

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

[PayPal](#)

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

The Missionary World.

IN a country house belonging to a well-known supporter of the C.M.S., a member of the family in the early days of the war put the claims of military service before the lusty stable boy. "I have something else to do besides thinking of my country," was the stolid reply. Should there be one among the thousands of active missionary workers throughout the country who is tempted to think that the pressure of his own work for foreign missions is so great that he is absolved thereby from giving himself at the opening of this year to prayer on national questions, we would urge him to remember that the future of foreign missions depends to an extent far too little realized upon the welfare of our country, upon the justice of its government, the righteousness of its laws, the ethics of its industries, the purity and honour of its sons. Whether the end of the war sees us with enlarged territorial responsibilities for dependencies of the Empire or protected states, or not, it is certain that no country will have a heavier responsibility for reconstruction work or larger burdens to carry on behalf of peoples of alien race. If we would serve the nations of Africa and the East and bring the Kingdom of Heaven to their doors, we must pray "God save England" with a new intensity, and work towards the answer to our prayers. January 6 bears almost as closely upon the broadest issues of foreign missions as it does upon the military and political issues of the war. Let us, as we join in thanksgiving, confession and intercession, have a missionary "intention" in our mind, seeking that fullness of Divine blessing for our country which shall cause the ends of the earth to know our God to be God indeed.

* * * * *

The Survey of the Year 1917 in the January number of the *International Review of Missions* is being awaited with special interest. Few speakers or students have power to make a world-wide survey for themselves, and the office of the Continuation Committee in Edinburgh has unique facilities for collecting material from the most authentic sources. At a time when great currents are sweeping over the world it is essential for all who play a leading part in the advocacy of missions, who desire to support the work by

gifts, or to fructify it by prayer to seek the widest possible range of thought and the most inclusive knowledge. A study of the Survey will prove a stimulus and guide in every form of missionary activity.

* * * * *

A first number of any periodical excites curiosity, even if it be only the first number of a new series in which an old friend reappears. But when the periodical is a C.M.S. one it excites what might almost be termed an affectionate interest. We congratulate the Editorial Secretary upon the start which he has made in the first issue of the *C.M. Review* as a quarterly. He has escaped one peril which besets editors of first issues—that of producing a prodigy number out of all proportion to numbers yet to be. We incline to think that the second number will be at least as good as this one, and the third and fourth better still. There is “a sound of going,” a sense of purpose and plan, a quiet confidence and a sure outlook about the first number which suggest an annual subscription forthwith. Notwithstanding the existence of other well-worked missionary quarterlies, such as *The East and The West*, the *Moslem World* and the *International Review of Missions*, there is ample room for a review dealing with missionary questions from the angle from which they are looked at by a great society like the C.M.S. We purposely give no clue to the contents of the number—except to say that there is an article on Mass Movements in Nigeria which is of outstanding value—because we want to make sure that every reader of THE CHURCHMAN makes it his business to examine this first issue for himself.

* * * * *

One of the central responsibilities in the mission field which calls for generous consideration and prompt action is the training of Christian men of Eastern race for the ministry. As education has developed, Christian laymen in many places surpass the clergy in culture and knowledge, and as a result there has been a reluctance to welcome religious instruction given by inadequately equipped men. There is unmistakable evidence that poorly qualified ministers tend to repel educated men who are weighing the claims of Christianity. On the other hand, Christian graduates in the East have been slow to offer for ordination, partly because scope has not always been given in the ministry, partly because they have been conscious that the available equipment was not adequate to

prepare them for responsible work. In China the whole subject has been receiving close attention, and the standard in almost every theological college has been raised. In India a splendid move forward has been made by the reconstitution of Bishops' College, Calcutta, which now offers a first-rate theological training in English to Anglican candidates for the ministry from any part of India. The C.M.S. are to be congratulated in having been able to set free such a man as the Rev. Norman Tubbs of St. John's College, Agra, for the principalship of Bishops' College. Under his supervision there is absolute guarantee that the College will work for the spiritual and intellectual equipment of its students. The project should be supported with thanksgiving and prayer.

* * * * *

Events in Palestine are marching quickly, and before these pages are issued to the public several mission stations long closed will have reopened and relief will be pouring in to the suffering people in the land. (Jerusalem itself has come into the hands of the Allies since this note was first penned.) Our interest is focused on the calls—clear and reiterated—from Bishop MacInnes for doctors and nurses to reopen C.M.S. medical work at Gaza and at Jaffa, and also for funds to relieve the pressing needs of the people and enable them to sow their land and begin again a settled life. The need for staff and money is urgent, for the door now open may close. We trust that while medical needs are promptly met, the opportunity afforded by the interruption of work will be utilized for a full reconsideration of the whole policy of missions in Palestine. Many students of missions and not a few missionaries themselves believe that adjustments might be made which would unify the work and thus render it far more effective. Palestine is one of the most difficult and most deeply loved of mission fields. The pressure of immediate work will be heavy, but we trust Bishop MacInnes will use his gifts of statesmanship to guard against a mere reversion to the general conditions existing before the war.

* * * * *

The Jewish people have once again taken a central place on the stage of the world's history. While uncounted thousands are still passing through fires of suffering in the war zone, a sudden fruition of hope has dawned for the influential section of Jewry which has long desired a return to some form of national existence

in the Holy Land. All lovers of the Jews—and in this class all lovers of the Saviour who came of Jewish race should be eager to class themselves—rejoice at the announcement made by Mr. Balfour to Lord Rothschild, and at the omen for good afforded by the presence of Armenian and Moslem representatives at the great meeting held in London to express gratitude for the proffered boon. But one point calls for watchfulness and prayer. Will room be kept, in the social fabric of the reconstituted state, for men and women of Jewish race who have found in Jesus of Nazareth the Messiah for whom the orthodox Jew still looks with unseeing eye? Members of the Hebrew Christian community cannot forgo their right to a share of any boon bestowed upon true Israelites, and for them, of all the seed of Abraham, the Holy Land has the richest store of sacred association and memory.

* * * * *

A course of weekly missionary lectures held at Lambeth Palace during the three closing months of 1917 under the chairmanship of the Rev. W. Temple have been of singular interest. The aim of the lectures was to let the workers interested in one missionary society know what others are doing. Nine of the larger British societies were represented by one of their leading speakers, who based his lecture on a missionary pioneer in his society and then gave an outline of its policy and work. The societies came in chronological order: first the S.P.G., then the Baptists, then the C.M.S.; the China Inland Mission and the Friends' Foreign Mission Association coming at the close of the series. Those present were enthusiastic over the course. The plan is one which might be adopted on a smaller scale with great advantage in other centres. Possibly a Bishop's palace, or at least a local Church House, might offer hospitality as Lambeth did, and some one of like mind with Mr. Temple be found to preside over the gatherings. In the Lambeth course the tickets of admission were divided proportionately between the missionary societies, for their supporters' use.

* * * * *

The United Council for Missionary Education has again been successful in issuing a study text-book which is likely to make a real mark. *The Goal of India*, by the Rev. W. E. S. Holland, is not only full of enthusiasm and hope, but it embodies a knowledge of the inner life and thought of educated India which gives it a

value quite beyond that of any mere compilation of facts. It is an infectious book, and one which will stimulate thought. It lends itself well to use as a sequel, as far as India is concerned, to last year's text-book, *The World and the Gospel*, the influence of which still continues to deepen and spread. We do not know how far Mr. Holland's book is finding its way to the trenches. It will be appreciated by men whose contact with India or Indians during the war has given them cause to think. Used as a text-book in study circles in the home parishes it will help to build up a generation of younger men and women who will think aright about India and our trust towards that land.

* * * * *

For those in search of interesting missionary matter to read or reproduce we may recommend in the December magazines vivid papers on women's work in Africa, in Papua, and especially in Madagascar in the *L.M.S. Chronicle*; papers in the *Bible in the World* on Persia (by William Canton) and on a new translation into "Lunda of Kalunda," a tongue spoken in part of the Belgian Congo; a long article of great interest in *China's Millions* on the tragic events in Chengtu, Central China, during the fighting of last July; and in the *Missionary Review of the World* (November number) a valuable study of the missionary occupation of Africa, with maps and statistical tables, prepared by the Director of the Bureau of Statistics of the Foreign Missions Conference of North America.

G

