

THE LIBRARY AS A DEPOSITORY

In addition to the more immediate function of the Library as a laboratory for the students, there is another phase that should appeal directly and convincingly to every Methodist in the Dominion. In the course of time this Library has naturally become the depository of all kinds of documents relating to Methodism in general, and in particular the history of the Methodist Church in Canada. All the various interests of the Church along missionary, educational and other lines are here represented by official and non-official reports. Material relating to the various branches of the work before the union and the vast activities of the Church since, are here collected and preserved. The material which the Library already possesses could not be duplicated to-day, and forms a priceless storehouse of facts, from which future historians will gain their conception of the Church of their fathers. It is highly important to the Church that this work should be vigorously maintained, which it would be practically impossible to do with the existing accommodation. Every addition of such material, no matter how important and intrinsically valuable, imposes further pressure on our already over-crowded shelves. What the librarian is anxious to be able to do is to classify and arrange all relevant material so as to make it readily accessible, and place it at the disposal of all who are interested. Nowhere else has the Church such a body of history as it already possesses here: nowhere else can the work be done more advantageously than in this Library if the proper equipment is furnished. It may be mentioned that requests for information from many quarters, both at home and abroad, are constantly being made to the library, and every attempt is made to furnish the desired information.