

in the thoroughness of clerical education. It is exceedingly damaging when opposers of the Church and Christianity can, with any show of justice, allege that ministers have a training which keeps them in a narrow professional rut, while the great fields of scholarship, science and discovery lie outside of their knowledge.

We cannot, therefore, accept Dr. Curry's idea, that "the average minister of the Gospel need not possess what is properly called scholarship." It is true that he is practically a man of "one book," and that for the substance of his preaching he does not necessarily draw from the remoter knowledge of the schools. But, if he has the true spirit, the largeness and richness of his mental stores, the vigor of his developed scholarship will not make the "one book" less to him, or diminish his power to expound it with clearness and effect; while the fact of his scholarly attainments will go far to secure respectful hearing and deter the common readiness to discount what he preaches as the truth of Christ. While a few of the theological seminaries may have kept their standard of entrance and work in pretty close agreement with their theory, it is unquestionable that in many seminaries all over the country there has been a failure to maintain the true ideal grade. In view of the pressing need of ministers, or, perhaps, from an undue desire for a large number of students, institutions are betrayed into too easy admission of candidates. Ecclesiastical bodies, too, have sometimes ordained without insisting on the standard thoroughness of training. The result has been, that in some places and some connections the "average minister" is not up to the average of scholarly authority and efficiency needed, or desirable, in those who occupy the pulpits of the Church of Christ.

2. For the same reason we cannot approve of the multiplication of special schools for the training of men whose preparatory or academic education has been inferior to that of a college course, or of such as in advanced years come to feel themselves called to the ministry. Such a school is Mr. Spurgeon's. Such Mr. Moody seeks to establish; others are set up in various relations. Not that this class of persons should be altogether debarred from the ministry. We do not dissent from the views which have been already presented in this symposium, in favor of encouraging and admitting such. Sometimes they possess special talent and fine adaptations for usefulness which enable them, without the best education, to achieve, under God's blessing, careers of high and gladdening service in this office. Some of the shining stars in the right hand of the Son of Man have been found in these—the truest "angels of the churches." And there will probably always be room for the labor of all the deserving candidates of these classes.

But the suggestion of Dr. Duryea seems to us to present the right method—to give these the advantage of the instruction provided in