

political science will appreciate the advantage of having news of the political situation in Great Britain absolutely up-to-date.

Many valuable donations have been received from the United States Government, always extremely liberal in answer to continual requests for more.

Unfortunately the Library walls do not expand in proportion to its contents, and more library accommodation is fast becoming an absolute necessity.

---

## *The Alumni Conference.*

### THEOLOGY.

IT is unfortunate that a larger proportion of the students in Theology cannot, or do not, attend the sessions of the annual Alumni Conference. Perhaps the fact that it was held this fall a week earlier than usual accounts for the small representation from Divinity Hall. Although the conference is arranged primarily for the benefit of the graduates, the papers, addresses and discussions cannot but be of immense value to theological students in that they supply a feature of our training which of necessity can never be obtained in the class-room.

This year has been no exception. A programme with a range of subjects from "The Idea of Sacrifice in the Old Testament" to "Universities and the National Life," furnished a veritable "feast of good things," with food for thought for ministers and students alike. Even if it were possible, it would be unwise to particularize among the subjects treated—for each paper had its own message. For the evening addresses the conference was fortunate in securing men, scholarly and spiritual, who presented subjects of wide interest in their characteristic masterly style. While President Falconer, of Toronto University, in his thoughtful address on Pascal, and Dr. Macphail, of McGill, in his interesting treatment of the New Theology, appealed mainly to a religious and theological interest. Dr. Bonar, of Ottawa, satisfied the literary tastes by his careful and comprehensive paper on Carlyle. The address on "Universities and the National Life" by Dr. Colquhoun, of the Education Department of Ontario, was a fitting conclusion to the series. National in its scope, it was at once inspiring and intensely practical. "The aim of education must be the building of character and not the mere equipment for a trade or profession." This, the keynote to the address, must be the ruling motive in all our student life.

Among the more purely theological subjects, we would mention that of "The Christian Doctrine of Immortality." One of the speakers remarked that the idea of the programme was not to have one paper followed by two other papers, but rather to permit of a free discussion—and perhaps it was mainly because this was carried out in the case of Dean Bidwell's paper on Immortality that, to the student, at least, the treatment of his subject was most interesting and helpful. The frank confession and expression of opinion from our professors and others were delightfully refreshing, and the whole discussion seemed "human" and free from much of the theorizing which might surround such a subject.

Professor Skelton's paper on "The Church and Social Questions" we cannot praise too highly. Amazing in its scope and sympathetic in its treatment, it