

AMONG THE MEMBERS

The Spring Meeting of the Society was held at Butler University, Indianapolis, Ind., March 27, 28. It was well attended by members and guests, a total of forty-six different persons having been present at the various sessions. Seven papers were read and ample time was provided for their discussion. Ten new members were elected by the Council. Altogether, the cordial hospitality of Butler University made it an enjoyable, and the industry of those reading the papers made it a profitable meeting. Next year the Society is to meet at Oberlin.

Professor Samuel Gardiner Ayres, Librarian Emeritus of Garrett Biblical Institute, was engaged in the following activities in 1932. He prepared a *Centennial Pageant of the Troy Conference* which was given by the Dramatic Department of the Green Mountain Junior College at Saratoga, April 10th. In March and April in New York City he was in charge of the selecting and buying of over 3,000 books for the Jesus Library to be installed in the new million dollar building of the Y. M. C. A. of Jerusalem. He won the prize offered by S. R. Leland for the best paper on *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours*, by Roland Allen.

The announcement of the election of Professor Shirley Jackson Case to the deanship of the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, in which office he succeeds Dean Shailer Mathews, will be greeted on the part of the members of our Society with satisfaction and pride. Dr. Case occupies a high place among the American church historians, and this recognition of his professional achievements is of particular significance to them. Heartiest congratulations!

IN MEMORIAM

ARTHUR CUSHMAN McGIFFERT, D.D., PH.D., LL.D.

Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Professor Emeritus of Church History at the Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York, and former President of the Seminary, died at his home in Dobbs Ferry, New York on Saturday, February 25th, 1933.

Dr. McGiffert was a graduate of Western Reserve University in the class of 1882, and later became a member of its Board of Trustees. He was a graduate of the Union Theological Seminary in the class of 1885, studying church history under President Roswell Dwight Hitchcock, and taking courses also with the founder of our Society, Philip Schaff. After graduation he went abroad and studied for a year at the University of Berlin and then in 1886-87 was a student of Harnack at Marburg. Harnack invited him to take a room very near his own house and the two went to walk together nearly every day—a type of intimacy with a great teacher which was absolutely impossible during Harnack's crowded years in Berlin. They went to Paris together to work on Greek manuscripts in the Bibliothèque Nationale—McGiffert preparing his doc-

toral dissertation for Marburg: *Dialogue Between a Christian and a Jew*, 1888.

In 1887-88 McGiffert divided his time between France and Italy, spending about five months in Rome in the study chiefly of Christian archaeology. On his return to America in 1888 he became an instructor and later professor in church history at the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati. While there he prepared his translation of Eusebius' *Church History with Prolegomena and Notes*—a book rushed through under great pressure with the assistance of students, which has remained a standard work for over forty years.

In 1893 he was appointed Professor of Church History in the Union Theological Seminary, succeeding Schaff. His first publication at Union was *A History of Christianity in the Apostolic Age*, 1897, which was launched in the stormy waters of the Briggs controversy and directed the hostility of many toward its author. To save the Presbyterian Church, which he loved dearly, from a great heresy trial, McGiffert entered the Congregational ministry.

Subsequent publications of his include *The Apostles' Creed*, 1902; *Protestant Thought Before Kant*, 1911; *Martin Luther, the Man and His Work*, 1911; *The Rise of Modern Religious Ideas*, 1915; *The God of the Early Christians*, 1924; and *A History of Christian Thought*, of which the second volume coming down to Erasmus appeared one month before his death. Of all these his *Luther* had the greatest popular appeal.

Dr. McGiffert was a very clear-headed administrator. He was President of the Union Theological Seminary from 1917 till he retired on account of his health in 1926. Generation after generation of students were trained by his admirable lectures on the History of Christian Thought. We are indeed fortunate that during his years of retirement and illness, when he could work only two or three hours a day, he was able to complete his great work on this subject even as far as the Reformation. It is commonly understood, I believe, among students of church history, that America has produced no greater contribution in this field than McGiffert's *History of Christian Thought*. He is survived by a widow, two married daughters, and by his son, Arthur Cushman McGiffert, Jr., Professor of Christian Theology in the Chicago Theological Seminary since 1926, the author of a recent biography of *Jonathan Edwards*.

William Walker Rockwell.