to be vacancies for more than seven or eight. The Conference, therefore, resolved that no probationers should be received this year. The discussion on this question was of the most animated kind, and only at one former Conference had such a decision ever been made not to receive any probationers.

*Fraternal.*—Thirty-eight Non-conformist ministers, headed by the Rev. Hugh Howell Brown, presented an address to the Conference, conveying their fraternal regards, and praying for the prosperity of the denomination. Mr. Brown, on behalf of the deputation, also address-