

The great Methodist Hospital, in Brooklyn, New York, is to be located on Prospect Heights. The nine buildings are estimated to cost \$400,000, and this with the price of the

land will bring the total amount up to about \$500,000. The hospital will be an enduring monument to the goodness of its noble founder, Mr. George J. Seney.

## CURRENT TOPICS AND EVENTS.

### THE GENERAL CONFERENCE.

THE quadrennial gathering of the General Conference of our Church brings out more strongly than any other of its assemblies, the idea of the extent of territory through which it reaches, and the diversity of individuals of which it is composed. When only one-tenth of all its ministers, are by the constitution of the Conference, eligible for election, of course a great many must remain at home who are quite as competent to represent their Church as those who are sent, and in some cases, perhaps, more so. Still very many of the leading ministers of the Church are present, and the departmental officers are sent to give an account of their stewardship, and to receive the endorsement of their administration, or—the reverse.

It is a peculiar pleasure for the delegates from places so far apart as the stormy shores of Newfoundland, and the Prairie Province of Manitoba, to make each others acquaintance, and find that they are engaged with a common zeal in a common cause—the spread of Scriptural holiness throughout the land.

It is when we turn to the lay delegates that we note the great variety of circumstances, and character, and conditions of life which go to make up the organization of our Church. Here we have the bronzed son of toil, the sturdy farmer; with his shrewd common sense, strongly expressed in plain and homely words; there the accomplished judge, lawyer, or Sheriff, learned in legal lore, giving with keen insight their judgments on knotty constitutional questions.

Here is the successful merchant, who has left his invoices and bills of lading, and the skilled physician, and the learned professor, or college president; and among the number is an officer of high rank in the government of his country. But Methodism presses them all into a common service, and employs their varied gifts in advancing a common cause.

Our lay friends take their full share in the business and discussions of the Conference, and many of them contribute largely by their familiarity with parliamentary usage, and knowledge of public business, to expedite its transactions. They are not less conservative than the Ministry in standing in the old ways and maintaining the ancient landmarks, nor less bold and zealous, when need is shown, in making aggressive movements, and venturing on new departures.

The excellent report of the Conference proceedings, furnished by the Rev. E. Barrass, will preclude the necessity of our occupying much space. We must, however, allude briefly to one subject which has excited great interest, and, which, we think, was transcended in interest by no other which came before the Conference. This was the subject of

### METHODIST UNION.

A large committee of over seventy members, representing the different bodies of Methodists in the Dominion, held several meetings during the second week of the Conference to formulate a basis of negotiation. The utmost good feeling and brotherliness was manifested. It was