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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

As the season has come when journals offer premiums to their readers, the PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW is in order in announcing that it has under consideration an offer which will be found exceptionally valuable and suitable for its widely spread and intelligent constituency. Particulars will be ready for our next issue, and in the meantime we would prepare our readers for something beyond the usual run of premiums both as to merit and cost.

The Keswick Brethren were very warmly received in Montreal and their meetings seem to have been more than welcomed usually successful. What the result of at this Canadian tour may be cannot be estimated, but one result, at least, we hope will be the deepening of spiritual life in the Church. The Keswick Brethren protest against the indifference and the worldliness that are sapping the life of professing Christians, and by setting before the people a high ideal, a higher average plane may be striven for and reached by some of those who have been deeply impressed.

The first draft of the General Assembly's Plan of Study for the young people has been given to the press, and will be welcomed by the societies who are engaged upon their programmes for the Young People. For the benefit of these societies we give the draft of the topics:—January, the new Book of Praise, what it contains and how to make the most of it. Feb., Early Pioneers of the Home Mission Field. Mar., The Shorter Catechism its makers merits and influence.

Apr., McKay of Formosa. May, The Scottish Covenanters. June, What the School has done in our French Work. July, Our Three Home Missionary Superintendents and their Fields. Aug, What our Church Teaches on Baptism. Sept., Our own Presbytery, its Strength, its Work, its Young People's Societies. Oct., The Genesis and Growth of the Augmentation Scheme. Nov., John Geddie, our First Missionary. Dec., The Congregation, what the young people may do for it.

The re-union of graduates at Montreal College, held last week, was distinguished by the deep note of spirituality it struck. Very fittingly, in accordance with the feeling of the day, the re-union of the Holy Spirit was opened by a discussion on the "Work of the Holy Spirit." Rev. Prof. Ross, who dealt with the various views held by Christian bodies regarding the method and extent of the Spirit's work in the soul. Old Testament Criticism was introduced by Rev. Prof. Scrimger and treated with his well-known ability. He laid down as the proper attitude for the evangelical pulpit: to meet the Higher Criticism with full faith in the future of our religion and yet with minds open to all truth.

The Northern Presbyterian Church enumerates thirteen theological seminaries as under its care, Union being omitted. Of these two are for German students and two are for the training of ministers among the freedmen. The whole amount invested in these institutions, in endowments and property, is \$6,345,474. Their aggregate increase last year was \$272,403, while their aggregate expenses were \$302,817, leaving a deficit of nearly \$30,000. They were attended, altogether, by 915 students. It appears that the average cost of supporting a student is about \$330 a year and for the three years' course, about \$1,000, in addition to what the students themselves pay, and to the aid given by the Education Society.

The first lecture of the Rev. Jas. Orr, D.D., Professor of Church History in the United Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Edinburgh, Scotland, was delivered in the chapel of the Western Theological Seminary. The chapel was crowded with ministers and students. Dr. Orr's subject was "The Relation of Dogma to Ecclesiastical History." This is the first of a series of ten lectures which will be delivered before the students of the seminary by Dr. Orr, under the "Elliott Lectures." His general theme is "The Progress of the Dogma."

When the Rev. John McNeill, was preaching in Portrush recently, and prolonging his discourse somewhat, to the great delight and profit of many; but to manifest discomfort of one or two, who were detained like Doeg before the Lord, one gentleman in a front pew, says the *Belfast Herald* wisely pulled out his watch and persistently kept looking at it for a second or two, with the evident intention of setting bounds to the preacher's eloquence. But Mr. McNeill was equal, as he always is, to the occasion. Looking down at the