

Religious....

A FEATURE that adds much to the interest centering about the annual Wyoming conference to be held next April at Ogwego is the question of equal lay and ministerial representation in the National Methodist Episcopal quadrennial conference at Chicago next May. Heretofore the Wyoming conference has sent more clerical delegates to the conference than lay delegates and of late the matter has aroused considerable attention on the part of the lay members of the conference. The matter has long been regarded in a quiescent way by the lay members, and heretofore they have never made an attempt for decisive action, but it is said the matter will be settled one way or the other in April.

The committee in charge of the arrangements for the annual conference predict the largest gathering of members of the denomination ever held in the history of the church.

In 1860 the denomination had eight conferences. Now it has 17. There were 28 itinerant ministers, there are now 17,583 and 14,289 local preachers or "exhorters." A century ago there were 6,894 lay members, today the total membership is 2,871,949, with a Sunday school army of over 3,000,000. The number of churches valued at \$118,375,007, while there are 11,000 parsonages valued at \$15,341,811. The state of Pennsylvania alone has over a quarter million Methodists within its bounds.

Questions of the most vital importance will come before the conference. One of the first things the body will be called upon to do will be to admit the provisional lay delegates. Their admission is highly probable, but by no means certain. One woman has been elected as a lay delegate and thus the right of women to be delegates will again come before the conference. The question of making the pastorate of the minister a permanent one will also come up for consideration again this year.

The amusement question is another serious problem. Four years ago an effort was made to change the national against dancing, theaters, horse races, card-playing or playing at games but the effort failed. There is said to be a sentiment in favor of not naming a list of objectionable amusements but favors abolishing the general rule on the question which says that members shall avoid taking such diversions as cannot be used in the name of the Lord. Fraternal delegates will attend from Canada, Ireland, England, and New Zealand. Special sessions will be held to hear their addresses.

Perhaps the part of the conference about which the most interest centers is the election of new bishops, four agents of the book concerns and thirteen editors and ten corresponding secretaries of the benevolent societies. It is thought from three to five bishops will be elected to take the place of Bishop Newman who died, and others who will probably retire. Among those spoken of for the bishoprics are Rev. Thomas B. Neely of Philadelphia; Rev. Dr. John W. Hamilton, of Cincinnati; Rev. Dr. Joseph F. Berry, of Chicago; Rev. A. J. Palmer and Rev. Dr. William V. Kelley, of New York.

Rev. Luther Hess Waring, pastor of Grace Lutheran church of this city, will be in attendance upon the meetings of the North Branch conference of the Synod of the West. The angelical Lutheran church, which will be held in Grace Lutheran church, Wilkes-Barre, next week, March 12 to 14. W. E. Shoener will attend as lay delegate, and James Matter as alternate. This conference includes twenty ministers, scattered from Sunbury to Scranton, along and near the north branch of the Susquehanna river.

Rev. Charles Lee, pastor of the Presbyterian church in Carbondale, will exchange pulpits with Dr. McLeod, of this city, tomorrow. Dr. Lee is one of the leading preachers in the presbytery of Lackawanna.

Gospel meeting at the West Scranton branch of the Young Women's Christian association at 5.45 p. m. tomorrow. Mrs. Gates leader. All women and girls are invited.

Gospel meeting at the Young Women's Christian association at 3.45 p. m. tomorrow. All women and girls are invited.

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For Bilious and Nervous Disorders, such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Sick Headache, Giddiness, Fullness and Swelling after Meals, Dizziness and Drowsiness, Cold Chills, Flashes of Heat, Brilliancy of Vision, Shortness of Breath, Costiveness, Stitches on the Side, Disturbed Sleep, Brightness of the Eyes, and Trembling and Shaking of the System. These ailments will arise from a disordered or abused condition of the stomach.

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Tomorrow's Services

Episcopal.
Church of the Good Shepherd, corner Green Ridge street and Monsey avenue—Rev. Francis R. Batesman, rector. Sunday in Lent. Holy Communion at 7:30 a. m.; morning prayer and sermon at 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school at 2:30 p. m.; evening prayer and sermon at 7:30 p. m. All welcome.

St. David's parish, Rev. Edward James McHenry, rector—Celebrations of Holy Eucharist at 7:30 and 10:30 a. m.; morning prayer at 9:30 a. m.; Sunday school at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. James H. Lamb, D. D., will preach in the evening.

Evangelical Lutheran.
Second Sunday in Lent—Gospel, Matt. 11:21-28; Epistle, 1 Thess. 4:1-7. St. Mary's, Washburn and Fourteenth streets, Rev. A. L. Ramer, Ph. D., pastor—Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Luther League at 6:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 12 m.; meeting of catechumens Monday at 7 p. m.; Bible study Wednesday at 7.45 p. m.

St. Paul's, Short Centre, Rev. W. C. L. Lauer, pastor—Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 2:30 p. m.

Zion's, Millin avenue, Rev. P. F. Zielmann, pastor—Services at 10:30 a. m.; Sunday school at 2 p. m.

Methodist Episcopal.
Elm Park church—Prayer and Praise service at 9:30 a. m.; preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor, C. H. B. Smith, D. D. at 12 m., half hour Bible study in Sunday school room; Sunday school at 2 and Epworth League at 6:30 p. m.

Hampton Street Methodist Episcopal church—Rev. James Benninger, pastor. Services as follows: Preaching at 10:30 a. m.; class meeting at 11:30 a. m.; Junior at 2 p. m.; Epworth at 3 p. m.; preaching at 7:30 p. m.; Sunday school at 7:30 p. m.

Baptist.
Penn Avenue Baptist church, Penn avenue between Spruce and Linden streets—Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor, Rev. W. F. Pierce. Morning prayer in the lower temple at 8.45 o'clock. Topic of the morning, "Christians of Today." The Church of Tomorrow. Sunday schools, Bible, intermediate and primary departments at 2 o'clock. Sunday school at 10:30 a. m. Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m. Topic of evening sermon, "The Religion of Today, or Help in the Time of Need." Evangelistic services following the sermon, at which the pastor will use crayon sketches in illustrating Scripture.

Miscellaneous.
Calvary Reformed Church, Monroe avenue and Gibson street—Rev. Marion L. Frown, pastor. Services Sunday at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Subject for morning, "A Mother's Faith Reward." Evening subject, "A Sign Which Was No Sign." Sunday School at 11:45

Sunday-School Lesson for March 11.

The Paralytic Healed.

MARK II, 1-12.

BY REV. J. E. GILBERT, LL.D.,

Secretary of American Society of Religious Education.

CONTEXT.—The evangelists have made a very brief record (Mark II, 23-45; Luke IV, 42 to 416), of what transpired between last lesson and this. On the morning after the busy day in Capernaum Jesus departed into a solitary place to pray. Shortly after His disciples followed and reported that men were earnestly seeking Him. On hearing this the Master, doubtless to avoid the crowd, visited the adjoining towns and preached in the synagogues. On that journey He healed a leper who came beseeching Him, and who went forth, contrary to the direction of Jesus, publishing abroad the wonderful deed, so that the multitude crowded about the Saviour to His great embarrassment. For a time thereafter He turned His ministry to the rural sections. And still the people gathered to Him from every quarter.

AUDIENCE. (Verses 1 and 2).—After awhile Jesus re-entered Capernaum, His home city (Matt. ix, 1), having done a great work during His absence. His presence was quickly noised abroad, resulting in a large crowd of people and even crowded the street. It was a magnificent display of popular enthusiasm for a notable personage. This fact is significant and most desired that promote one's usefulness. On this occasion a splendid opportunity was offered, and Jesus improved it by delivering a sermon. We may picture to ourselves the great Preacher addressing that vast audience upon the stupendous themes of the gospel. He said: "Ye have preached the word." It was probably an expositor of Scripture (Luke xxiv, 27), after His usual custom.

PATIENT. (Verses 3 and 4).—While the chief appeal to men is to their intellects, concerning their more concerned for their physical comfort. The truth, the one instrument of spiritual elevation (John xvii, 17), is often rejected, while material good is eagerly sought. The sermon that day was suddenly interrupted by some man who sought to enter the synagogue under the power of Christ. At first they made attempts to enter by the ordinary way, but were prevented by the crowds who blocked the passage. As a last resort they mounted the roof and removed the tiles and the timber, which they cast down, as the coverings of the building, and then constructed in a loose way. And then by means of ropes they let down the helpless man as he lay upon his cot, so that he came into the very midst of the open court where Jesus was standing. The patient was thus within reach of the Physician.

PARDON. (verse 5).—Jesus was not at once diverted from the high purpose that dominated Him in the preaching. He came to be a Saviour (Matt. i, 21), to minister to the souls of men (Luke ix, 12). Jesus came from sin, reconciliation with God.

Robinson will preach morning and evening. All will be welcome. Washburn Street Presbyterian church—Rev. John P. Moffat, D. D., pastor. Services at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Bible school at 12 m.; prayer meeting Wednesday, 7:30 p. m. The pastor will preach morning and evening. Subject for morning, "The Kingdom of God is Within You." Special music morning and evening. All welcome.

Baptist.
Penn Avenue Baptist church, Penn avenue between Spruce and Linden streets—Preaching at 10:30 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. by the pastor, Rev. W. F. Pierce. Morning prayer in the lower temple at 8.45 o'clock. Topic of the morning, "Christians of Today." The Church of Tomorrow. Sunday schools, Bible, intermediate and primary departments at 2 o'clock. Sunday school at 10:30 a. m. Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m. Topic of evening sermon, "The Religion of Today, or Help in the Time of Need." Evangelistic services following the sermon, at which the pastor will use crayon sketches in illustrating Scripture.

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peace of mind, purity of thought and life, were in His eyes vastly more important than any temporal blessing. Hence, looking upon the man, lying before Him, and recognizing the faith which he brought with him (and without doubt his faith) Jesus immediately aimed at first to bestow the chief good. "Thy sins be forgiven," He said. It was a masterly stroke of wisdom, an implication that spiritual things should be attended to first, even as He declared on another occasion (Matt. vi, 23). Jesus would not be content on a bed, helpless, borne about by friends, if he could only feel that he was forgiven of his sins.

BLASPHEMY. (Verses 6 and 7).—Sitting in the audience were some of the scribes. The original service of these men, in their little synagogues, was to copy the Scriptures. But that employment made them so familiar with the sacred writings that they had gradually come into the teachers' office. For a long time they had been instructors in the synagogues, duly regarded as such by the people. Accordingly they were esteemed competent to judge of any teachings by others, and felt themselves obligated in a measure to determine the soundness of any man's utterances. These men were surprised when they heard Jesus pronounce pardon upon the paralytic, and they questioned in silent commotion the matter. Knowing full well from the Scriptures (Isa. xliii, 25), that this was a Divine prerogative, they adjudged him to be guilty of blasphemy. But then came the perplexity. Why did he, evidently a good man, blaspheme? Involuntarily guilty of an offense which under the law might be punished with death (Lev. xxiv, 16).

ALTERNATIVE. (verses 8 and 9).—The scribes were more surprised when they discovered that their thoughts were known. Less surprised, however, at his remarkable ability to discern the most secret things of the heart. (Matt. ix, 4) without waiting for the oral criticism which might have come in a few moments He sought to remove the cause of their questioning, and that the miracle was never wrought. Some have so asserted, sweeping away all the miraculous from the gospel history. Then must we reject the books as worthless. This record is so circumstantial, made with such evidence sincerity, that to ascribe it to the authors is to preclude any unworthy of any confidence. To do that is to reject the whole system of Christianity, a result for which few are prepared. Second, that the passage is to be taken as reliable history. Then are forced to place Jesus upon the throne. We must take Him at His own word. He entered first into the spiritual and afterward into the physical and did what only God could do. He was therefore God in human flesh. (John i, 14.) As such He is worthy to receive the love, reverence and service of men.

EVIDENCE. (verses 10 and 11).—In this whole transaction Jesus was evi-

dently working toward an important end, one which may have been especially desirable at that period of his ministry. He wished to be known in His true nature and mission. Many thought of Him merely as a wonderful teacher. (John iii, 2.) Hence He sought to convert this incident into evidence of His deity. The logic of the case had already been stated in His question to the scribes. God only forgives sin. He had wrought miracles and had enticed Him to forgive him. Therefore He was not a blasphemer, but a Divine person. But that they might know this, and that the last doubt might be removed from their minds, He determined to give immediate proof. "Arise and go thy way," was His authoritative word to the paralytic. Bold and blasphemous language that was if he were only a man. And yet let the opinion of those present should rest upon some personal claim He called Himself the Son of man.

RESULT. (verse 12).—On that commanding the future both of Jesus and of the paralytic, no cure in wrought the one is a pretender, and the other is doomed to helplessness for life. But if the word is obeyed then the Saviour and Teacher passes into history as Lord, and a man is restored to health and usefulness. Amidst profound silence while many witnesses beheld, the man arose, took up his bed and walked away. He had heard the voice of the mighty one—forgiven, healed, soul and body in a moment made new. There were none to criticize or doubt. A conviction of the miracle had removed all ground for debate. All were amazed, and all had wisdom to see that God was in the deed in some way. They therefore glorified God—praised Him and rejoiced. And the company dispersed with thorough conviction and unbounded enthusiasm. They declared that they had never seen anything like this.

CONCLUSION.—What shall we say to this incident. There are but two things that may be said. First, that the miracle was never wrought. Some have so asserted, sweeping away all the miraculous from the gospel history. Then must we reject the books as worthless. This record is so circumstantial, made with such evidence sincerity, that to ascribe it to the authors is to preclude any unworthy of any confidence. To do that is to reject the whole system of Christianity, a result for which few are prepared. Second, that the passage is to be taken as reliable history. Then are forced to place Jesus upon the throne. We must take Him at His own word. He entered first into the spiritual and afterward into the physical and did what only God could do. He was therefore God in human flesh. (John i, 14.) As such He is worthy to receive the love, reverence and service of men.

which have recently appeared in the newspapers of Delaware, O., where he is instructor of the organ in Wesleyan university. The College Transcript says: "Professor Carter's name on any programme is enough to assure success. He has now a warm place in the hearts of the people." The Delaware Daily Gazette speaks equally as pleasantly of him: "Professor Carter stands high in the music circles of this state, where he has appeared in recitals and special engagements. He has won the hearts of Delaware people by his great ability on the pipe organ and piano, always being greeted with applause." Professor Carter has been who has occupied the position of vocal asked to remain another year in his present position, and it is probable that he will do so, although at present he is undecided.—Elmira Advertiser.

Mr. Herbert Stains, of South Scranton, has recently done some very creditable work in musical composition, under the tuition of Alfred Wooley.

The third in the series of mid-winter recitals given at the Scranton Conservatory of Music will be held at Guernsey hall on Tuesday evening next.

The following is the programme for the Honorable Philharmonic concert Tuesday, March 15. Mr. J. T. Watkins, baritone, and Master Edmund Thiele, violinist, of Scranton, are the soloists:

Keter—Bela overture.....Lustspiel Orchestra.
Massenet—"Vision Fugitive".....Heroldada Mr. J. T. Watkins.
Rode—Violin concerto No. 2 A minor Moderato, Adagio, Rondo. Master Edmund Thiele.
(a) Andante from Surprise Symphony.....Haydn Orchestra.
(b) March, "Alla Turca".....Mozart Orchestra.
Leslie Stuart—"Baldur".....Mancosoni Serenade.
(c) Beethoven—"Alla Polacca".....Hansson Serenade.
(d) Bach—Air on G string for violins.
(e) Gillet—Loin du Bal.....Orchestra.
Handel—"But Who May Abide," recit. and aria from "The Messiah".....Mr. Watkins.
Offenbach—Overture, "Orpheus".....Orchestra.

The following musical selections will be rendered at the morning and evening services at Elm Park church tomorrow under the direction of J. Alfred Pennington:

Organ—Prelude in A.....Morse Choir—"O Taste and See".....Goss Organ—Offertory in D.....Hopkins Choir—"The Bird Let Loose in Eastern Skies".....Marston Organ—Postlude in E flat.....Macfarren EVENING.
Organ—Prelude in D.....Diemel Choir—"O Worship Him".....Hansson Organ—Offertory in G.....Elvey Duet for soprano and contralto—Selected.
Organ—"The Priceless Gift".....Gray Organ—Postlude in G.....Bach

Religious music is the foundation of all music, and all music is a form of or digression from religious music. The most beautiful music is the most religious, and the most religious is the most beautiful.

J. T. Watkins sings tomorrow morning at the Dunmore Presbyterian church, his brother James E. Watkins, singing at the First Presbyterian church.

The Schubert quartette's singing at E. J. Smith's funeral was most impressive and touching. The selections

which were favorite hymns of Mr. Smith and many present characterized the singing as "ideal funeral singing."

The First Presbyterian church quartette will sing the following music at tomorrow's services:

Anthem—"The Good Shepherd".....Barri Alto, solo and quartette.
Duet—Selected.....Shelley Mrs. Thiele and Mr. Stephens.
Anthem—"Hold Thou My Hand".....Gounod Alto, solo and quartette.
Baritone solo—"At Benediction".....Conocone Mr. J. T. Watkins.
Mr. Alfred Wooley has been engaged as soloist at a concert to be given in connection with the public schools at Brooklyn, Pa., on March 23.

Hatch Music company, of Philadelphia, Pa., have accepted, on royalty, another composition of Mr. Alfred

Life and Strength Restored to Palsied Limbs

Mrs. H. T. Salisbury, of 11 Pollett Street, Pawtucket, R. I., says: "About eight years ago, I was taken with nervous prostration which was followed by a partial paralysis of the lower limbs. The doctor called it locomotor ataxia. I could not direct my steps, and I would often fall down. I tried many remedies but was not benefited until I began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. Several doctors had told me that there was no cure for my trouble, but my improvement continued and I took the pills steadily for two years. At the end of that time I had regained full control of my limbs. The pain left me and has never returned."

Mrs. H. T. SALISBURY, Subscribed and sworn to before me this 21st day of August, 1899.
CARLOS L. ROGERS, Notary Public.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People contain, in a condensed form, all the elements necessary to give new life and richness to the blood and restore shattered nerves. They are an unfailing specific for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, vertigo, neuritis, neurasthenia, nervous headache, the after-effects of in gripe, palpitation of the heart, pale and milky complexion, all forms of weakness either in male or female.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are now written down in numbers, and change in position. All druggists, or direct from the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Schenectady, N. Y., 50 cents per box, 3 boxes \$1.50.

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Also, the shops for rent for wagon or manufacturing purposes—3 floors, 40x70, with large elevator. A very good building and low rent. For further information call at Bittenbender & Co.

GRACE M. SEELY, Administratrix.
Scranton, Pa., March 7, 1900.

GOING TO EUROPE THIS SUMMER?

If so, I can fit you out to a T.

Remember! Unparalleled opportunities are offered for the coming season. The decennial production of the famous "Passion Play" at Ober-Ammergau, and the unrivaled Exposition at Paris are remarkable occasions.

Are you aware that thousands of people are consulting themselves with a mere resolution to go to Europe the coming summer, who, for lack of Steamship accommodations will be disappointed when the time comes?

I will personally conduct a limited party on a 25 days' tour of the principal points of interest in Great Britain and Western Europe, including Glasgow, Edinburgh, Melrose, Durham, York, Warwick, Stratford, Oxford, London (6 days), Antwerp, Brussels, Cologne, the Rhine, Heidelberg, Baden-Baden, Munich, Ober-Ammergau (The Passion Play), Zurich, Lucerne, The Alps and Paris (10 days). Absolutely first class in every particular. Inclusive prices, from 19 to 5 per cent. less than other agencies. Immediate application is necessary, as this party is absolutely limited. Also other tours under the best of management. Full particulars with specific information sent on application. Address:

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