

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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TWENTY-ONE YEARS.

In an address at the N. B. and P. E. I. Methodist Conference, a few days ago, Mrs. Ross, President of Methodist W. M. Society of Canada, said the society was organized twenty-one years ago, with one missionary and \$820 income. Now it has forty-five missionaries and \$49,000 annual income. The society is getting more members, and is calling for more missionaries.

MISSION WORK AMONG LEPERS.

There are about 400,000 lepers in India. Some of these are attended every year at our eight dispensaries. Much can be done to alleviate their suffering. During the past month I was sent for to Calcutta, 175 miles from here, to attend an English girl, a Baptist, suffering from leprosy. She is eighteen years of age, and contracted the disease six years ago. Mr. C. also appealed to me to attend his daughter, age sixteen, who got the leprosy last year, and is in danger of becoming blind through it. Now I expect to shield her from going blind, and to remove much, if not all, of her disease. Leprosy is contagious and hereditary; it is a matter of gratitude to God that so few Europeans contract it. Still some do get it. In one year I attended ten European lepers—three ladies, two men, and five children, besides native lepers. An English lady was suffering from leprosy; a thick film formed over both her eyes, and she became quite blind. When I saw her first she was walking in her garden, led by the hand of a Mohammedan servant. It was a very sad sight. I attended her medically. In a year both her eyes were restored to sight, so that she could read again a book, etc., and enjoy life a bit, and see the faces of her husband and daughter. Much of her suffering was removed. A goodly number of the lepers have become worshippers of Christ. Christ used to heal them and so do we. Best pray for them.

A GIRL RESCUED FROM FAMINE.

Who can estimate the blessing that is likely to follow the rescuing of hundreds of children from starving in India, and leading them to Christ? A recent writer says: "A missionary of my acquaintance tells of attending a meeting in a little chapel, which was crowded to its utmost capacity. The girls from one of the schools attended. After the opening exercises, the pastor called on one of the girls to lead in prayer. And such a prayer! The language was almost entirely scriptural, yet so simple and practical as she poured out her heart in thankfulness for all blessings. Every one was impressed. My friend asked the history of the girl, and she told that she had been left, a mere skeleton, starving at the mission gate. She had come almost ready to die, and in the densest ignorance of

heathen darkness. 'She is now,' said the pastor, 'one of the brightest students in our school, and the leader of spiritual life among the pupils.'

CHINESE CONVERTS.

Numerous evidences were given during the late disturbance in China of the firmness and fidelity of the native Christians. A number of them endured the severest forms of torture and others submitted to death itself rather than deny the faith. The number of apostates was so small that the record compares most favorably with the martyr days of the early Church. This is the uniform testimony of the missionaries of our own country, and it is corroborated by that of those across the water. Dr. Eliot Curwen, of the London Mission Society in Peking, says he was asked if, when converted, they compare favorably with Christians of other nations, and he replies with a very decided affirmative. He states that out of 500 members of the Peking Church, 115 had chosen, in the recent massacre, to die for their religion rather than to recant. Of this number only four went back on their word, and even in these cases there is reason to believe they will yet be brought to see their mistake and return to their Lord and Master. This is certainly a striking and impressive record, and shows the power of Christianity under the most trying and terrible ordeals. It may be, and no doubt is, hard to win the Chinese to Christ, but when he is won he repays the toil and sacrifice expended in his behalf. The Church has abundant encouragement to go on in the good work. Prayer and effort to evangelize the most populous and influential of heathen empires are not in vain. The undertaking may be slower than in other places, but the Lord can effect it in his own good time, and will, if his people patiently, persistently and energetically use the means to this end, which he has promise to bless.

Mission Notes and News

—Sir W. Mackworth Young, late Lieutenant Governor of the Punjab, in a recent speech declared that the work done by missionary agencies in India exceeds in importance all the work that has been done by the India Government since its commencement.

—The Bible is now widely read in India. At Singapore it is stated the British and Foreign Bible Society will sell the Scriptures in over seventy-five languages and dialects. The Bible has also been translated in sixty-six of the languages and dialects of Africa.

—In the Alaska Mission of the Protestant Church are fifteen Indian and Eskimo and eleven white missions, stretching in a 3,000-mile line from Ketchikan to Point Hope. At most of the Indian stations medical work is carried on and Bishop Rowe asks for more doctors and nurses.

—Bishop Warne states that a thousand people in Dayupan, Philippine Is-

lands, sent a deputation to the Methodist Mission in Manila, asking for a preacher, and saying, "We want to become Protestants." Rev. E. S. Lyons was sent them and has been heartily welcomed. The people know the fundamental truths of Christianity, and a large ingathering is anticipated.

—The Foreign Missionary Union of the Northern Baptists has had a good year. The income was \$746,218, the debt of last year of \$35,437 being reduced to \$23,450. During the year there were 13,808 baptisms, raising the present membership of the mission churches to 222,032, of whom 113,418 are in pagan lands, and 108,613 in Europe.

—The Christian Telugus of India are sending missionaries to South Africa, where in Natal alone are 60,000 Hindus, and in the Transvaal are several thousand more. John Rungiah has gone from Nellore to work among his people. He is educated, knows both Tamil and Telugu, and has a deep love for souls. He has been sent by the Telugu Home Mission Society.

—In the New Hebrides Islands are about 16,000 Protestant Christians and over 300 native teachers and evangelists who are trying to bring the remaining population, from 40,000 to 60,000 cannibals, to Christ. On Malekula and its surrounding islands the natives are almost entirely without clothing, and they frequently strangle the very aged and those long sick, or bury them alive.

—According to the census returns for India for 1901, there are 866,985 Protestant native Christians in that great country, and 1,797,374 Roman Catholics, Syrian Church and undenominational Christians, making a total of 2,664,359, as against 1,976,778 in 1891. The Baptists, of the Protestant denominations, rank second with 216,743, the Anglicans coming first with 305,907, and the Lutherans third with 153,768.

—The Methodists and Presbyterians are pressing their mission work among the Filipinos very vigorously, and are meeting with great success. The former denomination have a membership including probationers of over 1,500, and an attendance of about 20,000 at their weekly services. The latter body have nearly 500 members in their churches in and near Manila, and have missions elsewhere. The revolt against the brutality and licentiousness of the friars has left the people open to the gospel.

—The recent annual meeting of the Bombay Bible Society brings out the fact that the Christian scriptures are having a remarkable sale in that country, unequalled by that of any other book. In Bombay alone 110,481 copies were sold in 1902, while the sales in Calcutta, Madras, Allahabad and Lahore probably bring the figure up to half a million copies in the year. This is an astonishing presentment. It is impossible that so extensive a reading of the Bible should not have a profound influence upon the social and moral regeneration of the country.

NOTICE.

The annual meeting of the W. F. M. Society of the Fifth District will be held at Narrows, Q. Co., July 4th, at 2.30 p. m. The secretaries of the aid societies will please collect the contributions and forward to me at an early date.

SADIE J. CARPENTER,
Sec. District Society.

Carpenter, Q. Co., June 12, 1903.

—Gypsy Smith, a prominent figure among the Free Churches of England, has accepted an invitation from the Christian people of South Africa to spend three months or more in evangelistic work in that country.

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