The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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GOSPEL LEAVEN WORKING.

The general leavening power of the Gospel in India is seen in some of the items fixed for discussion at the Social Conference of Hindus held at Ahmedabad, December 23-25. None of these things had been thought of for a thousand years before missions began in India; with these, in time, will come the rest:

The necessity for adopting more extensive measures for the spread of female education.

The question of further raising the marriageable age of boys and girls.

Encouragement of widow re-marriage and the prevention of the disfigurement of child-widows.

Curtailment of extravagant and needless expenses on marriage and death occasions, and putting a stop to the baneful practice of the sale of brides.

Promotion of the inter-marriages and inter-dining relations among sub-divisions of greater castes.

Education of public opinion on the subject of polygamy, and consideration of measures to be adopted to check the evil.

Growth of temperance and social purity.

The amelioration of the aboriginal races and lowest classes of Hindu society.

WOMEN IN JAPAN.

There was a time in the early history of Japan when the women enjoyed much greater rights and privileges than later. Mr. Gubbins, the translator of the new civil code of that country, after stating that "there have been seated on the imperial throne of Japan eight empresses, one of whom is famous for her martial valor and military exploits," says: "It was when Buddhism became powerful that Hindu and Chinese conceptions of woman's position molded public opinion and thus eventually changed the manners, customs, and laws of Japan so as to relegate woman to an abnormally inferior position."

Of woman's great advance from this menial position, the same writer says: "In no respect has modern progress in Japan made greater strides than in the improvement of the position of women. Though she still labors under certain disabilities, a woman can now become the head of a family and exercise authority as such; she can inherit and own property, and manage it herself; she can exercise paternal authority; if single, or a widow, she can adopt; she is one of the parties to adoption effected by her husband, and her consent in addition to that of her husband is necessary to the adoption of her child by another person; she can act as guardian or curator; and she has a voice in family councils."

The Idols Converted to good use.

A missionary in Travancore, India, saw one morning, a native coming to his house with a heavy burden. On reaching it, he laid on the ground a sack. Unfastening it, he emptied it of its contents—a number of idols.

"What have you brought these here for?" asked the missionary; "I don't want them."

"You have taught us that we do not want them, sir," said the native; "but we think they might be put to some good use. Could they not be melted down and formed into a bell to call us to church?"

The hint was taken; they were sent to a bell founder and made into a bell, which now summons the native converts to praise and prayer.

A BRIDE OF EIGHT.

What is the news from India? A recent letter states: "Last week at the station in Calcutta I saw a bridal party. The bride was a girl about eight or nine years of age, the man was gray headed and certainly over fifty. Travelling up the line we saw another party, a bright-faced girl of four or five years and a boy of ten. How long will these things be tolerated?" Is there not a grave necessity for Bible women to visit the homes of these people?

THE LITTLE HELPERS.

On the evening of May 9th, the Little Helpers of Whitehead, Grand Manan, held a missionary concert, consisting of dialogues, recitations and singing. A collection of $3.68 was taken. The membership of the Band has increased to sixty-one—thirty-eight active, and twenty-three associate members.

LAUREL COSSABOON.
Cor. Sec'y.

HELIGOLAND.— Years ago when Bismarck was supreme, the British traded off the islet of Heligoland in the North Sea for Zanzibar on the east coast of Africa. Bismarck was eager to secure the speck of British territory lying close to the German coast, and he was proud of his achievement when he got it. The English, on the other hand, were glad to get rid of it and to secure in exchange a large island of some importance to the commerce of the Empire. The North Sea gales are carrying away Heligoland. Eight hundred years ago the island was five times as large as it is at present. The rock of which it is chiefly composed is largely salt, and thus it melts or breaks away beyond the art of man to prevent it doing so.

Notes and Gleanings.

..Seven feet ten inches is the height of a young Russian who has just visited members of the Berlin Anthropological Society.

..The population of New Mexico exceeds that of Arizona by about 73,000, being 195,310. Of that number, 166,946 are whites.

..All the South African governments, except German Southwest Africa, have now adopted a uniform time, two hours ahead of Greenwich.

..M. Witte, the great Russian minister of finance, is a temperance worker, and has led the Czar to honor men and women who are active in that cause. He prefers teetotalers in the offices he has under his own control.

..The American eagle lives to be from 80 to 160 years old. Each male eagle has but one mate during his entire lifetime. If the female is killed or captured, the surviving male becomes an eagle hermit, and fiercer than ever.

..The forests of Nicaragua are found by Prof. F. D. Baker to contain 300 distinct varieties of trees. A bark that has been brought to the United States as a substitute for cork proves to be from the roots of the anona, a tree of the lowlands resembling the ordinary cottonwood of the United States.

..The Germans are far in advance of the rest of the world in caring for wild birds in their towns during the winter. Shelters from snow are built in public parks and private gardens, and plentifully supplied with food of various kinds. In the spring many of the birds build nests in these shelters.

..Sunday seems to be a favorite day for the taking of life. On a recent pleasant Sunday nine persons in Chicago committed suicide. In Buffalo, one Sunday a few weeks later, four persons lost their lives through murder and suicide, while other crimes of like nature were attempted.

..The great falls of the Zambezi river, in South Africa, are to be utilized for industrial purposes by means similar to those in use at Niagara. The route of the Cape-to-Cairo Railway was deflected to cross the river at the falls, and the electric power generated will be used in the working of mines. Electric power will be carried to both coal and copper mines, and other uses for it will be found as the country develops.

..An investigation into cancer by the Registrar-General of Ireland, where in 1901 there were 2,893 deaths from this scourge, of 6.5 in every 10,000 of the population, gives these results: Cancer recurs from generation to generation in many families, which often are afflicted also with tuberculosis, lunacy, idiocy, or epilepsy. It frequently follows wounds or injuries, sometimes irritation of the lips from clay pipes, and it often accompanies unfavorable conditions of residence, food, etc. It appears to be highly contagious and somewhat infectious.

..Father Ignatius, a High Church clergyman, who dresses like a mediæval monk, has startled London by a vigorous attack on society and the church. Among other hard things, he said: "The English ladies have forgotten how to blush. Many hardly know their own children. The Welsh Methodists are giving permission to their ministers to smoke. They want to see them with pipes in their mouths and military moustaches. Another church is allowing its priests to go to theatres and mix with half-naked ballet-dancers. I have known a case where a dancer kicked up her legs on a vicarage lawn to pay church expenses."

Some people blow out their Christian candle Sunday night, so it won't waste during the week.

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