

possesses the rare faculty of making the most profound and abstruse problems of science lucid and luminous to the unscientific hearer. Hence the Metropolitan Church and some of the largest audience rooms in Toronto have been filled night after night to listen to the discussion of the fallacies of materialistic skepticism, the scientific objections to prayer, the doctrine of immortality and such august themes. The reason of this popularity is that the Doctor is thoroughly familiar with both the scientific and theological aspects of his theme and possesses a power of lucid explanation like that of Tyndall himself. The learned lecturer, who is also a copious author, is on his way to California, and on his return in November will favour some of the chief cities of the Dominion with a visit. We advise all who can possibly hear him to do so. In response to our request, Dr. Sexton has kindly promised to write out for this MAGAZINE his famous lecture on the fallacies of materialistic skepticism.

#### AGGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN WORK.

We are glad to learn that united Methodism is giving evidence of the fire and fervour of its primitive days. Although the summer season is not regarded as so favourable for special efforts, yet such are in many places being held with great success. At the time of the union it was thought that the Agnes Street Bible Christian Church, a large and elegant building, would be no longer required and must be closed. But other counsels prevailed, and the pastor writes as follows of the special services in that crowded neighbourhood: "Jesus is our light and He has become our salvation. During the past eight weeks ninety-two have professed conversion, forty-one sanctification, twenty backsliders have been reclaimed, and many are at present under deep conviction. We have three services during the week—on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings, commencing at eight o'clock. On Wednesday evening at 7.20 we march out into the

highways and hedges, and compel them to come in. It is our purpose, as soon as possible, to occupy every evening in the week in winning souls. Our Flying Artillery Band have done good service, not only in connection with the above, but in different quarters of the city and surrounding country."

Similar efforts, we are glad to learn, are being attended with similar results in many parts of the country.

#### EXTENSION AND PROGRESS.

The Rev. William Briggs, the energetic Book Steward of the Methodist Church, has returned home after a two months' business visit to Great Britain. It is amazing what an amount of business can be done in that short time. Mr. Briggs has been able to make such arrangements with publishers, manufacturers of printing and binding material and apparatus as will prove greatly advantageous to the Book and Publishing House of the united Church, which is already the most extensive publishing house in the Dominion. The premises in which the business has been carried on for half a century are being so reorganized as to utilize every available inch of space in order to be able to accomplish the rapidly-increasing volume of book manufacturing and book-selling business.

For the special benefit of ministers who cannot pursue the study of the Hebrew and Greek languages, and for lay-preachers, Y.M.C.A. workers, evangelists, Sunday-school officers and teachers, the Chautauqua School of Theology has arranged a non-professional course in theological, religious and ethical literature. The course will cover a wide range of study, indispensable to any minister who aspires to the character of being well informed, and of great value to every intelligent lay teacher in the church or Sunday-school. For all information respecting this or any other department of the Chautauqua School of Theology address the dean, Rev. Alfred A. Wright, Boston, Mass.