

The Missionary World.

DURING the month of May all the British Missionary Societies speak for themselves, presenting at their annual meetings the account of their past year's work, which is transmitted far and wide through the religious press. If there is not an increased response from the Church as a whole, it will not be from lack of knowledge. The announced programme for some of these meetings shows more life and variety than in the past. The great need is for opened hearts and responsive wills among those who hear. It is still not impossible to treat the "May meetings" as a species of religious dissipation.

* * * * *

Special interest attaches to the C.M.S. meetings, at which Mr. Bardsley and Mr. Baylis are to speak. Many are looking with keen expectation to the details of their tour in the East. Indications from many quarters encourage the hope that, notwithstanding financial pressure, the old principles of the Society are working towards fuller fruitfulness, both at home and abroad. The Conference of C.M.S. Committees to be held at Swanwick from May 27 to 31 bids fair to mark a new departure in co-operation between central and local workers. For some time the local associations have been developing a strong corporate sense, and preparing themselves to enter more fully into the responsibilities of leadership. The discussions at the conference at Swanwick should strengthen the work of the Society everywhere, as men and women come into close fellowship with central policy, assume responsibility for its implications, and return to their local work as "partners in the concern."

* * * * *

The one-hundredth anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society will be celebrated on May 5. Strenuous preparations have long been on foot, and it is earnestly to be hoped that they may result in deep enthusiasm, increased income, and consequent ability to maintain and expand the work in the great

mission-fields of the Wesleyan Church. All who love the cause of world evangelization will unite to wish our brethren Godspeed.

* * * * *

One is tempted to wish that the three large missionary quarterlies could arrange to distribute themselves, and not all appear in the same month. Mr. Silas McBee, in issuing his new *Constructive Quarterly* in March instead of in January or April, is evidently conscious of the strain upon a reader's time and energies. Yet there is no missionary reading which is more rewarding than these reviews, into which the best thought and experience of missionary experts is poured. *The East and the West* opens with a remarkable article by Mr. Campbell Moody, written with his usual fresh incisiveness, on "The Western Form of Christianity." It is worthy of careful thought. The paper following it, by Miss Ethel McNeile, of Agra, on "Theosophy and 'The Coming of Christ,'" is timely and illuminating. Professor Margoliouth contributes an article on some recent Moslem literature, including a scathing notice of Mr. Leeder's "Veiled Mysteries of Islam," a book which is also severely handled in the *Moslem World* by Dr. St. Clair Tisdall. Articles based on books have found favour with missionary editors this month. Dr. C. R. Watson has a paper on Pastor Simon's "Progress and Arrest of Islam in Sumatra," in the *Moslem World*, and the *C.M. Review* has no less than three such—one on the "Livre d'Or de la Mission du Lessouto," another on a group of Pauline books, and a third on a small but significant book published in India, which was reviewed by the same writer in the *Harvest Field* last September, recording the efforts—Christian and non-Christian—for the uplift of the depressed classes.

* * * * *

The periodical literature issued in the cause of Missions is more extensive and important than many are aware. Some of the Continental missionary magazines, especially the German ones, at least equal, if they do not excel, our best. Then there are the periodicals issued on the mission-field, mainly for

missionary readers. The three most influential are the *Harvest Field* (India), the *Chinese Recorder*, and the *Japan Evangelist*. Each of these is full of interesting matter, and contains the thought of the ablest missionaries on current problems in their work. They bring one so close to the heart of Missions that no keen student can afford to pass them by unread.

* * * * *

The *International Review of Missions* is certainly living up to its name. The contributors to the April number include an American negro (Dr. Booker Washington), an Indian (Principal Rudra, of St. Stephen's College, Delhi), a Japanese (Miss Ume Tsuda), two Germans (Professors Meinhof and Westermann), and three Americans (Professor D. B. Macdonald, Dr. Wanless, and Mr. S. Higginbottom). The summaries of "Noteworthy Articles from Recent Periodicals" are drawn from the *National Review*, the *Journal of Race Development*, the *Hibbert Journal*, the *Revue du Monde Musulman*, *Anthropos*, the *Constructive Quarterly*, and from German, Dutch, and Swedish papers. In the preparation of the International Bibliography the Editor utilizes the aid of correspondents in New York, Berlin, Paris, Leiden, Aarhus, and Calcutta. Surely this should help in the fulfilment of the desire, so strikingly expressed by Mr. Bryce in his Presidential Address to the International Congress of Historical Studies (*vide the Times*, April 4), for the increase of "a bond of sympathy between the nations, helping each people to feel and appreciate all that is best in the others, and seeking to point the way to peace and goodwill throughout the world."

* * * * *

Medical missions are still waiting for an adequate literature, as a publisher widely concerned in missionary books remarked the other day. Therefore we welcome the recent publication by the S.P.G. of a small book called "The Claim of Suffering," by Mrs. Paget, and the fact that several articles on the subject appear in the April magazines. In the *International Review of Missions* Dr. Wanless, of Miraj, writes on the "Place and Policy of Medical Missions in India"; in *The East and the West*

Dr. Aspland, of Peking, has an article on "China and Medical Missions"; and in *Mercy and Truth* Dr. Duncan Main, of Hangchow, reports the great conference of the China Medical Missionary Association held last January in Peking, at which over eighty missionary doctors were present. It is striking to read the address of President Yuan Shi-kai at the reception which he gave to the delegates. The most important topic dealt with in the conference was the training of Chinese as doctors. But for far-reaching influence the most valuable literature on the whole subject is found in the small pamphlet containing the conclusions arrived at by the body of missionaries who met in Dr. Mott's conferences in India. A summary of these is given in the "Findings" of the National Conference, Section VII., pp. 26-31.



It is no small achievement to have touched the heart of nations with a children's book. Mr. Basil Mathews, the Editor of the London Missionary Society, has done this with "Livingstone the Pathfinder." Wherever one goes people are reading it. Boys who once get enthralled by its pages never emerge until they have reached the end. The London County Council's Education Committee have placed the book on its Requisition List of Books for School Lending Libraries. It is being used as a textbook in Trinity College, Kandy, and read aloud in Chinese schools. A German translation has been issued by the enterprising publishing department of the Basle Missionary Society; and America, where already the English edition has had a great circulation, is claiming 500 copies for its German-speaking population. No household should be without a copy of this book. In its German form it will be welcomed in many schoolrooms.



Among other noteworthy articles in the April magazines we may mention "A Call from China" in the B.M.S. *Herald*; a striking financial statement covering ten years in *China's*

Millions; an account of a Transvaal Women's Prayer Union, which is full of interest, in the Wesleyan *Foreign Field*; the first part of a record of Bible translation in the "Isles that Wait," published in *The Bible in the World*; an interesting sketch of itinerating work in the Wynaad—"After Many Days"—in *India's Women*; and a thoughtful survey of the present "Critical Time in Jewish Missions" in the *Missionary Intelligencer* of the L.J.S. The *Missionary Review of the World* has a long article—to be continued—on "Mormonism To-day and its Remedy," a valuable study of "Religion and Religious Growth in the United States," and a discussion of "The Macedonia Problem and Missions." G.



Discussions.

[*The contributions contained under this heading are comments on articles in the previous number of the CHURCHMAN. The writer of the article criticized may reply in the next issue of the magazine; then the discussion in each case terminates. Contributions to the "Discussions" must reach the Editors before the 12th of the month.*]

"EVANGELICALS AND THE PROBLEM OF RITUAL."

(*The "Churchman," March, 1913, p. 178.*)

Two articles bearing upon this question have appeared in the CHURCHMAN from the pens of the Rev. J. R. Darbyshire and the Rev. E. C. Dewick respectively. Two points, which we all agree to be of pressing importance, appear to be uppermost in their minds: (1) The more successful diffusion of Evangelical principles and "atmosphere" among the younger generation; (2) the preservation of the individuality of the Evangelical party as regards the externals of its worship. In other words, two possibilities are before us—failure to retain our younger people, and failure to preserve our individuality as against that of other parties in the Church. Such failures we are all determined must never be. How, then, can they be averted? Mr. Darbyshire and Mr. Dewick think the remedy to be the adoption of what is popularly known as "ritual," yet ritual with an Evangelical individuality of its own. They take it for granted that such a step is an immediate necessity, would be quite harmless both at present and in future, and is in no way contrary to the best traditions of Evan-