

THE

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BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

The Synods have held their annual meetings, and many of the Presbyteries their semi-annual meetings. We probably cannot do better than to give extracts from the published proceedings of some of these bodies, which will show how deep is the interest of the whole Church in Home Missions; and how steady is the growth of the churches in the new States and Territories. The various resolutions touching *Woman's Work for Home Missions*, and the work among the Indians are noticeable features of the case.

SYNOD OF CALIFORNIA.

Rev. Thomas Fraser writes from Oakland, Cal., and says: "We had a very pleasant and profitable meeting of Synod. Home Missions received the most ample and favorable consideration. It is the popular subject and grows in favor every year. The people like to hear and our leading men like to talk about it. The organization of Female Home Missionary societies was recommended to our churches. Much feeling is felt on this subject, * * * a reaction is coming in favor of Home Missions. * * *

"During the past nine years I have travelled not less than 100,000 miles, over all these States and Territories. I have done most of the hard work resulting in the establishment of about 100 churches, though I have had much assistance from many excellent brethren. Nearly all our growing towns are now occupied."

KANSAS SYNOD.

The Rev. Timothy Hill, D.D., writes of the Synod of Kansas as follows: "The best thing in the Synod was the Home Missionary meeting Friday night. The report of new churches during the year was, in Kansas 27, Indian Territory 3, and in Texas 10—40 new churches in the Synod in one year! Emporia Presbytery was divided and the new Presbytery formed from the Western portion was called the Presbytery

are also attractive, able, thorough, and cheap, why should they not be used?

A NEW PUBLICATION.

A new publication just issued by the Board, is commended in the following letter from a competent judge:

" PASTORAL THEOLOGY.

" BY THOMAS MURPHY, D.D.

"The author has done well, what few men could do at all. In the midst of engrossing and successful work as a pastor, he sits down to communicate the knowledge of his methods and experience to others, compiling also, with singular pertinence, the maxims of those who have gone before him, and every new publication of thought on the pastoral problems of the present day. It is just as true in sacred as in secular work, that men of superior tact in doing, are often the most awkward in explaining to others what they do, and how they do it. Dr. Murphy is a notable exception. He has the mind of a skilful teacher; and his heart is in his work so much that even the commonplaces of pastoral theology are made engaging and instructive. He has renovated the study. Old men and young alike may read with benefit, and derive impulse and animation for the delicious toil of pastoral life. I know of no book in this department, since the days of Richard Baxter, more complete and more suitable for consultation at every manse. The style is natural—that of a companion who converses with us judiciously, rather than that of an author who is aware all the time that he is making a book. This is a rare quality, and its congruity, with the lessons of the volume, will be enjoyed by any one who loves the same occupation. I shall always recommend to students of theology the use of this book as one of the best on my list, not only because it is the latest, but also because it is the wisest, in many particulars, for the safe guidance of pastors at the present day.

ALEXANDER T. MCGILL,

*Professor of Ec. Hom. and Pastoral Theology,
Theological Seminary, Princeton, October 10, 1877."*

To which we may add that the strong commendation given by Dr. McGill, than whom no one is a more competent judge, is the verdict of others also. On all hands it is said that Dr. Murphy's "Pastoral Theology" will prove a book most helpful to pastors, very instructive to those just entering on their work, and suggestive to those long in it. Price, \$3.00.

AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

A missionary in Wisconsin thus acknowledges a donation of books and tracts from the Board for one of his Sabbath schools:

"The books and tracts sent by express have been received and distributed. The mission school was greatly delighted. I believe great good