

CATECHISING.

At the York Congress a paper was read by the Rev. F. Hessey, D.C.L., on "Catechising," a practice which existed in the Church before adult or Sunday schools were known. It was indeed a mode of instruction used by our Lord Himself, and there was no doubt that St. Paul was an adept in that system of teaching. Although the word does not appear in the Authorized Version, it really occurs repeatedly in the original, and has been continued in the Church in all ages and all times. It was continued in the Lutheran and Heidelberg catechisms, and other Church catechisms, and one of the canons of the Prayer-book of Edward VI. made it obligatory. After the Great Rebellion, catechising was ordered to take place after the Second Lesson, a practice, which, however, almost entirely disappeared in the Georgian era. The renewal of catechising, in the beginning of the present century, was due to Archdeacon Bather—and is now part of the system of instruction in many country parishes. It must be a work undertaken in a spirit of prayer and obedience to the practice of the Church. All subjects and questions should be designed to illustrate and enforce the dogmatic teaching of the church, and her holy precepts, so that they may raise up faithful sons and daughters of the church, to be her polished corners and goodly pillars in another age.

Miscellaneous.

BABY TEACHINGS.

My little baby speaks not,
Save with her pleading eyes,
Her fingers' earnest clasping,
Her eager, plaintive cries.

Yet many a holy lesson
My baby teaches me—
How dear the little teacher!
How sweet her lessons be!

She tells me what is prayer;
Not words or sounding speech,
But just the spirit wrestling,
As best its wants may teach.

She tells me not to slacken
Nor cease my earnest cry,
Until the needful blessing
Be granted from on high.

She tells me how confiding
A child-like soul may rest,
Trusting the sleepless watchings
Of Him who loves us best.

These, and yet other lessons,
My baby teaches me,
How dear the little teacher!
How sweet her lessons be!