

approving and from the venerable Dr. Irons, himself a specialist in church history, and an honoured member of the older High Church party at Oxford. But for these meetings, Church life in the great Metropolis would have been, after all, somewhat narrow and parochial. As yet there was no Diocesan Synod for London, and the clergyman's world was limited to a much narrower sphere than that of a diocese like Fredericton. Year by year the Bishop appeared for the Confirmation; there was a triennial charge from the bishop, which was attended, and minor charges from the two archdeacons, which nobody thought of attending, much to the grief of Archdeacon Hessey, one of the kindest and worthiest of men. His colleague, Dr. Cloughton, an ex-colonial bishop who added the arduous duties of chaplain-general to his archdeaconry, was ^{so} more fortunate in this respect. But all these things are now changed for the better. An active religious life has sprung up, not only in evangelistic, but all other departments of church work; and the diocese of London which once was in a most retrograde state, is now the best organized See in England.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A Y. M. A. READING ROOM.

That the establishment of a reading room in connection with the Y. M. A. would—if arrangements could be made whereby it could be maintained without entailing much expense upon that society—prove a valuable addition to the work already performed by it, is, we think, evident to every person who has given the subject the consideration it merits. Already there are reading rooms established in different parts of the city, and the privilege of attending these rooms and perusing whatever periodicals may there be found is extended to the public for a greater or less amount of the time during each day. But are these rooms so thoroughly performing all the work which might be expected of them that another added to the list would remain unpatronized? We think not. The large number of not only young men but men of all ages to be found in our city who possess literary tastes and aspirations of more or less exalted nature, would convince anyone that at present there is no scarcity of persons who could take advantage of such an institution, were they so disposed, and would argue for at least a fair degree of patronage. If enquiry were made into the history of these persons, it would be found that a large proportion of them are persons whose homes are located in various parts of the province, or perhaps in places even more remote, and who are now here on account of the superior opportunities afforded them in pursuing their various avocations. Very many of them, particularly the younger portion, would be found to be receiving salaries not very large, and which, after providing for the necessities of life, will not permit of so excessive an indulgence in literary luxuries as their owners might desire, yet in an institution of this nature an excellent opportunity would be afforded whereby the most ardent seeker of reading material might gratify his longings. It might justly be argued that any of the rooms already established extend just such privi-

leges to our citizens as we have indicated, but there would be one additional feature attending a room conducted under the auspices of the Y. M. A.,—a feature which should of itself be sufficient to commend the project, not only to the serious consideration of the young men, but to every member of the congregation. It would prove a most strong and potent factor in collecting and binding firmly together large numbers of young men who have been reared more or less under the influence of the church, and in keeping them more closely connected with the church in general, and with our church in particular. It would provide a retreat where from time to time the young members of the congregation during their leisure moments might resort; where they might invite their friends or strangers to the city to spend a pleasant hour or two in conversing with the master minds of the present as well as of the past; and where, when its reputation has become established, others beyond our own congregation might advise friends whose welfare they had much at heart to pass their unoccupied hours, knowing that so long as they resorted hither they would be breathing an atmosphere which was teeming with both moral and intellectual worth. Considered from this standpoint, the movement must certainly be one worthy of our best efforts, and one for which we believe we would be warranted in soliciting aid from the entire congregation.

The most difficult problem to be solved in its connection would be the means of support. In preceding years the Y. M. A. has annually during the season arranged for a course of lectures, the proceeds of which have been extended for various objects. During the current season, or as much of it as remained after the completion of the school room, none were arranged for, and the only reason which we have heard assigned for not having done so was that the association had no particular need of funds. Might not the establishment of a reading room be considered a most worthy object for which to maintain a lecture course? The receipts of four or five well patronized lectures would go a long distance toward providing a good assortment of the periodicals of the day, and beyond the outlay occasioned by subscription renewals, the expenses would be merely nominal, the bulk of the work being performed by committees of the Y. M. A.

S. M. GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

SENIOR BRANCH: Owing to unfavorable weather, the walk which was planned for the 30th of May, was postponed until the following Saturday, which proved to be a charming day. The rather small number who availed themselves of the opportunity, pronounced the walk (to Howe's lake) very enjoyable.

JUNIOR BRANCH: During last month two meetings were held, at the first of which little was done beyond trying to bring down to a practical comprehension some of the suggestions and possibilities of its future work as a branch of an active association. The members of this branch thought it advisable to establish its existence by giving their friends an