

applying to men as men, but impersonations and agents of evil. Implicit confidence in God would solve all difficulties. The Bible was the Word of God, and that "abideth forever."

Rev. H. E. Horsey, appointed speaker on this subject, had sent his remarks in writing, and these were read by the Secretary. He spoke about there being difficulties big and little in the Bible, as in life, the big not always insurmountable, the little often occasions of stumbling. There were difficulties of language, seeming contradictions, between different parts which might be the result of transcription and translation, and questions as to the correctness of numbers, exemplified by the number of Solomon's wives and the years of Methusaleh's age. These he did not attempt to answer, but thought that the clergyman should try to be prepared with as good an explanation as he could furnish to his inquiring people.

The discussion was continued by Rev. Rural Dean Sanders, who remarked that the Old Testament is really a new subject; that the traditional view has been shaken by a critical study of Hebrew, which ignored the fundamental facts of Revelation and Inspiration, and that this had resulted in the wildest theories. The admitted difficulties urge us to a deeper study of the Old Testament. Rev. N. A. F. Bourne remarked that many difficulties disappear in the light of recent discovery. "The very stones would cry out," was a prophetic utterance being fulfilled to-day. Rev. F. A. Allen favoured criticism as a means of establishing truth. Better free inquiry than blind acceptance. Rev. John Ker declared that truth had nothing to fear from criticism. With spiritual insight given, difficulties would settle down. The resurrection of Christ was the crowning miracle, and with that all others in the Bible could be accepted. The Bishop, in closing, emphasized the remark of Mr. Ker, that spiritual things must be spiritually discerned. He would not think much of a man who had no difficulties.

The paper on "Confirmation Classes" was read by Rev. A. Bareham. He spoke of the clergyman's natural desire to present a large number of candidates. This he should resist, and search for those who had given their hearts to Christ. Great caution was necessary, and the formation of a class should be gradual. The Sunday school should aim at the preparation of the children's hearts for this sacred rite. The time devoted to the classes must depend on how well informed the candidates were. They should be carefully cared for after confirmation. A good way to keep them earnest was to give them work. As to the age of candidates, there should be a wide margin, with decision for Christ the test of fitness.

Rev. Rural Dean Sanders said that the clergyman was God's representative in a visible body, the members of which he should endeavor to