

## The Missionary World.

THE New Year brings us a new factor in the serious study of missionary problems. The *International Review of Missions*—the first number of which has just issued from the office of the Continuation Committee of the World Missionary Conference, 100, Princes Street, Edinburgh—has been eagerly expected, and will be critically read. In bulk, in type, in style, and general arrangement, the first number takes its place on a level with the best of the quarterly or monthly reviews; it is worthy, so far as outward appearance goes, of the great subject which it has taken in hand. In a thoughtful statement the editor outlines the purposes and plans of the *Review*. The ideal is entirely satisfying alike on the intellectual and the spiritual side. It will, as Mr. Oldham points out, take strenuous work and long endeavour to make the *Review* what it aims to be, but judging by the contributors to the first number, and the general excellence of their work, we shall have from the outset a periodical of unique value in all the higher regions of missionary policy. The amount of mature experience, of close observation, and of reasoned thought contained in the articles before us is noteworthy.

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Dr. Warneck's account of the growth of the Church among the Bataks is marked by wide knowledge and sane policy, and demonstrates the value of the contribution of Continental workers. Mr. Gairdner's survey of the vital forces of Christianity and of Islam is full of brilliance and depth. These papers are each the first of a series. Dr. Mott contributes a statement concerning the Continuation Committee and the various bodies it has called into being, which answers many questions now being asked. An article on the preparation of missionaries by Dr. Henry Hodgkin records the formation of the Board of Study, arising out of the work of Commission V., and gives valuable fresh information based on the investigations

of a sub-committee dealing with schools for language study on the mission-field. Dr. Harada—himself a Japanese, the first of the series of Oriental contributors to the *Review*—discusses ably the position and present problems of Christianity in Japan. Miss Agnes de Sélincourt furnishes a careful and suggestive study of the relation of women, especially in India, to the national reform movements in the East. The two remaining articles are the least satisfactory—that by Mr. Bryce, the well-known writer and diplomatist, which is slender, though not without value as a record of his impressions as a traveller among non-Christian peoples, and that by Dr. Goucher of Baltimore upon China and education. The Book Review Department is a feature upon which much care is being expended. The notes on articles of special value in missionary periodicals are designed to cover a very wide area, and by their careful grouping and close summary will provide material of moment for missionary students. The bibliography, which will be continued every quarter, is an admirable piece of work. It includes British, American, and Continental missionary publications, dealing with periodicals as well as with books. It is carefully classified, and has a good system of cross reference; in fact, no pains have been spared to make it complete and easy to use. The annotations are based purely on the real significance of the book or article concerned, an imposing volume being perhaps only mentioned, while a small pamphlet or an article in some periodical has a special note because of the value of its contribution to missionary knowledge, policy, or thought. Enough has been said in this brief survey of the contents to show that, however highly we estimate the uses of existing missionary periodicals, the *International Review of Missions* stands alone, and provides matter which will henceforth be essential to all far-sighted and conscientious workers. The price of the *Review* is half-a-crown for each quarterly number, or 8s. a year, post free.

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The Laymen's Missionary Movement in America, which has widened the area of missionary interest and largely increased

missionary contributions, has long stirred a holy emulation amongst British workers. It was evident from the first that the differing genius of the two countries would make a mere reproduction of the American movement ineffective, and whilst seeking to find a wise line of British action and the right man to direct it, a considerable period has slipped by. Meantime, a Laymen's Movement on parallel but distinctive lines was launched in Scotland, and through close association with the Churches has begun a remarkable work. It has already proved itself indispensable. Now the waiting period in the south is over, wise plans on broad lines have been successfully laid. A National Laymen's Missionary Movement is about to be initiated, and a man has been raised up to lead it. Captain Watson is laying down his post as lay secretary of the C.E.M.S., which owes much to his devoted service, in order to become the first secretary of the new movement. There is a general sense that he does so at the call of God. The work will be truly inter-denominational, and will relate itself closely to the missionary societies. Captain Watson's welcome will be as warm as it is widespread. He comes as the answer to many prayers. Further prayers will support him as he begins his work.

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Already there is a stirring amongst Anglican laymen which is a precursor of greater things. The Educational Department of the Church Missionary Society, by means of its laymen's week-ends and dinners, its great gathering by invitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Lambeth, and its remarkable appeal, *Some Educational Projects of the C.M.S. for 1911-12*,<sup>1</sup> has initiated a movement of great promise. Men of influence and of wealth have been impressed. The whole missionary question has been placed upon a spiritual basis, and the cause of educational missions in particular has been advanced. The leader in the Educational Supplement of *The Times* for Decem-

<sup>1</sup> Price 6d. Can be had from the Publication Department, C.M. House, Salisbury Square, E.C.

ber 5, based upon the C.M.S. pamphlet referred to, is of high significance in this connection.

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The daily papers and the larger reviews at the present moment count for "missionary literature" of such compelling interest that the ordinary periodicals are almost thrust aside. The war between Italy and Turkey with its base in Tripoli, and the political complications circling round Persia, touch Islamic questions at their heart. Close behind Tripoli lie the Senussi, probably the most potent and wide-reaching influence in the world of Islam. An article in the *Contemporary Review* for December on "The Resources of Tripoli" unfolds the local situation well. The *Nineteenth Century* has an article on "Europe and the Mohammedan World" by Sir Harry H. Johnston. This vigorous and outspoken comparison between Mohammedanism and Christianity is distinctly useful, though, as we have recently had cause to mention, we do not always find ourselves in agreement with Sir H. H. Johnston's estimate of the essential features of Christianity. Religious problems are less directly raised in Persia, where two great nations, Christian at least in name, hold the future of a weaker Moslem nation largely in their hands. The cartoon in *Punch* for December 13—"As Between Friends"—has a missionary message. The whole situation calls for watchful prayer.

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The daily record of the royal progress in India has special import as seen through missionary eyes. It is a good thing and a great one that our fellow-subjects in India should face to face meet their King and ours. It is well that they should know—for religious India will discern it—that to him and to the Queen the Christian faith is a matter, not of form, but of deep conviction. It is good to hope that the bonds of East and West may be drawn closer, and the unrest and disaffection be allayed. The work of Missions will be forwarded if the love of India for the Royal Guests grows warm. But there are

perils on the other side. Some incident might easily arise which would turn the gain of the visit into loss. India may seek some boon at the hands of her ruler—a list has already been given in an article in the *Nineteenth Century* for December of those which would be welcome—which might have for weighty reasons to be denied. Therefore the Royal Visit, both during its duration and in its after-results, is again a call to prayer.

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Once more there is China, filling the newspapers, the reviews, the missionary magazines. "Will China break up?" asks the *Nineteenth Century*. "China—a Republic?" queries the *Fortnightly Review*. A Chinese student in Harvard University contributes an article, "China's Revolution Spells Progress," to the *Missionary Review of the World*. The *Church Missionary Review* has, besides editorial notes, two statements on "The Crisis in China," one being by Archdeacon Moule. The *Church Missionary Gleaner* has a short, illuminating paper by a missionary from Szchwan. The Wesleyan *Foreign Field* gives striking portraits of some of the reform leaders; the *Chronicle of the L.M.S.*, under the general heading of "The Revolution in China," deals with "The Rebel Patriots," "Chinese Growing Pains," and "Personalities in Changing China"; *China's Millions* is full of striking pictures of revolutionary scenes, and has many letters of living interest; the *S.P.G. Mission Field* gives a portrait of Yuan-Shih-Kai, and a paper on "The Outlook in China." The eyes of the missionary and of the political world are directed towards that land. The issues change from day to day with bewildering rapidity. But in the very heart of China there is now a living Christian Church. It is small compared with the mass of the people; it is weak compared with the magnitude of the task. But with the little living Church in China there is the great and living God. Let us pray with one heart that at this great national crisis the Chinese Church may be enabled to serve its own generation according to the will of God.

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Prayer is asked for the Quadrennial Conference of the Student Christian Movement which will be in session at Liverpool from January 2 to 8. The chairman, the speakers, and the audience, with its vast possibilities, alike claim our aid. Prayer is also asked that the C.M.S. Thankoffering Week, from January 21 to 28, may be widely observed. Many hearts are rejoicing at the tide of new life filling the old channels our fathers made. It is announced in the *Church Missionary Gazette* that henceforth the four o'clock "Thursday" prayer-meeting will be held at four o'clock on *Wednesdays* in the committee-room at the Church Missionary Society's House, to allow country and suburban friends to avail themselves of the cheap tickets usually issued on that day.



### For 1912.

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."—Ps. xc. 12.

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."—PROV. ix. 10.

I AM not skilled in reckoning sums like these—  
 I miss full many a day—but have no power  
 To add to life's length e'en a single hour ;  
 My products thus are 'minus quantities'!  
 And yet there is an answer, found with ease  
 By all who humbly seek Thy Spirit's dower,  
 Giv'n for the heart's enlightenment, like shower  
 Which falls to re-enverdure sun-scorch'd leas.  
 And Thou dost teach so wonderfully, Lord,  
 Bearing my stubbornness with patient might,  
 Giv'st me a Book of Answers in Thy Word,  
 And bidst me solve Life's problems by its light.  
 By that—subtract or add—my days should be  
 Summed up as Wisdom—which is, Fear of Thee!

A. J. SANTER.