

balls, reading rooms, educational and industrial classes, kitchens, offices where the pastors may be consulted by those seeking sympathy or assistance in any matter--these all form part of the church's equipment.

Lately I have had the opportunity of observing the workings of the Berkeley Temple, Boston, the first church to bear the name "Institutional;" and from it one may gain a pretty clear idea of the genius, methods and results of this comparatively "new departure." It is situated in a boarding-house district of the city, and an ultra-fashionable bonnet is not to be seen within its precincts; but it counts among its active members, I am told, some of the choicest characters in New England. It has an able pastor, the Rev. C. A. Dickinson, two associate pastors, and a large number of assistants. It has a membership of about a thousand; but it is estimated that through its doors, which are open every day, there passes weekly an average of ten thousand people, who come in some way under the influence of one or other of its various departments.

It has many features, of course, in common with other churches. The Sunday morning service is conventional, the preacher appearing in a gown; and the church is well filled with an intelligent congregation. In the evening, when the service is more informal and of a popular nature, the audience room is packed even to the galleries by a different congregation. Its pulpit sets its face against long sermons and ethical essays for the elect only. It is peculiarly free from cant, and preaches practical sermons which appeal directly to intelligence and conscience. There is the best music and plenty of it in variety. Although "free seats" are part of the creed of the Institutional Church; yet at Berkeley Temple they are not absolutely free. Sittings are allotted to the regular contributors, and thus the carter who pays five cents a Sunday may be next neighbor to the capitalist who contributes ten dollars. The prayer-meetings and Young People's Societies, although very numerous, are such as we should expect to find in any active up-to-date congregation.

Its unusual features are the Young Men's Institute and the Dorcastry. The former has many departments. Its literary department has a reading room, where there is an average daily attendance of forty, and a parish library which provides such wholesome literature as the working-man will naturally find suited to his taste. The Physical Culture department has a boys' brigade, with a large and enthusiastic membership. There is also a lecture and entertainment course, intended to be educational as well as entertaining, which has proved a very successful financial venture. The Temperance Guild is the most remarkable feature of the reform department. Many cases are reported of permanent reform from drunkenness by means of this quiet agency. Until quite recently an asylum was connected with