

THE MONTH.

THE *Record* of the 6th was an issue of singular interest and importance. It contained the results of a minute and exhaustive inquiry into the religious condition of London south of the Thames :

For months past [said the *Record*] we have been engaged in collecting facts and examining places in South London. We now publish the result, under the belief that the public are utterly ignorant of the grave and dangerous condition of things which a variety of exceptional circumstances have combined to produce, and that the surest way to find the remedy is to make the want of it known. South London, eighty years ago, was only a few streets and courts ; to-day it is a great city of 800,000 souls. It is increasing with tremendous rapidity. As it grows bigger, it gets poorer. What South London will be eighty years hence it is terrible to conceive. *Christianity is not in possession in South London.* There are 98 parishes and 238 clergy. Immense efforts have been made, especially in the last ten years, during which the forces of the Church of England have gained greatly both in quality and quantity. But, meanwhile, the population has poured in : miles upon miles of new streets have sprung up as if by magic ; a new city of apparently boundless extent has developed ; and, relatively to the work to be done, the Church of England remains, not perhaps as weak, but certainly as inadequate as ever. The Nonconformists are in still worse difficulties. Voluntaryism cannot cope with a whole city of level poverty. The religious future of South London seems to be dependent on the Church. Leaden indifference, the result of hopeless penury, is settling down more and more into the hearts of the people, and is making religious work harder and harder. The clergy are keeping up the fight bravely, but year by year the resources procurable on the spot dwindle as one well-to-do parishioner after another goes away southwards ; and it is difficult to see how, if nothing is done, the struggle can be long maintained, even on its present scale.

At a meeting (in the Jerusalem Chamber) in support of the Pembroke College Mission, the Master of Pembroke (Rev. Dr. Searle) in the chair, Archdeacon Farrar quoted from the *Record* Report,¹ and spoke of the duty of Mission work at home.

Archdeacon Earle is to be the new Suffragan for London.—A paper on the "Completion of the Wakefield Bishopric Fund," by Canon Straton, will appear in an early CHURCHMAN.

At the Islington Meeting, on the 10th, the Vicar (the Rev. W. H. Barlow) presiding, at least 400 clergy were present. An admirable report of the papers and speeches appears in the *Record*. The four subjects were "The One Church," "The One Offering," "The One Life-Giver," "The One Life;" opened by Canon Bernard, Archdeacon Perowne, Principal Moule, and the Rev. H. W. Webb-Peploe. The proceedings of the day were summed up by Canon Cadman.

The death-roll of the month includes the names of Bishop Ryan, Rector of Stanhope, and Mr. Bonamy Price, who filled the Chair of Political Economy, Oxford.²

¹ Several leading journals have spoken of the service done to the Church by the enterprise of the *Record*. The *Times* wrote : "When the condition of the East End has been eloquently and forcibly described, it has occasionally been pointed out that other districts of the Metropolis have equal claims upon our sympathy. In a vague way many people know that south of the river there is a very large population of the lower classes of labourers, of people not far above the line of pauperism, and of the reckless and dangerous classes who form the last results of the attrition of the social mill. But a careful perusal of the details given by the *Record* will have the effect of bringing home the real state of affairs to men's minds with a vividness which will be found not a little disquieting."

² From the Bishop and the Professor we received, on more than one occasion, tokens of kindly interest in this magazine.