

fever, milk sickness and the serum disease. One cannot but be impressed with the extraordinary rapidity of the progress of our knowledge of the acute infections." We are impressed.

Theology.

AT the meeting of the Q.U.M.A. on Saturday, Dec. 3rd, Mr. D. C. Ramsay gave a paper on "The Call to the Ministry." As this is a subject of special interest to all those who are thinking of the Christian ministry as a life work, we are glad to be able to present a summary of Mr. Ramsay's very excellent paper.

Mr. Ramsay pointed out that the popular view of the call to the ministry rests upon a false separation of work into two kinds—sacred and secular. As a result of this there is oftentimes an absurd dignity assumed by the minister, and an equally absurd reverence given by the laity. The call to the work of the ministry is looked upon first of all as a call to sacrifice, but the halo which is thrown about the minister's work by the idea that his work alone is sacred—transform the call to sacrifice into a call of privilege. This whole point of view in regard to the call of the ministry is untrue.

The basis of this view is that happiness is not the true end of life, but rather character, which is the ability to do the best things naturally. With such an ideal the distinction between sacred and secular breaks down. Either one's work is building up within his mind noble ideals and strong purpose, or it is not. If it is, his work is sacred, if not, his work is profane. This line of distinction does not run between kinds of work, but through every kind of work. To do away with the distinction of the sacred and secular, is not to do away with distinctions within the sacred. There is a call from God to all work, but what is the call from God for this particular work?

What is the work of the ministry? It is threefold—to sympathize, to teach, and to inspire. There must first of all be sympathy with men in their work, in their sorrows, and in their struggle against temptation. Though a man possess all other gifts, and lack this of love, so far as the ministry is concerned, he is nothing. In the work of the ministry there must be careful teaching. And in the third place there must be inspiration. The character building life is aroused only by a living inspiration from God, which is another way of saying a living faith in God.

There is a very real sense in which every man has a call to this work,—to sympathize, to teach, and to inspire. But what is the special call which will make a man choose this as his life-work? (a) The first element in such a call is a sense of the importance of this work. If a man sees this work as the most important work for him; if he can find in it the realization of his own life,—then the voice of God is calling him in the need of our time to the work of the ministry. (b) One who has a real call to the ministry will experience in his work in the ministry a sense of fitness. Three characteristics of such a feeling are—humility, reverence and delight.