

## APPENDIX D.

### *Sisterhoods.*

*A Speech by the REV. C. FORREST, Merrickville, Ontario.*

In venturing upon this subject [Sisterhoods] I feel that I need the indulgence of my audience, and for this reason: In the seclusion of my little country Mission—isolated from almost all sources of information as to what is passing in the Church—I have had but scant opportunity to acquaint myself with those various details, which have characterized the rise and progress of these important associations. I have, however, long felt that there was pressing need for such agencies. I have, in common, I am sure, with many of my Brethren, realized that, in many departments of parochial work, the intelligent and religious co-operation of Sisterhoods would prove a signal blessing. We need connecting-links between the Clergy and certain classes of our people. We need hearts and hands to render services to which our present working machinery is not adapted.

Few, for example, are the cases in which, as Clergy, we can acquire an intimate knowledge of our people's wants; still fewer those in which our desire for their good—whether secular or spiritual—can be exercised in such manner as to render our office one of special benefit. We have, and can have, but very slight connexion with or control over the young. We stand at almost equal disadvantage with regard to our young men and young women. We are utterly destitute of everything like organized and reliable help in our ministrations to the sick, or in our efforts to reach the poor. And, in the latter cases, the difficulty in our way is intensified when the case to be dealt with, and the sympathy which alone can influence it, is, on our part, very partially, if at all, understood. In all