

very practical matters on which so often the success of minister and congregation may depend, is not recognized in our College course ; no provision is there made for developing it even to the extent of instruction in the best way of teaching a Bible class.

Our students may and do discuss these and kindred topics in some of their weekly meetings every session ; occasionally they receive addresses from pastors who have made some of them the subject of careful study and of successful treatment ; and in the mission fields, in which they serve their apprenticeship, they may acquire a capacity for dealing with such matters as shall be most helpful in their future ministry. It may be that, if the practice of having assistants were more common in our larger congregations, it would provide the most useful school for training young ministers in such departments of work ere they assume the full duties of the pastorate.

But these are questions that it might, perhaps, be well to leave wholly to the Church to discuss. They are here referred to because the young minister, entering on his first pastoral charge, is so often forced to lament his lack of training in many things that concern his ministry. The writer of this paper became pastor of an important city congregation before he was twenty-three years of age ; but, although the ignorance and confidence of youth might assume such responsibilities, imposing a burden too heavy for him who accepts it, yet it certainly is not in the interests of the Church that it should be possible for one so inexperienced to undertake so serious a charge. Is that lack of training, then, to be supplied only by trying experience on the part of the young minister ? Might it not be largely made up if he had spent some seasons as an assistant to an experienced and successful pastor ? Can he get no better preparation than he can gather from his services in the mission field ? Or, would it be possible to do something further for him before he leaves the College halls ?

Reforms in education may be as difficult as reforms in law, where precedent largely rules and where the past is more considered than the future. College authorities may be slow to change their curriculum ; but it would be a sad thing if we thought that our course could not be improved. Thorwaldsen, the great sculptor, regarded it as a sign that his genius was failing when he became content with his work, and when his ideal no longer surpassed his attainment. Self-satisfaction may be taken as clear evidence of senility and decay. Even the very fact that the condition and requirements of the Church change from decade to decade,—or, at least, from generation to generation,—must impose upon the College the necessity of being ever watchful and ready for new ways in which she can advance the Church's interests.

From time to time the Church gives fresh expression of her confidence in the College ; she is doing so this year by her liberal response to the appeal for more adequate accommodation. The College in return, is ever ready to do all that lies within her power to serve the Church. It is a matter that both Church and College may well discuss, though it rests with the Church to determine, what might be done to make the training of our young men for the ministry more effective ; and the purpose of this address will be attained if it helps in some degree to secure for this subject the careful attention which it deserves.