

ROLLING OFF A MISSIONARY STUDENT.

BY THE REV. T. W. HUNTER.

Richmond College, in the Old Country, is a noble and historic pile, worthy of the splendid traditions of English Methodism. Of the four Theological Institutions in England for the training of young Wesleyan ministers, Richmond holds the place of antiquity and honour. It is distinctly the training-school for missionaries, and is rich in splendid missionary associations. Here David Hill was trained for his great work in China, W. O. Simpson for India, and scores of brave and notable men for the west coast of Africa, and other parts of the vast mission field of English Methodism.

The home ministry also has received no less distinguished additions to its ranks from the students of Richmond, for W. L. Watkinson and Hugh Price Hughes were students within its walls, and are to-day the foremost men of English Methodism, both having been Presidents within the last few years.

To enter the sacred precincts of the old college as a student is an experience never to be forgotten. The brightest young men of our more vigorous Methodism offer for the ministry, year by year. Only half the number of candidates can possibly hope for acceptance, and the other poor fellows, with their fate all too sadly written in their faces, go back to their homes to break the news of failure, and take up again the work of the farm, the office, or the shop, until perhaps they can try again, or enter some other ministry where the access is easier.

The successful student enters college in September, and in the first term learns many lessons

which tend at once to make him a nobler and stronger man. His companions of the first year are bound to provide him with considerable material for reflection. All are young men of several years' experience as preachers, and range in age from the proverbial college baby, who is usually twenty to twenty-five or twenty-six. There is the usual diversity of gifts and graces. One man is a great "grinder," and all perhaps can grind well, but to the one man it is an abnormal gift. Another is a fine musician, or an excellent singer, and these brethren are always among the most popular men in college. Another is a mechanic, and his friends consult him about broken pedals and ball bearings, or he is in request to fix up some new ingenious arrangement in some chum's den. Another man is an athlete of no mean order, he wins the college championship at racquets, or is appointed captain of his year in football, as was the writer, and consequently has to give the goal posts and cross bars several coats of white paint, and cut out the touch line in the field, and marshal the men two days a week for play.

The sphere into which the student enters is thus no narrow one, but rather one in which there is full play for every manly, vigorous instinct. There is plenty of hard work in the class-room, and "grind" in the silence of his den for every man who wishes to make the best of his preparation for future life-work. The more earnestly and diligently the work is done, the keener is the enjoyment in the tumble of the football field or the tennis court.