

faithfulness leads to the withdrawal of the talent which is entrusted to us, not for neglect but for service. Nor is it always the longer or more polished utterances that most come home to the heart. Short, perhaps broken, offerings of prayer or praise, of witness or encouragement, if made under a fresh sense of the love of God, are often a great help to the tone of a meeting. More important than the actual words used is the atmosphere the speaker brings with him, the evidence, which his hearers instinctively discern, that he is speaking of what he knows. We sympathize with those who are craving for a ministry that feeds their minds and souls and who do not find such in their own meeting. While encouraging older Friends, whose spiritual experience and practical knowledge of life may specially qualify them for such service, to face their responsibilities in the matter, we believe that much of the want might be supplied by our younger members themselves, if, instead of deserting a meeting, they would, under the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit, throw in their spiritual energy to its help. The Church wants the vigour and freshness of youth,—its sympathy with those of like age, its lofty aspirations and its grasp of the needs and thoughts of the time, as well as the matured strength of manhood and womanhood and the ripe spiritual experience of old age.

PREPARATION OF HEART AND MIND.

We would earnestly encourage the minister to "give himself to his ministering," to consecrate to it his best powers of mind and body as well as of soul. There is among us a large and increasing number, whose inner conflict is with foes not only moral but intellectual, who need all the help that can be given by the wide vision and sympathetic insight of ministers who have thought deeply as well as felt deeply of the things of God. We have room in our meetings for helpful ministry of all kinds, for the offerings of the man or woman whose stores of spiritual wisdom have been won in the hard school of life, as well as for the fruits of meditation and study that have been garnered by the more highly trained mind. In all cases the minister will need a knowledge of the revelation of God and a knowledge of men. Both require much patient and loving study, and for this, leisure should, where practicable, be found or made. Meetings should consider it a privilege to do their part by providing, where possible, well-furnished libraries of helpful stimulating books. We are not

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