

thus he is in a fitter state to receive religious impressions. To boys who want to play "nine-pins," it does not say "Let us pray," but it provides for then a bowling alley, through which they generally find their way to the prayer meeting or Sunday-school. And all this within the walls of the church itself. It is no stickler for ecclesiastical proprieties. It is nothing if not unconventional. It sanctifies all means for the saving of the world for Christ. It thus stands for the endeavor of the church to exert a continuous influence on the whole life of man. What differentiates it from the conventional church is just this—that it keeps its doors open every day and all the day, with all that this involves. Parlors, baths, amusement halls, reading rooms, educational and industrial classes, kitchens, offices where the pastors may be consulted by those seeking sympathy or assistance in any matter—these all form part of the church's equipment.

The time may not be far distant when an application of the Institutional Church, on a modified scale from that thus described, may be found desirable in Canada, and the progress of the plan ought to be carefully noted, and its work closely studied here.

Homeless Children.

It may be taken for granted that one of the most interesting reports laid upon the table of the Ontario Legislature this session was that on Neglected and Dependent children, by the Superintendent Mr. J. J. Kelso. The report ought to find its way into the hands of all who are interested in the protection and reclamation of town and city juveniles who without the kind help of others than their natural guardians would find themselves gradually drifting into a life of crime. The good accomplished under the Ontario Statute bearing on the subject is indicated by the following extract:—

The placing of homeless, dependent children in foster-homes, which is one of the main features of this law, has made admirable progress, the total number of children recorded as having been placed in families under the Act during the period of two years, being one hundred and eighty-six. Of this number one hundred and fifteen have been placed out during the past year, and the indications are that as the public are beginning to understand the object of the Societies, much greater progress will hereafter be made in this respect.

It is with the moral effect of this work that the Christian Church is especially interested. The financial side may well be left with the legislators. What is of most importance is that the statute provides an agency—the efficiency of which has, so far, stood the test of practical experience—for the rescuing of youth from the paths of criminal life to those of good citizenship and moral influences. It is a work the Church cannot but approve of, and if properly carried out, in accordance with the spirit and intention of the law, ought to command the active co-operation of the Church as a powerful ally.

The whole subject is one that can be very properly discussed at meetings of the Young People's Societies, throughout the Province and literature containing the necessary information as to details can be furnished by the Superintendent at the Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

An Easy Case of Heresy. The Church of Scotland has a heresy case on hand. Rev. Alex. Robinson has published a book which the Presbytery of Dunoon,

within whose bounds he labors, has found to contain much that is in antagonism to the Confession of Faith and the Holy Scriptures. It seems that Mr. Robinson excised from the Gospels the miraculous birth of the Saviour at Bethlehem—holding that He was born at Nazareth—the incarnation, and the transfiguration, the miracles—which he accounted for in a natural way—and the resurrection of the body.

The Hillcrest Home. The eighth annual report of the Hillcrest Convalescent Home, Toronto, is to hand showing a record of good work done last year for which the management is to be heartily congratulated. The object of the Home is to provide a place of rest for convalescents leaving hospitals, or living in houses where their recovery is retarded by the want of needed rest and change, and so well has this object been fulfilled that public interest in the home has been quite remarkable. It deserves the support and sympathy of the philanthropic and charitably disposed element of the population.

Golf-Playing on the Sabbath. We have heard much in Toronto of Golf-Playing on the Lord's Day, and the fact that the game could be indulged in in Edinburgh on the Sabbath, has been made use of to show that in Scotland's capital, liberty to play existed. It would be a mistake to suppose however that public opinion, in the stronghold of orthodoxy, approves of the latitude allowed under an imperfect legal code. Professor Marcus Dods in a published opinion on the subject, says: "If anyone is so ignorant as to suppose that Sunday is a common holiday, without special significance or reference, or is so spiritual that he can dispense with a means of grace (public worship) which all Christendom has considered indispensable; or is so animal that he prefers physical exercise to spiritual culture; or has so little of the spirit of Christianity that the Resurrection is nothing to him; or if he is confident that he can draw the line at quiet pursuits, and prevent Sunday from becoming the rowdiest and most mischievous day of the week—he may golf."

"Ian MacLaren" Doctored. Rev. John Watson, better known as "Ian MacLaren" has received the degree of D.D., from the University of St. Andrew. According to the *British Weekly*, the Ancient Scottish University was anticipated in conferring this honor, by the religious press of the United States, the *Herald* and *Presbyter* describing him as "that famous English preacher and writer, Dr. Ian MacLaren." "Another American religious paper," says the *British Weekly*, "the *South Western Presbyterian*, came out a few weeks ago with severe strictures on the theology of the "Bonnie Brier Bush." Now the paper is warmly commending the book as a premium for annual subscribers. We hope no serious mischief will be done." The *British Weekly* is too old fashioned. Now a-days the advertising department of a paper is run on distinct business principles, as are banks, factories, and some churches. But to fetter the editorial department by business considerations would be decidedly irksome. It would not be fashionable. It might put an end to the inconsistency between Christian principle, and the laws and practice of Christians, and with the complex civilization of the present age it would be rather retrogressive to apply conscience to the business of making money. Ian MacLaren is the coming Yale lecturer on Preaching. He will set out for the United States in September, and after delivering his lectures at Yale will make a tour of the United States and probably of Canada.