

bury, John Bedford, Dr. Cather, John Clulow, John Hall, all of whom had been distinguished for peculiar gifts which made them conspicuous among their brethren.

Forty ministers were compelled, by reason of the failure of their health, to retire from the "active work." With the majority, doubtless their work is done. Some of them, as Dr. Jobson, Thornley Smith, J. Ryan, and others, had travelled more than forty years.

There is, however, no lack of candidates for the ministry. Eighty-nine were recommended by the several district meetings. Of these, four had withdrawn, 31 were declined, and 54 were accepted. Twelve signified their willingness to go abroad. The majority were appointed to the Theological Institution, before entering upon the duties of circuits.

The four colleges have on average 200 young men preparing for the ministry. About 70 are required every year to fill vacancies in the ministry.

Rev. J. S. Banks was appointed to the chair of Theology, vacated by Mr. Coley; Rev. F. W. Macdonald, to the same chair at the new Institution, Birmingham; and the Rev. M. Randles, the successor of Dr. Osborn at Richmond. The new appointments give general satisfaction. All the gentlemen are men of sterling worth. The visit of Mr. Macdonald to Canada during the present year will be remembered with pleasure. Mr. Banks delivered the Fernley Lecture at the Conference; and Mr. Randles is well read, especially in Theology, and is the author of a book on Future Punishment.

Rev. T. Woolmer was appointed successor, as he had been assistant, to Dr. Jobson during the past year. From the report of the Book Room we learn that 234,468 copies of the new Hymn Book had been sold; 14,588 of the Tune Book; 298,000 of the new Sunday-school Hymn Book. There was a circulation monthly of 11,000 of the Magazine, 17,000 of the Miscellany, 43,000 of the Sunday-school Magazine, and 32,000 of Our Boys and Girls, making the total

number of publications of the Book Room 1,764,000. The trade is \$12,500 more than the year preceding. The following grants were made from the profits: Annuitant and Auxiliary Funds (both for the benefit of superannuated ministers), \$17,000; Home Missions, \$2,500; the work in Ireland, \$1,500.

There being a decrease of 934 in the number of members, there was, as might be expected, a lengthened conversation on the state of the work of God both in the Ministerial and Representative Conference. It is quite clear that attendance at class-meeting as a test of membership is the occasion of many not being recognised as members who are otherwise entitled to that privilege. More than 5,000 members had died; and while 43,000 had been received as new members, but 23,780 had ceased to meet in class. There had, however, been received on trial no less than 64,295, so that if all these could be retained in the Church there would not be such a serious declension next year. One minister recommended the more frequent holding of society meetings. It was believed that the depression of trade had largely contributed to the decrease. Many poor people had ceased to meet in class in consequence of not being able to contribute their class-pence and ticket money. All insisted upon the preaching of the blessing of entire holiness, while Dr. Osborn entreated the ministers to look more closely after the young people, and attend constantly to pastoral visitation. It was gratifying to hear how the laymen pleaded for the class-meeting. Some of them were leaders of four classes.

To the delight of the Conference, Rev. C. H. Spurgeon made it a visit, and delivered an earnest and powerful address, to which Drs. Osborn and Punshon replied. Rev. W. Booth, the Commander of the Salvation Army, was also among the visitors of the Conference, and delivered a thoroughly earnest address. "The Army" is truly accomplishing great things for Christ.

The President delivered an appropriate address to the laity in attend-