

## The Missionary World.

IN the month when the three quarterly magazines come before us, we generally confine ourselves almost entirely to notes on the current magazines. The first place must be given to the L.M.S. *Chronicle*, not only because of its burning presentation of the outcome of the important committee referred to last month, but also because it contains a singularly interesting statement as to "War and Wealth," by Sir George Paish, editor of *The Statist*, a financial expert who was called to the help of the Government at the beginning of the war. His financial forecast, unexpectedly favourable as it is, is not so striking as the following paragraph from his paper:

"My view as to religious activity specifically is that much greater effort ought to be put into religious work during this war than has ever been put into it before. Religious activities ought to be increased, and not diminished. I would not increase activities abroad at this stage, except where our soldiers are assembled; but would hold on to existing work. If we take advantage of this time of suffering and of endurance to make people realize what religion really means, instead of the war leading to restriction in your activities, it should lead to great expansion.

"If people here become much more in earnest about their religion during the war, there will be a great expansion in their religious activities as regards the rest of the world after the war. I would suggest, therefore, that the L.M.S. should help to strengthen the religious life of the nation at this time by every means in its power."

A more impressive testimony to the power of spiritual revival even in the region of finance could not be found.

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But the L.M.S. find themselves, owing in large part to the war, faced by a possible deficiency of about £20,000, which, in addition to an accumulated deficit of like amount, creates a serious situation. Very gravely and reluctantly the committee have decided to close down or transfer work in India or elsewhere equivalent to an annual expenditure of £10,000, unless by the end of January there is such a definite response in the Churches as will amount to a guarantee of largely increased permanent income. The situation is being faced on the highest spiritual grounds, and we believe that the issue, whatever it be, will result in deep blessing for the society and its work. Further comment

would be out of place until the result is known, which will not be until after this number of the *CHURCHMAN* is published.

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The three quarterly reviews, which the writer has read almost from cover to cover, certainly make a strong presentation of missions and their related topics. *The East and The West* is unwontedly Anglican, but the number is a good one. The only Nonconformist, the Rev. J. C. K. Anstey, contributes what is perhaps the best paper on "Vernacular Training in India." Canon Robinson's historical sketch of the "Conversion of France" is specially welcome; we know too little of the early European missions. Canon Bullock-Webster is always worth reading on Church finance. The two papers on colonial education in South Africa, and the position of women there, are full of valuable information; and the sketch of the late Dr. Marks, "a pioneer missionary in Burma," is fresh and stimulating. In the Editorial Notes, an important statement from the Bishop of Nagpur is quoted, in which he characterizes as "wholly untrue" the allegations that the German missionaries in his diocese had used their position in India "to undermine the authority of the Government, or to promote German as opposed to British interests in the country."

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The *Moslem World* gives large space to Islam in India—a subject of primary importance, which is well discussed by the Rev. A. J. P. French of the S.P.G. Mr. H. A. Walter, one of the Literary Secretaries of the Y.M.C.A., writes on "The Ahmadiya Movement To-day." Besides papers on "The Turk in History," "The Future of Persia," and a most interesting account of the Oriental Public Library at Bankipore, there are two articles of the type which the *Moslem World* alone provides, and for which a small number of students peculiarly value it: one is a masterly discussion by Professor Duncan B. Macdonald of the clause "Begotten not Made," the other a learned and luminous paper by Canon Gairdner of Cairo on "The Doctrine of the Unity in Trinity." Increasing attention is being given in the *Moslem World* to a record of current news and literature on Islam.

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The *International Review of Missions*, in addition to the usual "Survey of the Year," has a fine study of "Hope," by Professor Cairns, and several articles on somewhat unusual subjects. Dr. Robert E. Speer discusses at length the "Political Environment of Missions in Siam"; Mr. Chengting T. Wang, a former member of Yuan Shih-kai's Government, contributes an incisive paper on "How to make Christianity Indigenous"; Archdeacon Kitching, of Uganda, writes on "Capturing a Language"; and there is a short suggestive paper on "Physical Education and Missionary Work."

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The "Missionary Survey of the Year 1915," in the January number of the *International Review*, from which we quoted last month, is an amazing evidence of the vitality of missionary work. In the teeth of all the problems raised by the war, there has been open progress, as well as a quiet undercurrent of steady advance, which energizes our hope for the future. Whilst the survey is interesting to all who care for missions, and is indispensable to students of missionary problems, it has a peculiar value for men who frequently preach or speak on missions. It provides matter for a number of striking addresses or sermons. A study of any one mission-field would be an obvious and, to most audiences, a very welcome choice, but the survey also provides a large amount of material for addresses on such subjects as "Activities of the Church in the Mission-Field"; "Missionary Education—its Promise and its Advance"; "The Harvest of a Year (record of baptisms)"; "How Missionaries Plan and Think (a study of the work of committees and conferences in the mission-fields)"; "Governments and Missions"; "The Effect of the War on German Missions"; "Social Reform in the East"; "Christian Literature and Bible Distribution," and so on. The last three pages of the survey suggest a striking line for a sermon, and references are given in the footnotes to illustrative material in the preceding pages.

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One of the sorrows of the war has been the suspension in part of the international fellowship in missionary work which was so remarkably fostered by the Edinburgh Conference. It is

impossible to forecast the time and the way in which fruitful intercourse with former German fellow-workers will ultimately be restored, but meantime there remains a very real internationalism in missions, though for the present it cannot be complete. An interesting illustration of this is given in a list of contributors for 1916 and after, which is inserted in the current number of the *International Review of Missions*. The announced contributors are members of nine nations: from the East—Japan, China, and India; from the Continent of Europe—Denmark, Finland, Holland, Norway, Sweden, and Russia, besides Great Britain and America. If much has been lost, much still remains.

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The C.M.S. *Gazette* quotes a letter from the Rev. D. Marshall Lang, of Hakodate, which bears good news of the National Evangelistic Campaign in Japan. He writes:

“ At the end of June we had our long-looked-for meetings of the Special Evangelistic Campaign. . . . One special meeting was for educationists, and, being called by the Education Society of Hakodate had a larger and more refined audience than would have otherwise come; yet another was for merchants, and, being called by the Chamber of Commerce reached all the best of that class who came to hear the testimony of one of Japan's greatest merchants of to-day, an earnest Christian of close upon eighty years of age, who goes up and down the country advocating the religion of Jesus as the best for the country and individuals alike, and you could have heard a pin fall during the delivery of his simple but forcible address. But the addresses that were universally allowed to be the most telling, because the most direct and heart-searching, yet the most simple, were those of the one Japanese lady speaker, who is a member of a well-known banking family. She was only in Hakodate for a day and a night, but spoke four times—to women, schoolgirls, schoolboys, and at a mass meeting. Audiences were good even in the theatres, and gave a quiet attention, which spoke of a real desire to hear; and at the end we had about 180 names given in of those who were ready to hear more. We thank God for His goodness all through the effort—a really ‘ united ’ effort for the salvation of the townspeople.”

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*The Missionary Review of the World*, which is rapidly improving in the weight and interest of its contents, has recently published an impressive study by the Rev. S. B. Rohold, of Toronto, of the place of the Jews in the various nations. Few have realized the enormous number of Jews who are fighting in the conflicting armies, many having acquitted themselves with

conspicuous bravery, or the leading place taken by Jewish financiers in the great war loans. At a time when Jewish citizens are so notably serving the nations, masses of Jews in Eastern Europe have suffered the horrors of an enforced exodus, and are homeless and penniless. By one decree of the Russian Government, 200,000 Jews were deported at a few hours' notice under conditions of appalling severity. In Palestine, the colonizing work, into which so much money had been poured, has been completely swept away by Turkish act. Jewish refugees to the number of 15,000 have taken refuge in Egypt. In this time of shattered hopes, Jewish hearts are more open to the Gospel message than ever before, and whilst British missionaries have to withdraw from Jewish work in the war zone, the work itself goes bravely on. The time has surely come when the Jews should be ranked as a mission-field with the other great national and religious divisions of the human race; when care for Jewish missions should not be the interest of a few, but of all; and when all the manifold problems of Judaism—from the attitude of the modernized and often rationalistic intellectual Jew down to that of the poor and downtrodden immigrant—should be studied with wide-minded and prayerful sympathy.

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No missionary literature is more inspiring than good biography, and we have been enriched by several volumes of late. Lives of two well-known C.M.S. missionaries—Miss Mary Bird of Persia, and the Rev. T. Walker of Tinnevely—are sure to come to the notice of readers of the *CHURCHMAN*; the biography of a Scottish missionary, Mary Slessor of Calabar, is less likely to become familiar. Yet it is one of the most striking missionary books of the decade, recording the extraordinary work of a woman who ranks among the finest of the great missionaries Scotland has given to the Church. The stories of the little frail woman, once a mill girl in Dundee, at work alone among the raw West African heathen are full of adventure and romance.

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A book of prayers, which, at a price of 5s., has been reprinted three times by Messrs. John Murray since January, 1913, and is now reissued with many improvements in a second edition at

es. 6d., must have in it qualities which meet some widespread need. "A Chain of Prayer Across the Ages: Forty Centuries of Prayer," arranged by Dr. Selina Fox, now Deputy-Governor of H.M. prison at Aylesbury and formerly a missionary in India, is designed either for use at family worship or for private devotion. Besides groups of collects, arranged for daily use and covering twenty-three weeks, there are prayers for use by children, for the medical profession, for prisons and institutions, for special seasons of the Christian year; national prayers—an excellent collection—prayers for events in the home, and a large number of varied and beautiful missionary prayers, old and new. The index of subjects shows how large a mass of material is available on any special topic, and the index of authors and sources shows the extreme interest—historical, liturgical, and devotional—of the book. It will be welcome not only in the homes of our own land, where it will aid in missionary and general intercession, but also in the mission-field, where such a book would enrich with treasures from all the ages the prayer-life of a mission-station or the devotional meetings of a missionary conference.

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To revert to the January magazines, they are for the most part above the average in interest. Persia claims a prominent place. The *C.M. Review* has an article by Dr. Catherine Ironside describing recent events; the *Jewish Missionary Intelligencer* has a long record of Mr. Garland's journey with the missionaries from Ispahan to Ahwaz; the *Moslem World* also devotes several pages to news from Persia and Armenia, besides Mr. Malcolm's paper. *Mercy and Truth* has several good articles, particularly one by Dr. Arthur Lankester, who has been revisiting his old work at Peshawar; the Baptist *Herald* has an account of the hospital at Tsinanfu; and in *China's Millions* there is a striking story of the founding of the Union Hospital in Changsha, in Hunan Province, in conjunction with the China Medical Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. The following articles or stories are specially fresh, and worth noting as likely to interest some who do not ordinarily read missionary publications: "Gifts of Great Price," in the *Bible in the World*; "A Village Tragedy in India," in the *S.P.G. Mission-Field*; "A Widow aged Eight,"

in *The Zenana*; "General Botha lays the Foundation-Stone of a Mission Church in the Transvaal," in the Wesleyan *Foreign Field*; a "Study of Zenana Work and its Fruits," in the B.M.S. *Herald*; and "An English Officer's Testimony," in the *C.M. Gleaner*. We note with interest that *Our Missions*, the quarterly organ of the Friends' Foreign Missions Association, is to be issued monthly henceforth; and that the C.M.S. halfpenny paper, *Awake*, is to be edited especially for men "of the industrial classes."

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The Central Board of Missions is doing the missionary cause a service by issuing, under the editorship of the Rev. J. O. F. Murray, a series of well-printed, attractive booklets with the general title of "Missionary Tracts for the Times." The object of the series is to aid the Church in interpreting the missionary aspects of the war. The really living character of the booklets, added to the extraordinarily low price (one penny for a sixteen-page booklet in coloured cover), should insure a wide circulation; clergy and missionary leaders will do well to see that local booksellers lay in a proper stock from the S.P.C.K., who are the publishers, and may also with advantage recommend the series to all whom they desire to influence in the direction of broader and deeper thought on Missions. The first four tracts already issued are: "The Time of our Visitation," by the Rev. J. O. F. Murray; "The Holy War," by the Rev. William Temple; "The World of To-Day and the Gospel," by Miss Ruth Rouse; and "The Building Power of Christ's Kingdom," by Archdeacon Gresford Jones.

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