

The Missionary World.

CAN 1915 hold for us such strange and overwhelming changes in the Missionary World as 1914 has brought? A year ago, in these monthly notes, we wrote of the strenuousness of associated work, and the need for withdrawal into the sanctuary of the Presence of Christ, the problem raised by Kikuyu, the promise contained in the work of the Continuation Committee, the results of Dr. Mott's conferences in Asia and the impression made by his visits to the committees of the British societies, various forward movements in home base work, and the action of the Anti-Slavery and Aborigines' Protection Society in reference to Portuguese slavery. Up to the month of August such subjects as these were outstanding; then came the great catastrophe of the war, dwarfing and dislocating them all. Henceforth every missionary question has had to be examined in its light and related to its issues. No such arrestment has ever crossed the Church's path before. As we slowly rally from shock and bewilderment we are striving to learn how, by the Divine alchemy, the good which lies hidden in this ghastly evil can be distinguished and brought to life.

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In a world at cross-purposes we need a single aim to guide us through the maze. There is one great reality which is central for us all, whatever our nationality: it is the Kingdom of God and its coming among men. In the heart of the Sermon on the Mount, with its deepening and reimposing of pre-existing law, in the midst of its recognition of the problems and oppositions which beset the infant Church on its adventure into the great antagonistic world, lies the familiar but still oft-neglected precept: "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness." Here is what we need—the touchstone by which we may test our attitude to every new circumstance, our response to every call to decision in a new sphere. Missionary work has become part of the life of the empire; questions vital to it stand waiting at every point of international contact; its sup-

porters have an appreciable share in guiding the mind of the nation ; its future will be affected by the terms of settlement at the close of the war. Hence, not only as citizens of our beloved country, but as custodians of the Church's missionary work, we are called to close study, to clear thought, to constant prayer, and to the steady use of influence at this juncture, that the interests of the Kingdom of God and His righteousness may be kept in the foremost place. Minds steeped to the full in the spirit of the Sermon on the Mount, so full-orbed in its revelation of the meaning of the Kingdom of God, have a great part to play at this time. But the attitude of mind which the Sermon on the Mount portrays is not natural to men ; it can only be entered into and maintained by constant self-discipline and prayer and faith.

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Amid many sad evidences of the links which have been broken by the war, there are striking instances in which it is being proved that the Church is a bond stronger even than that of the nation, and that spiritual relationships hold fast when earthly ones are severed. The December magazines contain several instances of this. *China's Millions*, under the title of "A Super-national Bond," quotes some striking letters. A German pastor in Switzerland sends a donation to the funds, feeling that the children of God are drawn closer together in spite of "the separating wall between Germany and England" ; several English friends in like manner send gifts for German missionaries cut off from home supplies. The *L.M.S. Chronicle* records the effort being made by missionaries of all nationalities to help each other in distress ; in India there is a splendid readiness in the same direction ; in Africa a like spirit is being shown. *The Bible in the World* quotes the following from a letter received from "one of the best-known directors of German foreign missions" :

"I ask to be allowed to join your work by a yearly contribution, which for this year you will find enclosed. The deeper the gulf is which now separates England and Germany, the less we German Christians will and may forget God's blessings bestowed on us by the work of English Christians,

and quite particularly of your Bible Society. God grant that soon the day may come on which we, purified by the Lord's holy judgment, may again join hands like brothers to do His works according to His will."

In the German missionary press there is ready recognition of every effort being made by British authorities to secure freedom for German missionaries and to maintain their good work, of every act of kindness, and every contribution towards the relief of need which comes through British Christian agencies, or through British missionaries in the field, and of every expression of sympathy in the British missionary periodicals for the German missionaries in their difficult situation. The war has brought out in a striking way the real brotherhood which exists among missionaries of many nations, who together make a force far too small and scattered, in face of a great common task. The conservation of the excellent work of German missionaries is one of the large problems which have to be faced in the near future.

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Much interest has been stirred in and near London by a visit from M. Casalis, one of the secretaries of the Paris Missionary Society, which has suffered terribly through the war; several of its central staff, many of its missionaries and of its candidates in training have been called to the colours, its income has been stopped, and its work threatened with ruin. With undaunted courage the little band of workers at the centre are holding things together, believing that better days are near. M. Casalis has had a warm welcome in British missionary circles, and hopes to revisit us again in February. His Committee, under the presidency of Captain Wisely (12, Palace Court, Bayswater, W.), will be glad to hear of good centres for drawing-room meetings where M. Casalis might tell his story and receive substantial help for his work.

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The Jewish people are amongst the greatest sufferers of the present war. The European districts where they mainly congregate are the centres of the conflict, they are fighting in

thousands on both sides, and mission work among them in Eastern Europe is, with one or two exceptions, entirely suspended. Yet the situation has in it elements of hope. There are indications that the attitude of the Russian Government is changing; we learn from the December number of the *Jewish Intelligencer* that hundreds of Jewish officers are in command of Russian soldiers; it may be that after the war is over some of the crushing disabilities resting on the Jews will be removed. When the war broke out, Jewish missions were being faced with much opposition, and at the same time there were many encouragements. One of the leading Jewish workers in America, the Rev. S. H. Rohold, shows in an article in the *Missionary Review of the World* what large accessions from Judaism to Christianity are admitted by the Jews themselves.

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National righteousness is a subject on which men should be opened-eyed at the present time. The more we urge it upon other nations the more humbly we should seek to attain it ourselves. A pamphlet from China, written by a veteran L.M.S. missionary, the Rev. Arnold Foster, challenges very gravely the attitude of the Municipal Council of Shanghai, which directs the affairs of the Foreign Settlement there, as to the large and increasing income derived from licensed opium houses in the Settlement. It is well known that at great loss, and at times with great severity, the Chinese Government, first under the Manchus and now under the Republic, has been restricting opium-growing, until now fourteen provinces out of the twenty-two have, by the suppression of local cultivation, gained exemption from the necessity for allowing the importation of the Indian drug. In the native city of Shanghai all the opium shops have long been closed; in the Foreign Settlement, though the "dens" were closed in October, 1910, the shops have increased from 87 in 1907 to 663 in 1914. In 1907 the monthly revenue from licences to shops and "dens" was 5,450 taels. In May, 1914, the revenue from licences to shops alone amounted to 10,995 taels. These figures are taken from the

Municipal Gazette, and are official. The Municipal Council has expressed its sympathy with the Chinese in their efforts to check the opium habit, but Mr. Arnold Foster is fully justified in urging that sympathy needs to be supported by action.

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The Board of Study for the Preparation of Missionaries, an organization to which a parallel has been established in America, is one of the good results of the Edinburgh Conference of 1910. The present crisis makes a fresh claim upon its activities, inasmuch as the actual sending out of missionaries is temporarily checked, while the need for them, qualified as highly as possible, is likely in the near future to increase largely. For three years Canon H. U. Weitbrecht, D.D., has been secretary to the Board; his successor is the Rev. John Steele, D.Litt., for many years a missionary of the English Presbyterian Church in South China. Under Dr. Weitbrecht's guidance a useful Vacation School was held last autumn in Oxford. Now, organized by Dr. Steele, a Spring Course of Weekly Lectures for Missionaries on Furlough and Missionary Students is announced to be held during the Lent term at King's College, Strand, W.C. The subjects to be dealt with are "The Comparative Study of Religions" (Professor A. Caldecott, Dean of King's College) and "Educational Method for Missionaries" (Mr. J. H. Wimms, Lecturer on Education at Goldsmiths' College, University of London); parallel courses are also being arranged in "Religions of the East," and possibly, if sufficient students offer, a course on "African Languages and Problems." The inclusive fee for the course is 10s. Further particulars can be had from the Secretary, 2, Church Crescent, Muswell Hill, N. The Board has under consideration a large scheme for the initiation of a residential college for specialized missionary preparation, which would supplement existing work, and combine isolated facilities into a systematic whole. No immediate action is being taken, but the project is one which, as soon as it has matured, should receive substantial support.

"What shall we sing?" is a question often asked by those who wish to give music a due place in the presentation of the missionary appeal. A book just published—"Missionary College Hymns"—by Miss A. H. Small goes very far to provide an answer. It contains a collection of hymns, Oriental, missionary, and devotional, sung in the Women's Missionary College, Edinburgh, compiled and arranged by the first Principal. The Oriental sections are of peculiar interest, and the music is so arranged that with a little sympathetic study a really Eastern effect can be produced. The hymns have a direct value in their interpretation of the mind of other nations. While the book is of special interest to those preparing for the mission field, it will also be welcomed by missionary choirs at home. Copies (price 4s. 6d. each, postage 3d.) can be had from the author at the Women's Missionary College, Inverleith Terrace, Edinburgh.

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Among the articles specially worth reading in the December magazines we note: in the *C.M. Review*, "Turkey and Islam," by Canon Weitbrecht, and, following it, an address by Missionsdirektor Axenfeld of Berlin on "The Church's Obligation towards Islam"; in the *C.M. Gazette*, "Notes on the Swanwick Fund," by Dr. Stock; in the *Mission Field* of the S.P.G., a study of "Samuel Marsden," by Jesse Page; in the *L.M.S. Chronicle*, "The Carol between the Trenches," a beautiful story of the Franco-Prussian War; in the *Missionary Review of the World*, "The Conquest of the Holy Land," by one of the missionaries of the American Friends at Ramallah; and in the *Student Movement*, "Foreign Missions and the War," by W. Paton, and "The Failure of Catholicity," by C. Franklin Angus. The *B.M.S. Herald* is a "Baynes Memorial Number," containing a full record of the fine work of the late Honorary Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society.

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