THE HOMILETIC REVIEW.

REVIEW SECTION.

I.—ON THE USE OF THE MANUSCRIPT IN THE PULPIT.

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DIFFERENT methods of preaching have been practiced in the Christian Church, and each has been illustrated by men who have become famous for pulpit power.

The first is that which is commonly called the Extemporaneous, although it does not answer exactly to that designation, for the utterances of those who follow it efficiently are not unpremeditated, but the result of earnest and often prolonged study. The subject is brooded over until it becomes germinant. Then a mode of treatment is sketched out, a definite line of argument or order of thought is fixed upon; pertinent illustrations suggest themselves and are noted for use at appropriate points, and so step by step the path is "blazed" on and up to the conclusion, which as the most telling part of the discourse generally receives the greatest amount of attention. Then the preacher goes to the pulpit and leaves himself to the suggestion of the moment, quickened and focussed by the concentrating influence of the place, and by the grace of the Holy Spirit, for the language which he shall employ. This was the method followed by the great preachers of the Reformation epoch, and by some of the most eminent of modern pulpit orators. Luther, Latimer, and Knox among the former; Robert Hall, Robertson, of Brighton, Spurgeon, and McLaren among the latter, are specimens of its excellence and power. In the case of Robert Hall, however, the preparation often extended to the fixing of the very words upon the memory; while in that of Robertson the writing out of his discourses after they had been delivered, and in that of Spurgeon the weekly publication of his sermons, and the consequent necessity for the revision and correction of the stenographer's reports, furnished much of the discipline that would have been given by writing beforehand, with this drawback, that the faults, if there were any, were not