

DR. MACFADYEN, of Manchester.—On Sunday, October 28, he celebrated the Sunday-school anniversary at Chorlton-road, preached in the morning upon the duty of entire consecration, addressed the scholars in the afternoon, and delivered in the evening an impressive open-church address. It was afterwards remarked that he more than once quoted the old saying, "When the house is finished, the hearse is at the door," observing how often when a man's work is most successful he is suddenly cut off. On the following Tuesday he caught a chill returning from a meeting of the Liberation Society in Rochdale. On Wednesday morning he was troubled with symptoms of erysipelas, but was able to take his week-evening service, and delivered a strikingly beautiful address from the text, "Him hath He raised to be a Prince and a Saviour." Next morning he was confined to his bed, but little alarm was felt for some days until, the erysipelas being overcome, his medical attendants perceived that his strength was collapsing. He never rallied, submitted with quiet resignation, kissed his beloved ones, and on Thursday morning fell asleep.—*Christian World*.

THE English Congregational Year Book is out. Statistics in ecclesiastical matters is not one of the hobbies our friends across the water indulge in. These few facts, however, we gather. Churches and Mission Stations number 4,585 in England and Wales, with accommodation for 1,645,000 people. This is not a very large proportion, supposing the accommodation to be all used, in a population of over 28,000,000. We may however add to this the Baptist fraternity, which being "Open Communion," are in close accord with our Independent friends. Their Chapels number 2,663, with capacity for 1,180,000.

The number of Colleges is 17, with an average of 25 students each. Consolidation in this department might, we think, be considered with advantage. 700,000 children are in attendance upon the Sunday Schools. Among the masses, especially in the crowded London district, a vast amount of work is being done. Among the obituaries stands prominent the name of Dr. Macfadyen of Manchester. A man of rare administrative gifts.

A NEWSPAPER correspondent in London, England, has been visiting the churches and

noting the characteristics of those whom the collection plate passes. Here are some jottings:—

There is the long, thin, black-gloved hand that almost hides the tiny threepenny bit it drops into the plate; there is, by way of contrast, the thick, short, fat hand, with ringed little finger held out, that lets fall "heavy silver"; close by is the shining and bent hand that gives the humble copper; while just below is the somewhat attenuated, perhaps graceful hand that puts its fingers in the "useful bag" and may, without any one knowing it, give nothing! Near at hand again is the modishly-dressed woman, who, with head-gear very high and outspread arm and curling fingers, drops plainly in view a heavy half-crown; then there is the woe-begone man who searches for the last threepenny bit; the "blind" individual who attentively regards the ceiling while the smirking collector stands by with inviting plate, and the purse-proud gentleman who throws in the cheque, while lastly is the smug collector who waits with meekly folded hands while his plate is passing along the pew. As for the receptacles, they are curious enough, and the writer tells of a tin can at the end of a stick being used "in a little chapel away in the far North." The shilling is a favourite collection coin with many men and the sixpence with women, but the threepenny bit still remains prominent as the most popular collection coin. Yet, after all, it is the spirit that prompts the gift and the circumstances of the giver which do so much to determine its real value.

Editorial Articles.

SYSTEMATIC GIVING.

There were some suggestive items on this subject, scattered through a late number of the *Scottish Congregationalist*, the small but well-filled monthly of the denomination there. Several churches have sent in, for a number of years past, the same amount as a "collection," in aid of the Home Missionary work of the Scottish Union. The editor hardly thinks this could be in response to any "appeal"—for how should it be, to a penny, the same every year—but rather a mere "grant" from the church funds. Undoubtedly it is; and the idea of giving is not presented to the people at all. In thirty-five of the churches last year the most of them only gave in their "church collections"—from one to two pounds. The thirty-five churches, in all, raised for this purpose £47. In contrast to this, there were sixteen churches which raised missionary money by collections, and these sixteen churches raised among them £100.

The raising of the salaries of our pastors has