

DISCUSSION.

Rev. F. G. Scott called the present an age of mediocrity succeeding to one of extremes. Indifference is natural to the human heart. It is backed up by the consciousness that much may be said for themselves by the indifferent. He thought there was not so great a need of Church principles, as of higher personal religion and the cultivation of the conscious need of a Personal Being to love and to Whom one must be brought through Christ and by Christ's own methods.

Rev. A. H. Robertson was convinced of the importance of parochial missions. A clergyman often felt that his work was perhaps running too much in a fixed groove. A Mission for a week or ten days would help to correct such tendency as this, besides being otherwise helpful.

He described some very successful work of a quiet revival character done by three clerics in contiguous parishes, who combined to help one another in turn on a scheme mutually agreed upon.

The Bishop, commenting upon a reference to the office of a "Canon Missioner," the filling of which for the Diocese had been contemplated, remarked that our clergy are not numerous enough to give work continuously to one man, and so his lordship recommended the forming of a fund, by the help of which a suitable man might from time to time be secured when and where he might be most wanted in the Diocese.

Dean Norman spoke of the present as an age of secret and subtle sins, and that chiefly in the best society. Very many Christians drift on to the end of their lives careless of the claims of religion upon them. The two seasons in every year appointed by the Church ought to be enough, one would think, to revive the indifferent and careless: and yet it does seem further necessary to stir people up to a better life by also using the agency of parochial missions. The Dean referred to what he happened to know about Methodist revivals, and the work said to be done thereby, as a great contrast to the recent mission, for example, in Quebec City conducted by Canon Bullock in a quiet, sober, instructive way, calculated to produce last-

ing results. He felt that ordinary parish work was supplemented by a mission. It helped to remove widespread doubt and unbelief and had often proved very valuable as a means of dealing with the subtle, secret, heart sins to which he had alluded.

Canon Thorne agreed with other speakers as to the importance of Missions for certain parochial conditions. He confirmed in regard to Sherbrooke, what Dean Norman said about Canon Bullock's work in Quebec. He felt the whole tone of spirituality of a Parish was raised by a Mission held not too frequently but after long intervals, and conducted in line with the Church's system and characteristics. The clergy needed the Mission quite as much as the people. They had the two dangers of being disheartened or too sanguine, either of which extreme leads to carelessness; hence the benefit to pastor and flock of the better hopes and higher views which an outside Missioner might inspire and reveal.

Rev. L. W. Williams said a mission did undoubtedly raise up a whole parish spiritually; he emphasized the value of long preparatory work and the creation of a feeling of expectancy, so that a large attendance might be secured at the very first, which would be held afterwards by the Missioner's special gifts. Great good was also done in the breaking down of antagonism to the Church, because dissenters would generally go without prejudice to hear a celebrated preacher.

Rev. G. H. Murray thought that in the Eastern Townships the need of parochial missions is specially felt, because so many people are "on the fence."

The Christian denominations around us have a machinery of this kind for winning souls and members, and why should not we have the same?

Rev. C. B. Washer thought we could not produce the same results as the dissenters, and yet why could not we "make a great stir" in a place as to the "more excellent way" of the Anglican Church? He alluded to the personal, persistent and successful efforts to win individuals of a certain preacher whom he knew. Where, he asked, was a like agent for our work?

Professor Wilkinson considered that we ought to use the agencies we already have, but should