

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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A REMARKABLE WOMAN.

Miss Adeline D. H. Kelsey, of the American Presbyterian Mission in Japan, writes in the *Missionary Review* the following interesting account of a remarkable woman:

"One of the most remarkable women I ever met is Ishimoto O Ume San. She was paralyzed from birth. The only part of her body she ever could move was her head. Her conversion to Christianity is a marvellous revelation of the quickening power of the Holy Spirit upon the human intellect. Until nineteen years of age she led a life full of trouble; deserted by her father, and then by her mother, her whole soul was in rebellion against her sad lot. She was a heathen and without hope or comfort.

"When she was nineteen she heard of the loving Saviour, and what He had done for her. Her heart fled to Him at once for refuge, and she gave Him all her love. She could neither read nor write, and no one thought it possible for her to learn. When she became a Christian she could not rest in inactivity. The 'new life' was insistent and an impelling force. All one night she lay awake agonizing in prayer for some light on the problem of her life. Like an inspiration the thought burst upon her at break of day that she could use her mouth. She soon learned to read her Bible and Hymn book, and conducted the prayers in her ward in the hospital. She learned to write, holding the pen in her mouth, taught herself to make many little articles, such as book-marks, etc., learned to sew, dressed dolls, using her mouth to hold the needle, and to use the scissors. She is now one of the most cheery and joyful women in Japan. To spend a few moments with her is to get a blessing, for she rejoices in the Lord always."

SELF-SACRIFICE.

A Moravian Christian heard of the sufferings of the West India slaves, and desired to be a missionary to them. but, when he reached them, he found they were driven to the field so early and came home so late there was no life or strength in them to listen to his instructions; neither did they believe that any man whose face was white had a heart that was other than black, and they would not listen to him, and he found, at last, that there was no way to preach to them unless he suffered with them himself. He sold himself, and was driven afield with them that while he suffered and toiled as they did he might

have opportunity to preach to them the unsearchable riches of Christ.

Now reigns there a king upon his throne that was so lordly, so large a man as that poor sweating Moravian, who, for the sake of serving and saving these poor, miserable, dying slaves in the field, had sold himself into like estate to preach the riches of Christ? The largest conception of manhood is that which knows how to take itself, as though of no consequence to those to whom it may make itself an offering, a power, an instruction.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES.

—The Baptist missions in Burma report 3,040 baptisms during the past year, the largest number for any one year since the beginning of their work in Burma.

—There are some thirty foreign missionary societies at work in Japan, with a force of upwards of 760 missionaries. The organized churches total 450, and a large number of out-stations, with a membership of upward of 45,000.

—It was a wonderful thing when Stanley, in 999 days, crossed the continent of Africa; it's a more wonderful thing that a quarter century later sees a chain of missions across that same road, the last to be established immediately.

—A congregation of one hundred and twenty-five Christian Chinese are reported to have contributed \$2,000 to the cause of missions in one year. At the same rate, Canadian Methodists would give several millions.

—There are five churches maintaining mission work in Korea, the Presbyterians, Methodists, Anglicans, and Roman Catholics. It is estimated that the Christian population numbers 200,000, two per cent. of the entire population.

—The missionaries in Korea propose to have a missionary conference in Seoul on September 18-25, 1904, which time will mark the completion of twenty years since the arrival of the first English-speaking missionary in Korea. Now there are nearly two hundred missionaries laboring in Korea, and the work in some parts of the Hermit kingdom is among the marvels of modern missions. Converts are numbered by the thousands, and a land in which a thousand people can be brought together on a week night to a prayer meeting, and on a rainy eve at that, holds out promise of great things for the future.

—Christianity is slowly but surely breaking down the barriers of caste. The principal of one of the Church Missionary Society's college relates an incident which gives a striking illustration of this. He saw a Pariah (a very low caste) walking down the chief Brahmin street of the town, with a Brahmin (a very high caste) student on each side, one with his arm locked in the Pariah Christian's, the other holding an umbrella over the party. Brahmins deeply intent on the Christian's notes of a lesson just received.

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MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

—It is proposed to hold a general conference of missionaries working in South Africa for eight days next July in Johannesburg. Among the topics proposed for consideration are the reaching of the unevangelized areas, the part of the native church in evangelization, the responsibility of colonial churches, education, questions relating to the native churches, mission comity and co-operation, etc. The problems in South Africa are singularly complicated and of intense interest in their very difficulty and importance to all workers for the Kingdom of God.

—A missionary exchange gives the following items touching the progress of mission work in Japan: "Missionaries publish fifteen of the seventeen newspapers and magazines printed in Japan. In no other mission field is the printed page so honored and blessed. The work of women is more conspicuous in missionary work in Japan than in any other country. The ordinary Japanese will agree with almost everything you say about the gospel, but he has no desire to apply it to his own life. Christianity has made its greatest progress in this land among the intellectual classes."

—Sometimes the fruit of Christian effort is gathered only after many days. A missionary in Cotta, Ceylon, has lately baptized fourteen adults, and in his account of it writes: "One of the adult converts I baptized was eighty-five years of age, and he told me that every missionary who had been at Cotta from the commencement of the mission eighty years ago had spoken to him about Christ. About a year ago 'the fruit was found after many days,' and I had not the slightest doubt that he was truly converted. I baptized him on what proved to be his death-bed, and in the presence of many of his relatives he boldly confessed Jesus to be his Saviour. As I was repeating the Creed he called out after each sentence, 'I believe.' He so rapidly grew in grace that from his conversation one would have thought that he was a Christian of many years' standing."

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—At the close of 1903 there were in China 2,950 Protestant missionaries, of whom 1,233 were men, 868 were wives of missionaries, and 849 were unmarried women. They represented 25 American, 19 British and 22 continental societies, and one (the China Inland Mission) international society. The British missionaries numbered 1,483, American 1,117, and continental 350.