

Religious and Missionary Intelligence.

BY THE REV. E. BARRASS, D.D.

WESLEYAN METHODIST.

The annual Conference of 1897, being the 154th, was held in Leeds. Rev. M. Randles, D.D., the retiring President, opened the proceedings. The attendance for the commencement was unusually large. The ranks of the "Legal Hundred," contained four vacancies. The following were elected: Rev. H. Burton, John Hornbrook, Peter Hargreaves and J. T. F. Hallagey.

Rev. W. L. Watkinson was elected President on the first ballot.

Rev. Marshall Hartley was re-elected Secretary.

Rev. Valentine Ward Pearson, B.A., was re-appointed Head-master and Chaplain of Wesley College, Sheffield.

The addresses of the ex-President and the President were well received. The Conference prayer-meeting followed.

There were several applications for ministers to remain on their circuits beyond the allotted time, but only a few special cases were allowed. The Conference almost unanimously agreed to abide by the old rule.

The number of candidates for the ministry was greater than the demand, only seventy-five were accepted, fifty for home work and twenty-five for missions.

Among the visitors present were the Revs. W. H. Milburn, D.D., and Hugh Johnston, D.D., from Washington, both of whom delivered able addresses.

Fifty deaths were reported, including those who had died abroad. Three deaths occurred during the sittings of Conference.

Dr. H. J. Pope was elected Home Missionary Secretary, and Rev. J. Hornbrook was assigned to the position so long held by Dr. Pope, namely, Secretary to the Chapel Committee.

Prof. Slater was appointed fraternal delegate to the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, which meets in Baltimore in May, 1898.

The religious services, such as the Holiness Meeting, the Lovefeast, Sacramental Meetings, the Reception and Ordination Services, and all the Sabbath Services were seasons of spiritual refresh-

ing. Some social gatherings of an unusual character were also held. One by the Lord Mayor of Leeds, the Wesley Guild, Temperance Rally, at which Miss Slack was one of the speakers, and the Conference Missionary Meeting, were immense gatherings, all of which were seasons of great enthusiasm. An open-air service was held in one of the market squares, which created great interest.

Probably the most animated debate was "The Order of Sessions," during which speeches of great power were delivered, but it was ultimately agreed for things to remain as they were. The conservatism of the majority looks strange to many who are outside of Conference.

There was a strong desire among ministers and laymen for an increase of spiritual power. All regretted the intense worldliness that had crept in everywhere. Great pleasure was expressed at the continued progress of the "Forward Movement." It was the universal opinion that increased attention must be given to the young, and evangelistic services must receive proper support.

"Out-and-Out" Mission Cars, which had already been used to a limited extent with satisfactory results, are still to be employed in rural districts.

The Open Session is always one of the most interesting, and this year it was no exception. The representatives were from France, Ireland, South Africa and Australasia. The venerable Pastor Hocard was from France. He said the Star Life Assurance Company refused to insure his life fifty-three years ago, as he was deemed an unfit subject, but for sixty-three years he had been identified with Methodism in France.

The Right Hon. Chief Justice Way, of South Australia, was greeted with great cheering. His speech related altogether to Methodist Union in the Southern World, and was most cordially received. The other fraternal addresses from the Moravian Synod, the Primitive Methodist, the New Connexion, the Bible Christian Conferences, and the Nonconformist Council, were also well received.

The Wesleyan Trust Association gave \$6,000 to the Worn-out Ministers' Fund,