

Sunday Reading.

Room for my Saviour.

BY MRS. J. C. YULE.

Room for my Saviour here, Heart, open wide thy door! Hence, unbelief, and doubt, and fear,— Hence, and return no more!

From China.

BIBLE WOMEN'S WORK AT SWATOW.

We have received the following from Miss Norwood; formerly of Cornwallis, N. S., now labouring at Swatow in China:—

A missionary Sister who has given herself to work among the women of China, has written, asking how Bible women's work is carried on at Swatow. In answering her questions, it has been suggested that others besides this sister might be interested in the subject.

1. 'What plan do you use in selecting the women you ask to study?' We have no very definite plan. The rule is, to invite only members of the Church. Occasionally, an exception is made in favor of a wife of a church member, who, though she has not yet united with the church, is more or less interested in the 'doctrine.'

2. 'What support do you give them while they are studying?' We allow a dollar and a half a month to each woman whom we invite to come and study. This sum is barely sufficient to furnish her food, and without this help, rarely is there a woman who could leave her home, since it is all she can do to earn her support from day to day.

3. 'Do you make Bible women of all who come to study?' By no means. Within the last three years, only four have been considered suitable for this work, although thirty new women have studied in the class.

4. 'When you ask women to study, do they come with the expectation of becoming Bible women?' Not as a matter of course. It is known from the first that some will not be, and from their domestic circumstances cannot be.

5. 'What do you teach beginners and what do you teach Bible women?' All are taught to read in consecutive order, the Hymn book, some sheet tracts, a catechism, and the Gospels so far as we have them in colloquial. We have Matthew and Luke prepared, and Mark and John in press. Miss Fielde used, after the Hymn book, the 'Compendium,' a book prepared by herself with the aid of Dr. Ashmore.

6. 'How much time in the year is spent by the Bible women in study?' The time for special study varies somewhat. Miss Fielde thought three months during the Spring of every alternate year sufficiently often.

7. 'When do you have other than Bible women for study?' Whenever we can get them. There is always a class. When the Bible women are here, the others participate in the oral teaching intended for the former, but their instruction in reading is left entirely to the care of the Chinese teacher who, while I am absent at country stations, has entire charge of the class.

8. 'How often do you require the Bible women to give in reports and what is the nature of them?' Once in three months, when all our workers come together for the meetings of 'Communion week.' But it is results that we are more anxious to see than mere reports.

9. 'Do you require them to work in other cities besides their native places or do they always work in their native villages and surrounding country?' While in the employ of the Mission, they are never sent to labor in their own villages, lest the temptation to neglect the work to which they have been set apart, to attend to local personal matters, should prove too great.

10. 'Do you allow them to go about at their own pleasure, or do you designate their field of labor and give them a limited liberty?' After mutual consultation, they are designated to definite stations, and are not allowed to go about at their own pleasure, except within certain limits.

11. 'Do you have them return from their stations at any time besides the study time?' Once in three months, only, unless we send for them, as we sometimes do to meet emergencies that arise.

12. 'How much do you consider it necessary for a woman to know before you appoint her as a regular Bible woman?' In addition to what I have already named in answer to question 5, they should be familiar with the Acts of the Apostles, and we aim to give them a clear comprehension of the plan of salvation, repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, resurrection from the dead, and Eternal judgment, and kindred fundamental doctrines.

13. 'What is the difference between a Bible woman and an evangelist?' Practically none, so far as the nature of the work is concerned. You were probably misled by my report of last year. I wrote, 'my class numbered fourteen women,' and this was understood to mean 'evangelists.'

14. 'When the Bible women go into the country, is it a part of their duty to teach the Christian women to read, and to hold meetings with them?' Most certainly it is, and not only to teach them to read, but to give them a clearer knowledge of the 'doctrine' than they already possess.

15. 'How often do you go out with the women, say, for instance in a year?' In the two years since I have had the whole responsibility of this work, I have been able to visit each station, and go about with the Bible women stationed there, but once a year. Our field is large, and to visit all the stations even once in the cool season is really more than I can do.

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A few Words about Preaching.

BY REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

Address at the Metropolitan Tabernacle, on Monday evening, September 17.

I think that the preaching of the Gospel should not be confined to one part of the truth, but should take in all revealed truth as far as we are able to know it. We preach the doctrine of election, we preach God's special love to His chosen, and at the same time we give an unlimited invitation to men to come to Christ.

Yet one thing we are sure of, we shall never give up loving the souls of men. We will never give up going out into the highways and hedges to compel them to come in. We will never give up crying, 'Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest.'

Dear Editor,— Among the many philanthropic institutions found in this country and in London in particular, there are few, if any, of deeper interest and more deserving the practical sympathy of all who have a heart to feel, and a hand to help, than the work carried on by the above gentleman.

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Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Dr. Barnardo's Work.

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