

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE

Johannesburg, Transvaal,
So. Africa, Feb. 3, 1937

Dear Homeland Friends:

"God's ways are not our ways," and it is very comforting to know that all His ways are best. On Dec. 31st Helen rode cheerfully off on horseback for the store seven miles from Altona, and to visit a sick native baby, but instead of doing so she was thrown from the horse, which had become frightened, and received a bad fracture of the left arm. She had to sit by the roadside while the native boy went on for the store-keeper to bring her home in his car, then we must start for Piet Retief to the district surgeon, 47 miles distant, and had to make three changes of cars before we finally reached him, seven hours after the accident. We had expected he would set the bone and then we could go back to Altona, where I could look after her, but instead he said it must be a hospital case, for he would not undertake to do it without an X-ray first.

He was very kind and suggested taking it up with the magistrate and making it a government case, which would make all treatments free and also give us free passes on the train. We were very grateful for this kindness which was fully carried out, and Helen has spent more than three weeks in the General Hospital here. They made two attempts to get it into position, but each X-ray was unsatisfactory and in the end they had to open the arm and put on plates to hold it into position—nineteen days after the accident. This was just what the District Surgeon at Piet Retief had feared.

We are very grateful for all that has been done for her. Everyone has been very kind and the operation was done by a bone specialist. Though it has been a protracted case and very wearing on her nerves, we can see the Lord's hand of love in all the delay for she was better able to stand the operation when it did take place than she was in the beginning. He has greatly helped her. She has been getting on well and was allowed to leave the hospital last week to come and stay with me here. We are to go back to hospital in a few days for an examination and then soon we hope to go back to Altona and Dr. Peskin will look after the case. She was so thankful to leave the scenes of pain and suffering in the hospital ward and come to this quiet homelike atmosphere where we have a room with two very kind Scotch ladies.

Though we are strangers in this city, it is very wonderful how God has cared for us and touched people's hearts until we have been surprised at the many, many kindnesses we have received, and we have had several beautiful rides through the suburbs of Johannesburg, which are very beautiful, and the air and sunshine have been so good for Helen after being so closely confined.

One lady says she wants to take us to Pretoria, which is about an hour's ride from here. It is the seat of government for the Transvaal and a very fine city, I believe.

Please remember us in prayer. Helen is not at all strong and unless the Lord specially undertakes she will be quite a while getting over the shock and strain of these weeks, but we are grateful that she has got along as well as she has. We give Him the praise for all that has been done and truly He has provided many kind friends to help us in this time of

need. "The Lord is good to those who wait for Him," and we are indeed looking unto Him. "His compassions fail not, they are new every morning."

We hear good reports from home. George has been over to hold services and Mr. MacDonald also. We hope Johanisi, the evangelist, is there now too, and Mildred came back last week to open school. We shall probably be home by the middle of February and shall be glad, for we have been away over five weeks now and had to leave very hurriedly.

With Christian love from us both.

Yours in His tender care,

ALICE F. STERRITT

NEWS AND VIEWS

Writing on the subject, "The only way to save democracy—take the profits out of politics," Bernard Macfadden says, "Revolutionary planning has become quite popular throughout the world; but about the most foolish of these fantasies is the idea of some officials that we should take the profit out of business. The adoption of such a policy would destroy the industry of our country . . . But there is one monumental evil that we are facing which will ultimately destroy this nation if it is not effectively attacked; profit in politics . . . year by year the scandal of financial allurements in politics become more menacing."—Wesleyan Methodist.

Rev. L. A. Reed says: It is a criminal offense in Russia to gather three children under the age of eighteen to teach them of Christ. It is illegal to promulgate religion in any way and yet communists state that they believe in religious liberty and no doubt they mean only the freedom of anti-religious propaganda. Twenty-five million children of school age are daily taught that there is no God and are subjected to frightful caricatures of Christianity and "blasphemous representations of Christ, while school teachers are prohibited from attending any place of worship of any kind whatever."—Wesleyan Methodist.

Returning from a three months' journey abroad, Rev. John J. McCreary says in the Syracuse Journal: "Europe is an armed camp. Every time you turn around you see soldiers marching. From the time we landed in Holland until we got on the boat again at Naples we saw nothing but soldiers in training, soldiers marching up and down the streets. You could see that it wouldn't take much to blow up the whole thing."—Wesleyan Methodist.

From the October issue of the Houghton College Bulletin, we quote the following notice of the passing of Mr. Leonard F. Houghton, of Washington, D. C.

"Leonard Houghton, son of the founder of Houghton College, Rev. Willard J. Houghton, died on October 19, 1936, at 89 years of age. Interment was made at Houghton Cemetery.

"Every year he returned from his winter home in Washington, D. C., in time for commencement, and usually spoke in one chapel exercise at that time. This fall, as he was about to leave on what proved to be his last trip south, he was heard to say, 'I wish that I could stay until the students return.'

"He is known to have been a man of remarkable shrewdness and business ability, having been the leader of many business interests and president of a large bank while in Peoria. In spite of the many affiliations which

occupied his time he always had a keen interest in Houghton College, which was founded by his father. In addition to sending an annual donation for the Willard Houghton Memorial Library, he established a fund for the oratorical contest which takes place each year. His connections with Houghton can be traced back many years to the time when he was aiding his father in making the necessary improvements on the institution."—Wesleyan Methodist.

On November 18th the noted singer, Madame Schumann-Heink, answered death's call at an advanced age. This is her appreciation of the ideal home:

"A roof to keep out rain. Four walls to keep out wind. Floors to keep out cold. Yes, but home is more than that. It is the laugh of a baby, the song of a mother, the strength of a father. Warmth of loving hearts, light from happy eyes, kindness, loyalty, comradeship. Home is first school and first church for young ones. Where they learn what is right, what is good, and what is kind. Where they go for comfort when they are hurt or sick. Where joy is shared and sorrow eased. Where fathers and mothers are respected and loved. Where children are wanted. Where the simplest food is good enough for kings because it is earned. Where money is not so important as loving kindness. Where even the teakettle sings from happiness. That is home—God bless it!"—Wesleyan Methodist.

The Religious Telescope says: "The world is growing heathen at the rate of 6,000,000 yearly. This does not mean that Christianity is not growing but that the population is growing faster than Christianity. Christianity made a net gain of 200,000,000 from 1890 to 1935, but in that time the heathen population of the world made a net gain of 470,000,000."

We are concerned not only as to the number of people counted Christians but the absence of Christlikeness among the multitudes of those who are nominally Christian is a matter of deep concern to those who have the work at heart.—Wesleyan Methodist.

The Evangelical Christian says that recently "a large fish came into Alexandria harbour, and after being wounded was found to be so large that no derrick available could handle it. It was cut into three parts and brought on trucks to Beirut for exhibition. The head of the fish weighed six tons. A man standing on the lower jaw could not possibly reach or touch the upper jaw, the opening being eight feet across. This was a Mediterranean fish." The above incident becomes of greater interest when it is remembered that Jonah of the Bible was cast ashore in the very region described.—Wesleyan Methodist.

The war in Spain it seems to us stands in line with the World War in that both sides are sure to lose. Property and lives that can never be replaced are being sacrificed, and when it is over the only way that Spain can continue to be a nation is to compose differences by agreement and try to repair the loss. It also reveals that when Communism invades a country it is left on a much lower plain of life; it is either socialized or goes under the leadership of a dictator. Two lessons stand out for the observer; do not fight over religion and keep Communism out.—Wesleyan Methodist.