

## Editorial.

### SPECIAL EVANGELISTIC SERVICES.

The churches are awaking to the need and importance of these special services. A deeper and more general attention is being given, day by day, to this form of Evangelistic effort. In the reports given in, this year, to synods and assemblies, we have been well pleased to note the systematic vigour wherewith this form of Effort has been put forth by churches in England, Scotland, and Ireland. There is but one testimony to the beneficial results of such services. In ever case where they have been organized and carried through they have met with marked success. "We cannot forget," says one who had ample means of judging, "the refreshing that followed the Special Evangelistic Services that have been held in London, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, and elsewhere. While we write these lines similar services are being conducted by the brethren in the Irish Presbyterian Church, and are being followed with a blessing nothing short of a spiritual revival in congregations as well as in districts of the country."

Doubtless the pulpit has been, and must always continue to be, the great central power. But, auxiliary to it, and in harmony with its aims, much may be done to refresh and quicken the membership of the Church and to gather in the lost. Now, by Special Evangelistic Services, we mean services of an intensely earnest and practical character, conducted day by day continuously for a week or fortnight, in a church or hall, where the people can be gathered together. Short, pointed addresses, two or three at each meeting, frequent prayer and singing, should form the features of the service. Such meetings afford an opening for the employment of the whole spiritual power of the Church. Godly office-bearers

and members may be associated with ministers in conducting them, to their own great profit, and the benefit of all concerned. "What can be more desirable," it has been asked, "than to call into play the energies and spiritual power of a whole congregation? Why should the whole spiritual work be left in the hands of one man, when there may be in the same church fifty, a hundred, or two hundred living saved souls, whom God expects and commands to work for Him? In this matter of the employment of all converted men and women in the service of the King, Ministers display a great want of sagacity. It should be a special object with every faithful Minister of Christ to look out among his people for the souls that are saved, so as to give them work suited to their several gifts. All spiritual capital should be utilised."

It is quite plain to any qualified observer that much of the life and energy, and a great part of the spiritual blessing, continually refreshing and reviving the churches in Britain and Ireland, spring from the higher standard of Christian duty now recognized. The work of grace some fifteen years ago effected this. It thrust forth into the harvest field a host of earnest workers. They do not usurp the place belonging of right to the pulpit. But in all kinds of special service, and more particularly in those Evangelistic Efforts now so common, they find a noble field of sanctified energy and talent, where, hand in hand with the ministry, they can work for Christ.

Now, why should not we have the same instrumentality for good, in vigorous operation, in this Canada of ours? We have not yet to contend with those appalling masses of God-forgetfulness and immorality segregated in many of the great cities at home. Yet, everywhere, we have the nuclei of these.