

## The Missionary World.

**D**URING the current month a considerable proportion of our readers will, either as ministers or as worshippers, avail themselves of the facilities offered by the Continental chaplaincies of the Colonial and Continental Church Society, or of the S.P.G. A friend who has recently spent some weeks abroad raises the question as to whether the link between these chaplaincies and the broadest and most strenuous work of the Christian Church is being adequately used. The sermons preached are being, it is urged, somewhat over-adapted to the holiday mood, being very short, and occupied rather with the works of nature than with the works of grace. Sermons in place after place upon the beauty of the mountains become wearisome. Men's minds during their vacation time are relieved from the pressure of work and the immanence of details; they are predisposed to real thought and wide outlook after a week in which the physical being has had full play. Thoughtful teaching on fundamental truths and wide outlook upon the relation of vital Christianity to the problems of the colonies and the non-Christian nations would awaken a ready response. Where chaplains have gone forward on these lines the Sunday attendances have been satisfactory, and the way has opened for personal work throughout the week.

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The July numbers of the large missionary quarterlies make, as usual, a special claim upon our attention this month. The most important paper in *The East and the West* is one on "Education and Evangelism," by Dr. James L. Barton, the well-known Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The relation of these two branches of work is taking a foremost place in missionary thinking at present. Miss Eleanor McDougall, of Westfield College, whose winter visit to India is yielding rich and varied fruit, writes on "The Present Situation in the Education of Indian Women." Bishop Montgomery, in his highly sympathetic study of "India,"

urges the need for "the creation of tens of thousands of women teachers of *Indian race* for the tens of thousands of Indian schools which the Government desires to open in the villages," and points out that at this time "it is more profitable to spend money on schools and training-colleges for teachers in India than in any other country in the world, because money so spent on a Christian mission will be met by double or treble as much from Government funds." The number also contains an appreciation of medical missions, by Lord Sydenham; a paper on "Suicide in Japan," by Susan Ballard; a lively, though rather superficial, account of "A Layman's Visit to Zululand"; a short impressionist sketch of "Opium in the Villages of Bengal," by D. G. Batty (or Batley, both forms are given); a brief but suggestive presentation, by Canon Mercer, of the views of the "minority" in South Africa who deprecate any ecclesiastical action tending towards the "separation of black and white in church"; and a much-needed challenge of "The Claims of Bahatism," by the Rev. S. G. Wilson, D.D., a member of the American Mission in Persia, who has been in close touch with Behais for thirty years.

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In the *Moslem World* the same writer has a more technical and closely reasoned paper on "Bahatism and Religious Assassination," in which certain charges brought in detail against the companions of Baha Ullah are held to be proved. Three short papers discuss the "Support of Converts"; a summary of a lecture on "Woman in Islam," by Professor M. Hartmann, is followed by a paper on "The Woman Question in Egypt," by Miss A. Y. Thompson; Mr. W. J. W. Roome writes further on the "Dead Weight of Islam," dealing this time with Equatorial and Southern Africa; Dr. St. Clair Tisdall crosses swords with a writer in *Muslim India* on the subject of what has been called "The Mare's Nest"; and, refreshingly different in tone, the Bishop of Uganda contributes a short paper on "The Blessing of Discouragement."

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By way of testing the effect of one of these missionary quarterlies upon an intelligent mind, the present writer handed the current number of the *International Review of Missions* to a friend, with a request for an estimate of the value of its contents. The note returned is quoted, with only slight abbreviation :

“This is a singularly interesting number. Whether it be judged from the combination of contributors or from the content of the articles, the verdict must be the same. It sets out a refreshingly strong view of the whole Christian position, and no one can rise from reading it—and the occupation demands many clear-headed hours—without a new vision of the glories of his Faith. In even a hasty analysis of the contents of the number the terms ‘social,’ ‘devotional,’ ‘practical,’ ‘vital,’ ‘political,’ ‘educational,’ appear as classifying various aspects of missionary work, and these by no means exhaust the scope of the number. Possibly the highest point reached might be termed philosophical, for in Mr. J. N. Farquhar’s paper on ‘The Relation of Christianity to Hinduism’ we have a truth-seeking attempt to show that while the distance between Hinduism and Christianity is infinite, yet Christianity is to be regarded as fulfilling whatever there be of ‘far-away promise’ in any or every faith. Mr. Kenneth J. Saunders, now of Rangoon, and till recently one of the Rev. A. G. Fraser’s colleagues in Trinity College, Kandy, contributes a striking article on ‘The Vital Forces of Southern Buddhism,’ and, while writing with all due knowledge and appreciation of Buddhism, puts forward a powerful plea for a living faith in the Resurrection which must stir every reader. Not without reason nor without effect does Mr. Saunders say that ‘we must first ourselves recover the rapture and glamour of the early Easter faith if we are to convince others of its truth.’ Dr. Shailer Matthews of Chicago writes of ‘Missions and the Social Gospel.’ Probably the view which he puts forward of the Social Gospel needs to be pondered more than almost any other aspect of modern missions. The revolution which has quietly taken place in missionary conditions has not been realized by the great body of devoted missionary workers in the home Churches; when they are prepared to accept the fact they will apply themselves with a new measure of devotion to meet a need which has expanded incalculably since their first missionary impressions were received. Let no one misunderstand Dr. Shailer Matthews. He writes: ‘The Social Gospel is not another Gospel . . . the same message of Divine power of salvation wrought by God through Christ.’ The editor, Mr. J. H. Oldham, and Miss A. H. Small, formerly Principal of the Women’s Missionary College, Edinburgh, are in a position to let us see behind the scenes of missionary life, both as to the problems arising in the task of the missionary and as to his devotional life. Both papers are based on knowledge gained by correspondence from the field; both enable us at home to share something of the burden with the brethren abroad. We often hear that missionaries are asked to answer too many questions; that may be so, but a missionary’s answer is of more value in revealing a need than a score of statements written by his ardent supporters. It is by such a means we attain the actual in missionary literature.

"The editor has—as I think wisely—given hospitality to Pater Friedrich Schwager, S.V.D., a noted German authority on Roman Catholic missions. His paper on 'Missionary Methods from a Roman Catholic Standpoint' will be read with interest and respect. It will not lead anyone to think that the Roman Catholic and Protestant standpoints are reconcilable; but, putting aside the note of superiority in the paper, to which an old Church is prone in maintaining a unity through closing down freedom of thought, there is much to help us in our own work. A temperate and able statement on missions as seen from the Roman Catholic angle is new to us, and we are really glad to know that this article, as well as the important German missionary magazine which Pater Schwager edits, indicates that the Roman Church has a group of representatives who are vigorously working in the light.

"I must not enlarge further on the main papers in this number, but the subsidiary matter calls for brief comment. The section on 'Noteworthy Articles in Recent Periodicals' is an admirable feature, and gives mental breadth and lightness to the more solid parts. Then, too, the names of the book reviewers call for comment. They are as follows: Sir Godfrey Lagden, the Rev. Basil Yeaxlee, Professor Carl Mirbt, Dr. Cornelius Patton, Professor Adams Brown, the Rev. J. H. Harris, Professor Margoliouth, Dr. Eugene Stock, Miss Ruth Rouse, the Rev. W. A. Crabtree. I venture to doubt whether any magazine engaged in the advocacy of any one subject could select a more representative, experienced, or competent group of reviewers drawn from the Continent, the U.S.A., and Great Britain. The Bibliography retains its unique character."

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Various matters of outstanding interest arise from the reading of the remainder of the July magazines. The *C.M. Review* has a thoughtful paper by Mrs. Luke Paget on "The Share of Women in the Spread of the Kingdom," and two papers on C.M.S. work in Central Ceylon are living and effective. The Editorial Notes, always exact and scholarly, deal mainly with two widely differing Bishops and bishoprics—the late heroic Bishop Tucker, whose life drew so suddenly and so fittingly to a close in Westminster Abbey, and his wonderfully fruitful Diocese of Uganda; and Bishop Blyth, still spared for an old age of retirement after long service, and his deeply interesting but peculiarly difficult Diocese of Jerusalem. It is well that the large share which Evangelical Churchmen have had in the development and maintenance of mission and Church work in Palestine should be emphasized. Much prayer is needed that the successor to Bishop Blyth may prove to be a man of God's choice, able to deal wisely with the complex conditions of the

diocese. Of the other C.M.S. papers, *Mercy and Truth* contains the Yearly Report of the Medical Mission Auxiliary; the *C.M.S. Gazette* gives a most encouraging account of the Summer School at Lowestoft; and the *C.M.S. Gleaner* has a number of short bright papers, the most noteworthy being, perhaps, an account of mission work at Kikuyu.

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The *S.P.G. Mission Field* reports with thankfulness that the sum of £20,000 has at last been raised in response to a "challenge" offered in February, 1913. In an article on "The Drink Traffic on the Gold Coast" terrible evidence is put forward to show that "the traffic is increasing by leaps and bounds." In the same paper there is also an expression of appreciation of the work of Dr. C. F. Harford, who is this year retiring from the Principalship of Livingstone College, of which institution he was the founder. He has done a remarkable work. Dr. Loftus Wigram, son of the former C.M.S. Hon. Secretary, will be his successor; he has been Vice-Principal of the College for some years.

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The *L.M.S. Chronicle* records the grave but apparently necessary decision of the Board of Directors, who, notwithstanding a year of distinct financial uplift, were still faced by a deficit of over £17,000 on the year's working, to make a reduction of £6,500 per annum in their total expenditure, dividing that sum over the fields of the Society's work. Certain vacancies in China are to be left unfilled; some L.M.S. work in South India will be withdrawn and in other Indian missions economies will be effected by reduction of grants, withdrawal of men, or failure to fill, vacancies. In Madagascar the work in Betsileo will be offered to the Paris Missionary Society, and the Torres Straits district in Papua will be surrendered. At a time of such unbounded opportunity any retrogression is a shock to the whole Christian Church, but there are already tokens that the supporters of L.M.S. are facing the situation bravely, so that, while

they may and do endorse the present action of their Directors, they will soon turn retrogression into advance.

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The July number of the *Missionary Review of the World* is well above the average. There are two well-known British contributors—the Rev. E. J. Peck on “The Eskimo of the Frozen North,” and the Rev. F. Deaville Walker on “A Hundred Years of Wesleyan Missions”; an excellent paper on “The Christian Message to Mohammedans” comes from the pen of a veteran American missionary, the Rev. George Her- rick; an address of Dr. Zweemer’s, on “The Power of Sacrifice,” delivered at the Students’ Conference at Kansas City last February, is reprinted; and there are several other papers, besides the vigorous “Department of Best Methods,” and numerous paragraphs on missionary information.

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*China’s Millions*, mainly given up to addresses reported from the Annual Meeting, contains some fascinating illustrations beautifully printed and reproduced. *The Bible in the World* is, as usual, interesting from cover to cover, the most instructive paper being probably that on Bible distribution in Abyssinia. *Our Missions* (F.F.M.A.) announces that from next January it will become a monthly instead of a quarterly publication, with “every intention of maintaining the technical and literary standard of the journal.”

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