

## Our Home Work.

### SYNOD MEETINGS.

Four of the Synods of our Church meet in the Spring, and two, of those of the Maritime and Prairie Provinces, in the Autumn.

Of the four Spring Synods, that of Hamilton and London meets this year in Paris, on the 26th of April at 7.30 p.m.; that of Toronto and Kingston, in Lindsay, on Monday, 10 May; that of Montreal and Ottawa, in Almonte, on Tuesday, 11 May; and the Synod of British Columbia, in New Westminster, on Wednesday the 5th of May.

The Synods are changing in some measure to suit the changed circumstances of our time. With Presbyteries on the one side of them and the General Assembly so near them on the other, they are not seemingly very necessary to the proper working of our Church. But the very absence of pressing administrative work gives more opportunity for Conference on great matters pertaining to the Christian Life, and "the Conference" is coming to have a recognized place at our Synod meetings. These are very enjoyable and profitable and make our Synods among the most useful wheels in the machinery of our Church.

The subjects for Conference in the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa are "The Lord's Supper," the preparation for it, and the administration of it; and, "The Holy Spirit" in the life of the Church and in the Mission Work of the Church.

The subjects to be discussed in the Synod of Toronto and Kingston are "The relation of the Holy Spirit to deeper Christian Life;" "The relation of the Holy Spirit to more efficient Christian service;" "How to utilize and develop the force that lies in the young life of the Church." Is the Tithing System, as at present advocated, sound in principle, and is it fair to all parties concerned?" "How to present doctrine so as to be most helpful to Christian Life;" "The Church in relation to Temperance Reform;" and "The duty of the pulpit to the labor problem."

The latter bill of fare is almost too full for a brief conference, but the discussion of such great subjects, so closely connected with the very life of the Church cannot fail to do good. Our Synods may thus become of inestimable value to the character and work of our Church.

### MANITOBA COLLEGE.

Change of work, rather than cessation, is the rest of Manitoba College, and without breathing time between, she plunges into Arts in the Autumn and Theology in the Spring.

At the Arts Course during the past winter there were 179 students enrolled, a larger number than ever before, many of whom purpose entering the ministry. Prof. Hart's services have been greatly missed but it is hoped that soon restored to health he will be ready for work again. He is at present in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Theological Classes opened for the summer on the 30th March, with a lecture by Principal King on "A purely ethical Gospel examined;" shewing that it lacked the one essential, a vicarious sacrifice. Dr. Maclaren of Knox College, Dr. Scrimger of Montreal, and Dr. Beattie of Louisville, are to assist in the work of the summer session. The former has already taught there for two similar sessions, and the two latter one session each.

The youngest of our Colleges, but, like its home, the New West, this College has a strong and growing youth. It is great in attainment and greater in possibilities and prospects.

### PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE, MONTREAL.

On the 7th of April a successful session was formally closed and a larger class graduated than ever before, seventeen in all. Principal MacVicar had been absent during the session, taking a much needed rest after the strain of twenty-seven years; and Dr. Barclay of St. Paul's Church, in addition to his own work, the ministry of a large city congregation, had taken the classes in Theology, having to prepare a complete course of lectures. This combined task required rare mental grasp and power, and the physical endurance of an athlete to stand the strain, and needless to say, was well done.

The Principal's right hearty welcome home shewed the place he has in the hearts of the students, and his closing address to the graduating class on the importance of having a clear, definite, positive, Gospel message to deliver, was very fitting in an age which has not a little invertebrate, moluscous teaching, both in pulpit and in press. Both the staff and the supporters of the College have cause for gratitude in its success.

### KNOX COLLEGE.

Twenty-two graduated in Theology and received their diplomas, at the Academic closing of this College, on the afternoon of April 8, in the College Hall. The popular closing was held on the evening of the same day in Knox Church, and was addressed by the Principal, and Revs. Dr. Moore, W. G. Wallace, and W. J. McCaughan. The parting charge of Principal Caven to the class now going forth to its life work, urging them, while keeping abreast of the world's best thought, to make supreme the preaching of the Gospel of Christ, well summed up the work and aim of Knox College, that which makes it so worthy the loyal affection and support of the Church.

Knox has enjoyed during the session just closed the services of her two new men, Professors Ballantyne and Robinson. New men but the old truth. The name, Knox, is no misnomer. Long may his spirit, along its best lines animate this our largest Theological School.