

Associations. Twelve meetings of young men were formed in different parts of the city during the first year of the Society's existence. And it is a remarkable fact that since the year 1824 till the present time the Association has had an uninterrupted existence, and has now two hundred meetings of young men, who assemble once a week for the study of the Scriptures. The questions may be fairly asked, What is the secret of the vitality of such an Association? and, What is the method which has been adopted to secure for nearly sixty years the attention and interest of young men in the study of the word of God? A description of the method adopted in one meeting may be fairly taken as an illustration of the method followed by the other meetings in connection with the Association. At the annual business meeting of the branch the members decide on the portion of Scripture which will form the subject of study for the session or year. Sometimes one of the Epistles is chosen, such as "Romans," or "Hebrews," the "Life of our Lord," or the Old and New Testaments embracing "A History of the Church" under both economies, or a miscellaneous course, with a monthly series on the "Conversations of Christ," or "The Conversions Recorded in Scripture." As soon as the subject of study is settled, a syllabus is prepared, when the members either select from it a topic or take up one chosen for them. The syllabus is then printed, so that every member, in the event of his absence, knows the subject which will be taken up. The time of meeting is either the Sabbath morning or evening. After praise and prayer, the minute of the previous meeting is read, embodying a brief report of the essay and of the points spoken on. The Scriptures are then read, followed by the essay and the conversation introduced by one of the younger members. Any one is then at liberty to speak on the subject. The chairman sums up, and enforces any point of special importance. Praise and prayer follow, the roll is called, and a collection made. The Young Men's Meeting by this method promotes not only the personal but the social study of the Scriptures. The mutual communication of ascertained Scripture truth is the distinguishing characteristic of the Young Men's Fellowship Meeting, and the value of such meetings is in proportion to the extent in which each member prepares and takes part in the exercises. The suggestiveness of the Word of God is most strikingly manifested by this method of Scripture Study."

Of the advantages of the Association the writer specifies (1) the discovery of one's own ignorance; (2) the acquirement of scriptural knowledge; (3) the best means of preparation of Christian work; and (4) the best means of preparation for the Christian sanctuary. Mr. West, in the foregoing, has pointed out the method of working of the branches of the Glasgow Y. M. C. A. But to Canadians the Scottish idea of a *branch* will not be altogether apparent, since it is not exactly that of England, America, or Canada, but consists of a Young Men's Meeting held

in a church-vestry, school-room, hall, or any other appropriate place, and may be either denominational or un denominational. If a branch be denominational, it is simply so in name; for the Association has this pleasing feature, that it aims at following in the footsteps of the Apostles by "endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." The two hundred meetings, referred to by Mr. West, are scattered throughout the city and suburbs, and all combined go to form the general Association, which has its centre of operation in the Christian Institute, where there is a lecture-hall, classrooms, library, reading-room, bath-room, refreshment room, etc. The Association maintains a paid secretary, whose duties, though arduous, are greatly lightened by an efficient voluntary directorate, backed by a council chosen from the various branches. In order to render more effectual the work of the Association, what are called District Centres have of late years been established and around these cluster the individual district branches. All business immediately affecting each district is transacted by a directorate, subordinate to the general directorate and council; and these district centres as well as in the central building of the Association, there are reading-rooms and class-rooms. While, as has been shown, the paramount aim of the Association is the spiritual good of the members, both mental and physical culture also receive due attention. During the winter months, classes are held in the Institute and at the various district centres, and are presided over by able teachers, while a series of popular lectures is given in the large hall by men of high standing. The last lecture was delivered by the Duke of Argyll, his subject being, "What is science?" In addition to the special work of the Association, a vigorous Sabbath School is carried on; and many of the members also engage in active mission and evangelistic work. We must not, however, omit to note the monthly issue of the *Young Men's Christian Magazine*, which is always replete with sound spiritual instruction specially adapted to the wants of young men. The conditions of admittance to the Association are church membership and subscription to the "Parish Basis." There is at present a membership of 7000; yet, when we are told that in Glasgow there are 100,000 young men engaged in commercial and similar pursuits, we are reminded that there is still plenty scope for the carrying on of a grand and good work in that city by the Y. M. C. A.

THE CHANCELLOR'S CIRCULAR.

IN the answer given by the Trustees to the Government, with reference to the proposed Confederation of Universities, it was stated that the Board would not be in a position to take final action till its general meeting on April 29th, and that it was hoped that before that date it would know clearly the mind of the graduates, benefactors and other corporators of Queen's. Since that interim answer was made, Kingston has spoken at a great public