

The Methodist World.

SYRACUSE University has 1,316 students, a gain of 200 over last year.

THE membership in all branches of the Methodist Church in the United States in 1890 was 4,589,284; in 1900, 5,996,927, an increase of 1,407,639 in ten years.

THE London Wesleyan Methodist Council has agreed to spend £300 on a fraternal reception to the 1,600 members of the Ecumenical Conference next September.

WESTERN South America Conference is the largest in Methodism. It ranges 3,000 miles from north to south, and some day, with the blessing of God, will be broken up into a dozen Conferences.

FOR the benefit of visiting clergymen, the Methodist Preachers' Association, of Buffalo, New York, has established a Pan-American headquarters at the Epworth hotel, near the Exposition grounds, where they will receive any who may need information.

BISHOP FOWLER recently lectured in Buffalo under somewhat unusual circumstances. The Bishop had promised to give \$100 to the church, if members of the congregation would sell \$900 worth of tickets at \$1 each, besides giving the lecture free. The people did their part enthusiastically, and disposed of more than \$900 worth of tickets, so that the sum of \$1,000 will be applied on the debt of Central Park Methodist Church.

A METHODIST Old People's Home has been recently dedicated in Chicago. Eight years ago, a Methodist woman, eighty years of age, well born, highly cultured, and of saintly life, was found in a Chicago tenement, dying of starvation, through the intemperance of her son, a college graduate. This discovery led to an effort to provide a place of refuge for others similarly situated. The building will accommodate seventy-five people, and cost \$39,000. After a time it is expected that it will be enlarged to hold 250.

A METHODIST church in London is called "The Harbor Light." In its tower is a powerful lighthouse lantern. Instead of warning sailors, however, it informs the locality that a service is being held. The light burns some time before the service commences, and is not put out until it is over. Hundreds have been startled by the sudden appearance of the brilliant light, and have been attracted inside. When this place of worship was built the neighboring churches were not crowded, and some new method had to be devised to reach people who appeared to be outside religious influence.

Literary Lines.

INFORMATION comes from the Society of American Authors that aside from those engaged in regular editorial work there are twenty thousand people in the United States who earn their living by authorship.

Poole's *Library Index* is one of the most valuable productions of modern times. By means of it, it is possible to get trace of every article that has been published in any of the magazines during the past twenty years.

The modern method of fiction-making necessitates no little first-hand study. When Mr. W. D. Howells wished to describe the experiences which he had imagined for one of his characters, he disguised himself as a tramp and worked for food and lodging in Wayfarer's Lodge of Boston.

THE Rev. Charles W. Gordon, before he had won fame as "Ralph Connor," was disheartened by the small appropriation he was able to obtain for missionary work in Western mining camps. An old college chum, then editor of a Toronto weekly,

The Westminster, urged him to wage a campaign for funds through his columns and to put his plea in story form. As the use of his own name might have gotten him into difficulties with the Missionary Board, the pseudonym of "Ralph Connor," was chosen.

THERE probably never was a sadder story of injustice and cruelty than that related by Alfred Dreyfus, the French soldier who was condemned to imprisonment on Devil's Island. It is now told by himself in a book published by McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. Dreyfus returned from his awful exile on Devil's Island a physical wreck. The lamented Stevens described him as an "old, old man of thirty-nine," with hair "gone white as silver," from whose lips the



ALFRED DREYFUS.

words fell as "from the lips of a corpse." Such a man could not possibly have written an intelligent narrative. All he could say was, "I am innocent!" Had he written, he would merely have reiterated this assertion. After his liberation Dreyfus retired to Coligny, a village in Switzerland, near Geneva. There, surrounded by his heroic wife and loving children, he sought to regain, in a measure, the health and strength which his banishment had cost him. And with his returning physical powers he took up the writing of his autobiography, completing it only last February. For them and for his wife he endured all things unendurable; for those who bore his name he lived, that theirs might once again be an honored name. It is a wonderfully interesting volume.

As the present poet laureate of England was appointed by Queen Victoria, his retention of the honor has seemed in some minds to be a matter of doubt, the tastes of King Edward VII. as a literary patron never having been indicated. Apropos of the laureateship, M. Labouchere recently asked a publisher why any man should covet so empty a distinction. The reply was that a poet wearing the laurel could get twice as much for his wares from any publisher as a poet of equal gifts without the laurel, therefore the distinction was not empty.

Prominent People.

DR. JOSEPH PARKER once remarked to a Congregational minister of my acquaintance: "How like Price Hughes you are!" Then, a moment afterwards: "Marvellous man, Hughes; he is there and back before I get a boot on!"

No other man since the Earl of Liverpool has been Prime Minister so long, as Lord Salisbury, and only two men in English history have held the highest office in the state longer than he. He has held the premiership 4,541 days. Mr. Gladstone's record was 4,498 days.

REV. CHARLES M. SHELTON, before he departed from Boston some time ago for his home in Topeka, left a beautiful bunch of pinks on Dr. F. E. Clark's desk, in the *Christian Endeavor* office, with a note saying: "I beg leave to place these few modest blossoms on your desk instead of on your coffin."

The following advice was sent by Edward Everett Hale to a western editor, and is said to be his literary creed: "Speak the truth. Be pure. Keep the commandments. If you have anything to say, say it; if not, not. In writing English, come as soon as possible to your nominative case. When you are through, stop."

THOUGH eighty-one years of age, Florence Nightingale still takes an active part in hospital work. In the room adjoining her own are chairs for the use of the committees of hospitals and other charities in which she is interested, and Miss Nightingale communicates with them through the secretary. Nurses, however, go to the side of her couch to receive their instructions direct from her.

DR. MACLAREN recently preached his forty-third annual sermon to young men. The chapel audience room was not only packed, but an overflow meeting was held in the lecture hall, and still crowds went away. He is now over seventy-five years of age. Some men never pass the dead line till death, no matter how aged they may be.

THE *Epworth News*, of Asheville, N.C., has the following concerning our own Dr. Sutherland, who recently delivered an address at a great Missionary Conference in New Orleans: "Dr. Sutherland is a fine specimen of ripe manhood. The chapel audience room was not only packed, but an overflow meeting was held in the lecture hall, and still crowds went away. He is now over seventy-five years of age. Some men never pass the dead line till death, no matter how aged they may be."

At the dinner table of a hotel in Muskoka last summer, we met a quiet, unassuming little man who proved to be a very entertaining talker. When we discovered that his name was Jacob A. Riis, of New York, author of "How the other half lives," he was bombarded by many questions concerning his philanthropic work. He has probably done more for the poor of New York than any other man, and the story of his life now running through *The Outlook* is absorbingly