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THE CHURCHMAN

A Monthly Magazine and Review

CONDUCTED BY
CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEN OF THE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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PUBLICATIONS OF THE MONTH.

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The Missionary World.

“JUST at dawn there came a little breeze over the fields—a very little breeze indeed ; still it was a whisper of hope. By and by there came a drop of rain—only just a drop, to be sure, but it was a welcome herald. Then came another drop or two, faster and faster ; then followed a torrent which soaked the ground, closed the rents which the dry weather had made, revived the flowers—though for a time it bent them to the very dust—washed the choking dust from the leaves of the trees, and swelled the waters of the dwindled stream.” So we read in childhood’s days of the end of a drought during which a self-sacrificing rill generously lent its drops to the burning summer air and the thirsty flowers on its banks, till almost all its life was gone, and still trickled bravely forward, saying faintly, “ On, on, there may be more thirsty flowers waiting for me.” There is a great deal to marvel at in the missionary situation at the home base, and it gives rise to much thought, but better even than all that can be tabulated is the little breeze at dawn which can be already discerned in the home Church. It is not the official movements towards revival which are cheering, though the National Church Mission and the Laymen’s Christian Crusade are profoundly welcome in their inception. It is rather the growing desire among individuals, the deepening sense of spiritual hunger in them, the assurance that there is a fullness of life through the Holy Spirit for members as for Church, and the conviction that the sin and coldness that have checked the purpose of God must be put away—it is these signs, visible here and there in constantly increasing numbers, that are causing us to lift up our heads. Now and again brave and simple words are spoken as to the preaching of Christ, now and again little groups are being discovered at prayer for revival—unconnected with one another ; constantly, as at present in the C.M.S., associations come together in open acknowledgment of their spiritual need. These are all of “ the little breeze ” ; the “ rushing mighty wind ” has yet to follow. But let us note that these indications are not engineered, not organized. “ We have never had such annual reports in all our lives,” recently said a leader in a conference of diocesan representatives, “ everywhere we were told there is a stirring of life.” There are indications

in plenty of a spontaneous movement of life, and though instances to the contrary could readily be furnished also, yet with life there is power, and it is on the evidences of life that we must base our expectation. Among perplexities and controversies many we must fasten our hope to the living thing.

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Nor is such a hope limited to the Home Base. Readers of the *Church Missionary Review* will note with interest Mr. Norman Tubb's reference to a "wonderful four days' mission" conducted by Mr. Sherwood Eddy in the college hall at Agra. From other sources we shall no doubt shortly hear further accounts of Mr. Eddy's missions in various parts of India and of their exceptional character. There is a spiritual response to the message of Christ among young men in India such as has not been known before. At the moment when the foundation-stone of a Hindu University has been laid for them in Benares we do well to take note of this.

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The financial position of the Missionary Societies up to date—with the exception of the L.M.S., to which our sincere sympathy is extended—is a marvellous one. Of course heavy anxieties abound, and it is impossible till after the financial year closes for each society to know what part of the income already received has been paid in at an earlier date than usual, nevertheless the fact that they are as well off as they are is a ground for confidence and hearty thanksgiving. Apart from the miracle of God's mercy in this respect, and the blessing of His favour on the work, it is clear that the missionary constituency is well educated and really touched by love to God. The conclusion that this is so must be a comfort to all the branches of home organization. Had the missionary plea been based on any secondary motives, the service of missions would have ebbed out under the present strain. Also, had the spirit and habit of giving been less steadily inculcated there would have equally been a decline. The home organization of missions might in many respects be better, but in the essential fundamentals the present test is proving it to be sound.

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While the war is an occasion for unstinted giving, we are grateful to Bishop Montgomery for raising a corresponding note as to economy. The alarming increase in the price of paper suggests

inevitably that the opportunity has come for rigorously considering whether missionary publications are being over-produced. We venture to raise the question whether some monthly magazines could not be dispensed with at no loss to the cause, and others be produced less expensively. But the S.P.G. decision to reduce the size of the *Mission Field* temporarily is in any case sound and worthy of imitation. No true supporter of missions—and it is such who are so steadily upholding the societies now—would be unwilling for this ; indeed all such courses will be welcomed. The S.P.G. suggestion that separate diocesan reports with diocesan details might also be curtailed as a matter of self-denial is also to the point, and we understand that the Society's official Report for 1915 will set the good example of appearing as a " War Report " and will be reduced in size. Those who are outside the various missionary administrations cannot suggest courses of action, but they can assure the societies that they will be heartily supported if they effect economies in their publications. The C.M.S. has announced that its Summer School will be held at Bournemouth ; the S.P.G. has decided not to hold their School in 1916, but to look forward to 1917. Each course of action no doubt is best for the particular society.

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" Missionaries Torpedoed " is a headline in the *L.M.S. Chronicle*. Missionaries of the L.M.S., C.M.S., S.P.G., U.F.C. of Scotland, and others representing other societies or working independently were on board the *Yakasa Maru* and the *Persia*. Some escaped in the case of the *Yakasa Maru*, though losing all their possessions ; some were drowned, as in the case of the *Persia*. Sympathy will especially centre round the name of Miss Bull of the Bhil Mission, and Mr. Alec Grant of the U.F.C. Mission. He with his bride—a doctor of medicine, and like her husband well known in the Student Movement—were proceeding to India, where Mr. Grant had been working in Rajputana since 1911. These are pathetic instances of the wastage of war. On board the *Yakasa Maru* also there was a consignment of 21,000 volumes of the Bible Society, together with 170 reams of printing paper going to Colombo for the purpose of printing Gospels in Singalese. The editions of the Scriptures which are lost included the following languages : English, French, German, Hebrew, Greek, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, and Tigré.

The Bible in the World for the month of February contains a story of much value for all preachers and workers, entitled "For Seven Kopecks." It tells of a drunken Siberian who, by an accidental purchase of a Psalter in the Krasnoyarsk depôt of the Bible Society, was so impressed by the first verses of Psalm i., at which he had mechanically opened the book, that he was completely changed. Of himself he afterwards said, "I was dead in *vodka*. Now I live for eternal life and drink the Word of God which proceeds from the sacred fountain of life." Incidents such as this, and as vividly told, must strengthen the purpose of all the friends of the Society to see to it that the exceptional demand being made for the Scriptures to-day must be met, even though the cost of production is greatly increased. The Society is right in feeling confidence that "its friends desire at all costs to satisfy the great demand of men for the Word of God."

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The following extract taken from the *Missionary Herald*, the organ of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, is a valuable summary of the position in India to-day. Speaking at a meeting in New Haven, the Principal of the American College at Madura said—

"Five significant tendencies to-day suggest that a new India is being evolved—

"1. The remarkable loyalty of the Indian people to the British throne in these days of tumult, testifying alike to the good sense of the Indian people and the righteousness of British rule.

"2. The passing of the old spirit of subserviency and a marked stiffening of the backbone, such as has come recently to all Oriental countries.

"3. The progress of the social reform movement, as evinced by the increased emphasis on the education of women, abolition of caste, uplift of the depressed classes, and postponement of marriage to a more mature age.

"4. Religious unrest, as evidenced by the large number of new religious movements within Hinduism, and the remarkable mass movement in some parts of India, which bids fair to sweep whole castes into the Christian Church.

"5. The unprecedented increase in education during the last ten years.

"The Christian college fosters loyalty to the King; prepares the way for a manly and intelligent independence; aids in all movements looking toward the social uplift of the people; and promotes a fellow-feeling between members of the several castes."

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There are two valuable features in the February issue of *India's Women and China's Daughters* (C.E.Z.M.S.), namely, a summary by Miss Outram of the "Missionary Survey of the Year" from the *International Review of Missions*, and a powerful paper by the

Rev. J. H. Ritson, D.D., on "Christian Literature in the Mission Field," based on the small volume recently published under that title by the Continuation Committee of the Edinburgh Conference. It is very important that subjects such as these, which do not ordinarily reach the bulk of missionary workers, should be presented to them, and we congratulate the C.E.Z.M.S. on their attempt to do so. Every one works more keenly on his own particular task if he receives some clear impression of the general trend of events and if he is given intelligible evidence of development and progress in wider circles than his own.

G.

