

RUSKIN'S MESSAGE TO THE CENTURY.**The Subject of a Discussion by the Young Men's Christian Association.**

A series of lectures, or, more properly, discussions, to be given every Sunday afternoon for the members of the Young Men's Christian Association, was commenced yesterday. Twelve topics for twelve weeks have been selected. The discussions are conducted by Prof. Graham Taylor, Professor of Christian Sociology in the Chicago Theological Seminary. The subject yesterday was "John Ruskin's Message to the Nineteenth Century," and consisted of a talk on the character and life work of Ruskin by the Rev. N. D. Hillis, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Evanston. His whole talk was an exposition of the real object of Ruskin's life work, which, he said, was not a study of the beautiful. Primarily Ruskin was a student of industrial and social economics. He was a social reformer and was never given proper credit for it. He had given the million dollars which he had made by his writings and the half million which he inherited to the amelioration of the condition of the working classes, believing he "could keep my wheat by opening furrows and sowing it, and wait for God's angels to reap," and had reaped a thousand fold. Ruskin taught, Mr. Hillis said, that all arts, industries, sciences, and inventions were endeavors of man to make permanent the thoughts of God. Not a single model but could be found in the physical system, and God was the first in everything. Beauty was soundness and purity was perfection, and in all nature it was the same. From Ruskin's life he drew some excellent lessons. He advised his hearers to read Ruskin's "Time and Tide," "Letters to Workingmen," "Sesame and Lilies," and "Unto the Last." Next week the subject will be "The Overworked and the Unemployed," Mrs. Florence Kelley, Chief Factory Inspector of Illinois, will speak.