

CHURCH LIFE AND WORK

Ministers and Others are Reminded that Short, Pithy, Up-to-date Paragraphs Bearing on Church Life and Work will be welcome for this Department of the Magazine.

Ministers and Holidays

"Six days shalt thou labour!" "That applies to ministers as well as to other men; and Thursday is my Sunday," The speaker was Rev. John McNeill, the noted Scottish Evangelist, (who, by the way, has a brother among the prominent business men of Vancouver), and he was announcing to a crowded gathering in Glasgow the programme of the week's work.

The incident was recalled to mind by a discussion which arose at a special meeting of Westminster Presbytery held in Vancouver in the middle of October—on the day in which the last printers' "forme" of the Westminster Hall Magazine was being prepared for the press.

The occasion was the sustaining of a call in connection with which it was stated that the congregation had the matter of holidays for the minister under consideration, and practically committed themselves to giving the pastor called a holiday "next year."

The venerable moderator, with an earnest goodwill, which said much for his heart, was evidently set on accepting the assurance of those supporting the call, and for not seeking to have the matter formally noted by the Presbytery; but there can hardly be any question that, so far as precedent counts, the Presbytery acted wisely in "recommending" in the matter of holidays for the minister.

Muscular and Mental Labour

It is well known that there is a type of person who may hold that with ministers, and others at kindred work, it is a case of "six days shalt thou NOT labour," but apart from a few perverted personalities, such views belong to people whose knowledge of "labour" is confined mainly to that which exercises only the muscles, or whose time otherwise is taken up in diverting an embryonic mind, and the "grey matter" of whose brains (if there IS "grey matter" there), has never been over-exercised concerning anything that affects "growing a soul."

A "Day of Rest" Weekly

Anyone who ever heard Rev. Principal Whyte of Edinburgh, speak specially to divinity students regarding the temptations of a minister's life, would understand and admit that in some country parishes particularly there may be much temptation for ministers to "take life easy." But in city churches in these days, and in the west especially, conditions are very different and the equipment of the modern church particularly in the city, is itself good evidence of that. Chalmers' Church, Vancouver, for instance, has been so adapted for social as well as religious work (if they may be differentiated), that anyone can gather that each evening has its special work, each department of which calls for the minister's interest or oversight; and that