

sure that the good effects of this day will be seen in renewed life and activity over many wide sections of the country. To the diocese of Ontario we augur nothing but good from the Episcopate of its young and able Bishop. May the Spirit of God be with him in his arduous task, and give him patience, perseverance and zeal, impartiality and discretion, soundness in the Faith, and that without which all else were worthless, fervent charity towards God and towards man. Amen.

CHURCH DEACONESSSES.

One of the most cheering signs of the increased vitality of the Church of England is the extent to which lay agency has been developed, and especially that of women, whose hearts God has moved to devote themselves exclusively to works of piety and charity. The Convocation of Canterbury has been recently engaged in discussing the motion of the Rev. R. Seymour, in which the Lower House was invited to join in an address to the Archbishop and to the Upper House, praying their Lordships to agree on certain rules by which women may be associated together, on terms and conditions distinctly known as those which the Church of England has sanctioned and prescribed. The debate was a most interesting one, and clergymen of all shades of opinion, seemed agreed that the time had arrived when something ought to be done to meet what appeared to be the general wish of all earnest-minded persons. There was, however, considerable difference as to the best way of carrying out the object in view. Some preferring the order of deaconesses, others sisterhoods. Amongst the chief speakers were Archdeacons Downall, Utterton, Ffoulkes, and Moore, Canons Seymour, Selwyn, and Wordsworth, and the Revds. C. E. Kennaway, and M. W. Mayow. With reference to the prejudice felt in many minds to sisterhoods, Archdeacon Honey said, in the course of the debate, that he had felt them very strongly; but the observations he had heard that day had produced a complete change in his mind, and he was now prepared to concur fully in the propriety of the recognition which was sought to be obtained for institutions of this description.

In the Upper House the question was also fully discussed by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of London, Oxford, Llandaff, Chichester, and St. David's, and the following reply was returned to the representation of the Lower House.

"That this house has read and considered the address of the Lower House as to the devotion of themselves by Christian women within the Church of England to works of piety and charity. That this house agrees with the Lower House in believing that such efforts deserve all the encouragement which the Church can give them, and such guidance as may help those who are making them to live as dutiful members of the Church of England. That they deem it most expedient that this guidance should be sought directly from the parochial clergy and the Bishops of the districts in which such devoted women labour; and