

CHURCH LIFE AND WORK

PRESBYTERIAN ASSEMBLY

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.

KINGWILLIAMSTOWN, Thursday.

—The Presbyterian Church General Assembly discussed to-day a report by the committee on "Life and Work," presented by the Rev. Hector Paterson. He said that much more ought to be done to get in touch with those who had no church connection. More real contact with people was needed. The women's associations might add to the splendid work they were doing by getting into touch with newcomers. There were cheering reports of large numbers of young communicants going to church, and most of them remaining steadily loyal. In this connection he paid a tribute to the work done by members of the Oxford Group.

Often members of the church were baptised who had no intention of keeping the vows they made. It was desirable that this sacrament should take place at public services, and that parents should understand the solemn promise they made.

While many were splendidly liberal in gifts to the Church others did nothing to support its work. The free will offering scheme would be successful if adopted in full. Giving should be regarded as an act of worship.

NEW SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE.

In the discussion the Rev. Bruce Gardiner said they needed more and more to get their minds set on what was normal, so as to enter into new spiritual experience. While they should seek such experience, they should try to make the ministry of the Word and the sacraments the channels by which it came to them. Out of that there ought to come service.

Referring to baptism, he held that as they had departed from the old rule of only baptising those who were children of believers, they thus took on themselves a spiritual responsibility for the children.

The Rev. D Hunter said he did not think they had any right to force confidences from young people, or to quizz into their motives for joining the church. As to finance, it was necessary to let people know all about the different schemes of the church and its needs. That created interest. To group them all together as "all schemes" was mistaken.

The Rev. A. Ashenhurst urged that church doors should not be closed on week days. There were people who wanted to enter the church as they passed for a few minutes' devotion.

Dr. McKenzie stressed the importance of getting all in the church interested in some definite work in it.