

Obituary.

REV. JOHN J. RICHARDS, of Lyn, in the Presbytery of Brockville, died on the 15th of September of typhoid fever. Although he had been ill for some time, his death was sudden. Mr. Richards was in the prime of life, and in the midst of an earnest and useful ministry. He was a native of West River, Pictou Co., N. S.; commenced his studies for the ministry in Dalhousie College, Halifax, and completed his theological course at Princeton, N. J. He was ordained on 10th August, 1874, and was inducted to Lyn on January 8th, 1880. His first charge was in Westport, so that his whole ministry was spent in the Brockville Presbytery, where he was held in high esteem as a faithful pastor, an excellent preacher, and a genuine Christian.

MISS ELIZABETH ANN, wife of Rev. George Christie, of Bedford, N. S., died on the 22nd of September, aged 74.

MRS. MARIA MAIR, widow of the late Hugh Muir, D. D., minister of Fergus, Ont., from 1848-1854, died at Schuylerville, N. Y., on the 27th of September, aged 78 years.

MRS. MACRAE, wife of Rev. Dr. Macrae, of St. Stephen's Church, St. John, N. B., died very suddenly on the 3rd of October. Dr. Macrae has the sympathies of the whole Church in this crushing bereavement.

MRS. MACRAE, wife of our missionary at Princetown, Trinidad, has been removed from the scene of her devoted labours by death. She had fairly mastered the language, and had gained the affection and confidence of the people when she was stricken down with pleurisy. Her last illness was brief, and it was borne with patience and good courage, and now she rests from her faithful labours.

Our Home Missions.

THE semi-annual meeting of the Executive of the Home Mission Board (West) met in Toronto on the 8th of October, and transacted a large amount of business, passing claims for payment to missionaries and grants to supplemented congregations, as well as sanctioning claims for the ensuing half year to the extent of \$30,000.

At the evening session a conference was held in Knox College, Dr. Wardrope in the chair, between the Home Mission Committee, the Foreign Mission Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Women's Foreign Mission Board, in accordance with instructions received from last General Assembly. The

object was to consider whether the constitution of the Women's Missionary Society might not be so altered as to include home as well as foreign missions. It was finally agreed that the Foreign Mission Board send a deliverance on the subject to the Home Mission Board, and that the matter should be reported to the next General Assembly. In the meantime the ladies show no anxiety to make any change in the constitution of their Society.

A MISSION CHARGE IN THE NORTH-WEST.

A few facts relating to *Oak Lake*, in the Presbytery of Brandon, will help to give our readers some idea of what a missionary charge in the North-West is, and there are many just like this, covering a large area and involving no small amount of toil on the part of the missionary. *Oak Lake* is the central station of a group of mission stations. It is beautifully situated, 33 miles west of Brandon. The little town is only six years old, but it has already a nice church and manse. About three years ago, an effort was made by the congregation, which then comprised five stations, to call a minister, which resulted in the settlement of Rev. D. H. Hodges, a graduate of the Presbyterian College, Montreal. Since that time the people have enjoyed regular services, summer and winter—every Sabbath afternoon at *Oak Lake* and at *Griswold*, eight miles distant, in the forenoon, in the Town Hall. At the former place there are 36 communicants, a Union Sabbath-school—well attended—a Bible Class, a Temperance Society, and a Band of Hope. At the latter, there are 23 communicants. *Ryerson* and *Hagyard* are the names of two stations distant equally from O. L., ten miles. Services are held at each of these places alternately at 7 p. m., summer and winter. The reader who has never experienced a winter in Manitoba cannot form any idea of the hardships which a missionary endures in keeping his appointments in the dead of winter, driving over bad roads, encountering "blizzards" and with nothing to guide him should he lose his way. The minister in charge certainly does not eat the bread of idleness.

"In looking over the past two years," says our correspondent, "we have great reason to thank God and take courage for the many blessings which He hath showered upon us. 'Tis true, every congregation is not self-sustaining, yet we trust that the generosity of the committee which have the management of the Augmentation Fund will bear with our congregation for a few more years, when all the liabilities which are resting upon us are discharged, we shall be able to shoulder the burden ourselves, and come to the relief of some other needy scattered field."

EDITOR'S NOTE.—We are always glad to receive communications like this, and to give the *prize* of them if we have not room for more.