

## OUR ELDERSHIP.

I wish to call the attention of Friends to some changes in our meetings for ministers and elders, which I have long thought would be beneficial, and which I believe our Society is now ready to take into consideration, and in many meetings to adopt. I have advocated, with approval, in our meeting, a recognition of the fitness of some of our younger members for the position of elder. I fully believe it is a fact that in many cases members have been made elders not because they were eminently fitted for the position but because they seemed of a very suitable age for it, and in other cases friends better fitted for the work were not appointed merely because they were younger. It is time our Society recognized the fact that age, and not religious experience and fitness, has had too much weight in such appointments in the past. This discerning power which discovers the truth, is not confined to the aged alone, neither are they alone the ones who give encouragement or caution to the ministry, and especially to those young in the ministry! I have had young Friends come and sit by me, and quietly breathe into my soul, not into my ears only, but into my soul, words of comfort and encouragement that gave new hope and new life. These are elders, indeed. Yet our Society will not openly recognize them as such merely because they are young *in years*. Their presence would bring new life into our meetings for ministers and elders, and they would do much to encourage those "young in the ministry."

What are we gaining by closing our doors at such meetings to the rest of our membership? Is it that the same spirit which, a few years ago, debarred all but members from attendance at our meetings for business, is still clinging to us? Or is there some higher motive?

These meetings are often favored seasons, and I have gone from them, more than once, regretting deeply that our young people were not with us.

I believe the subject worthy our consideration, and hope to see more of our meetings acting in the line of these suggestions. S P. Z.

## DIED.

SCOTT.—In Aylmer, on the 3rd September, 1890, Mary L., wife of Elijah D. Scott, daughter of Amos G. and Elizabeth B. Canby, aged 48 years and 12 days.

## OBITUARY.

Sad indeed seems death when the news of it comes to us unexpectedly of some one we have recently seen in apparent health. Unexpected indeed, to us, was the death of Levi Watson, of Galen, son of the late Stephen and Sarah Watson, deceased, aged about 54 years. The funeral was held on Thursday, Nov. 20, at 11 o'clock. The sermon was preached by Sunderland P. Gardner, of Farmington, who, though said to be about 89 years of age, delivered what was said by those who have heard him often in the years gone by, to be the best sermon they ever heard from his lips. For a full hour and a half he held the audience spell-bound, setting forth every point of the discourse in language so clear and beautiful that even the blind might see it, and those who had been deaf might hear the truth. The words seemed to flow forth as with no effort, and only once in all that time did he recall a word and replace it with another, which seems remarkable, as he never uses notes, nor knows beforehand what he shall say. Especially beautiful was the picture he gave of the inner life of the deceased, setting forth his thoughts and motives more clearly, perhaps, than many could who have known him intimately. This power must certainly be comforting to mourning friends, almost seeming as though their loved had spoken. I never saw this so plainly as I have since grandfather died, and Sunderland repeated over his body the same favorite verse of a hymn that he used to chant to me in infancy when I sat upon his knee. It is not likely that