

Last year 1,065 religious services and 140 educational classes and lectures were conducted under the direction of the Y.M.C.A. of this city. The building is found to be too small for the present uses.

The students of Princeton Theological Seminary this session impress the observer as being above the average in intellect and piety. They are more than reverent. Many are tender in their feelings and easily moved in prayer and praise, showing that their fellowship is close with God.—*Philadelphia Presbyterian*.

David Pryde in his "Highways of Literature" says that the study of biography will cure men of affectation and conceit, and that the local poet, when he has entered thoroughly into the grand conceptions and divine harmonies of Shakespeare and Milton, will take the hoarded newspapers containing his once-cherished verses, and make a bonfire of them.

Mr. Croil, in his "Missionary Problem," thinks it may be said that, as water naturally seeks its own level, and stays there, so the missionary spirit in the pew is not apt to rise higher than the same spirit in the pulpit. Instead of a missionary sermon once or twice a year, he asks, might not a place be found in every sermon for at least some reference to "The March of Christianity?"

College Journalism, for the comparatively short existence it has had on this side of the Atlantic, has made rapid strides, and its importance is becoming more generally recognized. In the United States it has taken a more substantial form, and in many cases the editor is relieved from a part of the work regularly set down in the college curriculum, the college authorities deeming that the work so performed is a just equivalent.—*Acta Victoriana*.

All the colleges of the Free Church in Scotland are this winter in a hopeful condition. The attendance at New College, Edinburgh, is unprecedentedly large, 166 students being enrolled, and the quality is said to be as marked as the quantity. In Glasgow the attendance is 111. A marked feature in these colleges is the academic *dinner table*, toward the expense of maintaining which the students are required to pay a stipulated sum. The amount thus asked is not expected nor intended to meet the outlay.

A recent book on etiquette tells this story to enforce a rule recommending the reader to avoid noticing the vulgarity of persons who drink from their saucers: It is related that at the table of an English prince a rustic guest poured his tea into his saucer, much to the visible amusement of the court ladies and gentlemen present, whereupon the prince quietly poured his own tea into his saucer, thereby rebuking his ill-mannered court, and putting his guest in countenance.

In the apocrypha of one of our universities it is written that an undergraduate once replied to a question concern-

ing Esau that he was a Hebrew who wrote fables and sold the copyright for a mass of potash. The ingenious descendant of AEsop who constructed the above admirable little fable erred, like Mr. Shappira, on the question of age. He should have made his hero thirteen years old, and not twenty, and then all who know anything of the effects of our modern system of cram on the mind of the average British schoolboy would have accepted the anecdote as authentic.—*The Saturday Review*.

Spurgeon thus speaks of the misrepresentation of clergymen: "As surely as any of you speak for the Lord you will be misunderstood. That is not the worst of it. You will be wilfully misrepresented. They will turn your words upside down. As for me, it is utterly impossible for me to say a single sentence which some fool or another cannot twist into mischief; and I give patent and license to everybody to do so that chooses to do it, as far as I am concerned. The thing that was farthest from our mind, and which our soul abhorred, has often been made to be said, when we neither said nor thought anything of the kind."

One wet Sunday, Rowland Hill, noticing some people who had taken refuge inside his chapel from the rain, remarked, "I have heard of people making a cloak of their religion, but this is the first time I have ever known them to make an umbrella of it." A stroke of humor from the pulpit will not only arrest, but will often impress when even impassioned oratory would fall flat. If you cannot make men ashamed of doing wrong, you may make them afraid of being ridiculous; a man that does not feel that he is sinful, may often be convinced that he is absurd.—*Rev. R. H. Haveris*.

There is great complaint in America of the falling off in the supply of young ministers, but in Germany the tide turns the other way. It is stated that since 1876 the number of theological students in the nine Prussian universities has more than doubled. Great as this increase is, it seems all the greater when compared with the increase in other than the theological faculties. The number of students of philosophy and of law in the Prussian universities last year increased less than two per cent. each, and of medicine less than 15 per cent., while the students of Roman Catholic theology increased in number nearly ten per cent., and those of Protestant theology more than twenty-one per cent.

"It cannot be denied," says a writer in the *McGill Gazette*, "that there are those amongst us who would think themselves greatly lacking in a sort of manliness if they could not distinguish themselves by taking their 'whiskey straight.' He considers it 'an inexplicable anomaly that those endowed with a liberal education and mental culture should be found indulging in a practice so far removed from everything that savours of refinement and strength of character.'"