

dresses. The vocal and instrumental music was very good.

On Monday evening a deputation of the leading members of St. James' Church, Ingersoll, waited upon the Rev. Robert Ker, Rector of the parish, for the purpose of informing him that the congregation had unanimously and enthusiastically voted an additional \$100 per annum to his stipend, to take effect immediately. Mr. Ker said he hardly knew how to thank them for this totally unexpected mark of their kindness, which he felt all the more because he had neither asked for nor even thought of such a thing as an increase of stipend. Apart, however, from all other considerations as a mark of their good will and to flattering appreciation of his humble services, it was of incalculable value. The present position of the congregation is extremely satisfactory, and no better evidence than this could be furnished of the fact and of the esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Ker are held.

WOODSTOCK.—The Ladies' Auxiliary of old St. Paul's Church here, have sent a bale of clothing worth \$200 to R. v. Mr. Pritchard, at Poor Man's Reserve, N. W. T.

LONDON SOUTH.—The Society known as the "King's Daughters" held their monthly meeting last week in St. James' Schoolhouse. There were present 65 members. It was announced that one of the organizers from New York, a Miss Davis, is to visit London under the management of this Branch, and a public meeting is being arranged for October 31st, when this talented lady will give an address on the objects and work of the Society.

GLANWORTH.—His Lordship the Bishop consecrated the hands of the brick church at Glanworth on Sunday Oct. 13th. The incumbent, Rev. Mr. Edelstein, conducted the services, and the Bishop preached a most appropriate sermon. The congregations both morning and evening were very large, and enjoyed the services very much.

DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

VANCOUVER.—Harvest Thanksgivings services were held in St. James' Church, on Thursday, Sept. 12th, commencing with celebrations of Holy Communion at 6:30 and 7:30 a.m. Solemn Evensong was sung at 8 p.m., at which the Bishop preached an impressive sermon to a crowded congregation. The church was most tastefully and beautifully decorated, under the direction of the Misses Dove, who were assisted by a large number of busy workers. The screen was decorated with wheat, oats and grapes and looked very charming. Choice flowers stood upon the reredos, and the body of the church was festooned with hops and flowers.

The services were continued on the following Sunday, and the collections and offertories, amounting to over \$100, was handed to Mr. Clinton, to help towards the expenses of his holiday in England.

St. Agatha's Guild.—A very successful "At Home" was given by this Guild on Wednesday evening, Sept. 25th, to a large number of friends, some 150 guests assembled at St. Luke's Home upon the invitation of the Guild members; \$22 was contributed at the doors towards paying off the debt on St. James' school.

SURREY.—The new church at Langley Prairie is fast approaching completion and will be ready for occupation before Christmas.

SAPPERTON.—The Bishop held a Confirmation at St. Mary's, Sapperton, on Friday, the 27th of Sept., at which three candidates were presented by the Rev. G. Ditcham and received the laying on of hands.

PERSONAL.—The Rev. H. G. Fiennes-Clinton

left on the 18th for England on three months leave.

The Governor General and Lady Stanley will be the guests of the Bishop and Mrs. Sillitoe from 26th to 28th Oct.

EXTRACT FROM A SERMON ON HOLY COMMUNION.

Brethren, we are this morning engaged in a service which requires a great exercise of faith, and we need to pray God that He may deliver us from the sin of those whom St. Paul describes in this chapter, 1 Cor. xi as "eating and drinking damnation to themselves, because they discern not the Lord's body." The awful Presence vouchsafed to us here is not visible to the bodily eye; it can only be "spiritually discerned;" the benefits we derive from Holy Communion are not such as can be felt and definitely appraised. Our Saviour's adorable Presence is veiled from our bodily vision; all we can do, and all we are required to do, is to "believe only." Let us, therefore, approach God's Holy table animated by sentiments such as those so happily expressed by one who was perhaps the greatest divine that our Church produced during the Reformation period—the judicious Hooker. "What these elements are in themselves it skilleth not. It is enough that unto these who take them they are the Body and Blood of Christ. His promise in witness hereof sufficeth. His Word He knoweth which way to accomplish. Why should any cogitation possess the mind of a faithful communicant but this, O my God, Thou art true; O my soul, thou art happy."—*Churchman's Gazette, Westminster.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

(The name of Correspondent must in all cases be enclosed with letter, but will not be published unless desired. The Editor will not hold himself responsible, however, for any opinions expressed by Correspondents.)

OVERCROWDED CEMETERIES.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian:

SIR,—In view of the Conferences on Burial Reform to be held, during the Church Congress in Cardiff, on Sept. 30th; in the Council Chamber, Oxford, Oct. 8th; at the Church House, Westminster, Oct. 10th; in the Guildhall, Cambridge, Oct. 15th; and at Armagh, Belfast Londonderry, Cork, York, Maidstone, Liverpool, Rochester and elsewhere; kindly permit me to point out that the Burial Service in our Book of Common Prayer offers suggestions of a mode of disposing of the dead which has been declared by scientific men to be in accordance with sound science and sanitary law, and which, if properly and completely carried out renders over-crowding impossible. The rubric—"The priest and clerks meeting the corpse, and going before it either into the church or towards the grave"—permit the body, when there is danger of infection, to be taken direct to its burial, instead of into the church. The rubric—"Where the body is made ready to be laid into the Earth"—points to an interment of the body in as close contact with the earth as circumstances, decency and reverence permit. Another rubric—"While the earth is being cast upon the body by some standing by"—seems to imply that the body is to be surrounded and covered with sufficiency of earth. The mode of burial indicated by these rubrics in the "Order for the Burial of the Dead" in the Prayer Book, is harmless to the living. If the coffin be of a perishable nature, if the soil be dry and porous, if the grave be not overcrowded, the body is resolved into air and ashes in from three to seven years, without injury to the living. Now, if the Burial Service manifestly enjoins a mode of disposing of the dead which is in conformity with sanitary laws, it may be

inferred that all other supplementary, or exceptionally necessary, sanitary precautions are to be welcomed, and acted upon. Mourners are not expected to do anything, or leave anything undone, to the imperilling of their own welfare, or that of the public at large. It should be considered a pious duty to bury as soon after death as signs of dissolution appear. The coffin should be of some readily perishable material. If the presence of infectious germs be suspected, some chemical compound, capable of destroying such germs, should be placed in the coffin. The lodging of the body in a properly-appointed mortuary near the burying place should be considered to show as much respect as following it with a costly procession through the crowded streets. The disease carrying pall should be discarded. The grave should be so shallow, as that the air be not excluded. When the soil of the cemetery is not suitable for the disintegration of human remains, the grave should be filled up with dry, porous, properly prepared earth. Bricked graves and vaults, which retain the body in a state of arrested decomposition, should be abandoned. The surface of the grave should not be covered with slabs or monuments preventing the growth of plants and excluding air. Suitable vegetation should abound. Only when assured of the complete dissolution and redistribution of the first should a second body be interred in the same earth. Graveyards should be gardens where the dead are buried side by side, each succession of human bodies passing away into air and ashes, the earth being thus ready every succeeding generation to perform its beneficial action again. Thus, natural laws will have been observed, and the earth, which is the best deodorizer and antiseptic known, and the receptacle of all creatures which have lived and died, will have acted as the medium through which the air descends and performs its purifying and disintegrating action, to re-ascend in new combinations and nourish fresh life. I crave, therefore, the moral and practical support of your readers on behalf of the Church of England Burial, Funeral and Mourning Reform Association, whose aim is to abolish the prevalent, improper, imperfect, falsely so-called burial in durable coffins, in vaults, or already-crowded graves, and to substitute the Church's "earth to earth" mode of burial, in a readily-perishable coffin of compressed pulp, or the like, as carried out by the Necropolis Company at the Woking Cemetery. Under this system, not only is the natural chemical combustion of the body brought about with harm to none, and over-crowding made impossible, but also other distinct and definite advantages accrue—the funeral ceremonies are simplified, the expense lessened, and the same earth rendered available for the burial of the dead, generation after generation, for all time to come.

I am, your obedient servant,

ARTHUR P. PURDY CUST, D.D.,

Chairman of the Council.

Deanery, York, Sept. 13th, 1889.

DIOCESAN COLLEGE CONVOCATION.

SIR,—Allow me, as a friend of the Diocesan College, to suggest that there be some better method adopted for conducting the convocations of that institution than seems to be followed at present. It is a rather extraordinary fact that at the last convocation, a few weeks ago, not one of the speakers had prepared anything in particular to say. One was an entire stranger, and the other two were called upon without a moment's notice. Now it may be very interesting in its place to hear a lengthy history of St. John's College, Winnipeg, and it may be entertaining to hear able and eloquent men speak on the spur of the moment, but surely a college convocation is not the place for such exhibitions.

Personally, I think one address with the Principal's report quite sufficient, but a suitable