

**Rev. Dr. Mackay.** There are so many applications for his services that it is impossible for him to respond to all and the committee has agreed that he systematically visit certain sections of the church. In addition to that it may be stated, that owing to a slight attack of la grippe he has been obliged to cancel all appointments until after the new year.

**Mrs. Goforth.** A letter from Rev. J. Goforth states that Mrs. Goforth will not come home next summer as had been announced. The five trying anxious years in Honan, and the still more trying hot seasons have told upon her health. She was afraid to risk another year without a change and was coming home, while Mr. Goforth remained. She has, however, got through the hot season this year better than any since she landed in Honan, and she feels that the work among the women at that station, Chu Wang, cannot well spare her next summer. Miss Mackintosh and Lucinda Graham, M.D., are at Hsin-Chen, the other station.

**Opposition.** Rev. Mr. Jamieson writing from in **Neemuch.** Neemuch, Central India, states that the school in Mandsaur has 70 pupils, that the best people in the place send their boys, but that the masses of the people are very bitter in their hostility. In Neemuch, the Tasseldar (collector) sent the police to force the children to leave the Mission school and attend the Rajah's school. When that was stopped a paper was sent to the parents to sign without their knowing what they were signing, and afterwards that document was threateningly flourished in the faces of those who did not send their children to the Rajah's school. But the parents learn to distinguish what is best for their children and the Mission school will receive sympathy.

**Mr. Wilkie's Health.** A letter received by the Foreign Mission Committee states that Rev. J. Wilkie of Indore, is in poor health. Dr. Keegan of India, has recommended a trip to Canada. Mr. Wilkie claims that he is not an invalid and that he is able to do a fair day's work, but acknowledges that he is pulling against the stream and that a rest of two weeks did not do much to help him. Should he have to come home he hopes that he will not be compelled to do so before March, and that three months in Canada would be quite enough to restore him to health.

Mr. Wilkie's work in Indore for the past fourteen years has wrought some great changes. At first he had a long fight with the local authorities to get even liberty to preach and teach. He persevered and won, and now, grants, both of land and money from the rulers show how the work has told. All this, and the educational work carried on, has involved on the part of himself and his co-workers an immense strain, both mental and physical, but a great work has been done, and, inasmuch as it is in good measure foundation work, it may be taken as but the prelude to better things to come.

**The Formosa Student.** Dr. Mackay feels that the time has come when more use can be made of the press in Formosa and the student whom he has brought with him has come for the purpose of learning printing and getting some knowledge of English so that he may have access to English literature and periodicals and be thus the better fitted for helping on that work.

#### FACTS ABOUT THE HONAN MISSION.

**T**HE following points are from a report prepared by our medical missionaries in Honan, regarding the health of the stations in that field.

1. That the mission is situated between 36 and 37 degrees N. L., and is 300 miles from the sea on the East and separated by a mountainous district.
2. That it is situated in a great plain. The climate is dry for the greater part of the year, the principal rain fall being in July and August.
3. That the temperature ranges from a maximum in summer of 100 degrees F., rarely 105 degrees F., to a minimum in winter of, at times, zero, but the average summer and winter temperature would fall short of these extremes.
4. The snow fall in winter is light and does not lie more than a few days at a time. The weather is, for the most part, clear and bracing. Spring sets in about the end of February or beginning of March. The continuous hot weather begins in June, and it begins to get cooler about the middle of August. The rest of the year, the weather is agreeable.
5. The houses of the Missionaries are native built, with doors, glass windows and wooden floors, so as to secure light, ventilation and freedom from dampness.
6. Well water is usually alkaline, but sweet water is easily procured from the river for cooking and drinking, which, after boiling and filtering is quite wholesome.
7. Vegetables and fruit are plentiful. It is possible to procure chickens and eggs at any time, and beef and mutton in winter.
8. The great plain being low and imperfectly drained, is always malarious, which is not specially dangerous to adult foreigners, but little children often succumb. If residences could be built on a higher level, as on a mountain side, these effects could be escaped, but that is, for political and other reasons, impracticable.
9. Smallpox is nearly always present, and diarrhoea and dysentery are very common owing to the unsanitary state of cities and towns, and ignorance of the ordinary rules of health. Foreigners are exposed to contagion. Typhoid and typhus fevers are also met with.
10. Isolation, absence of many of the mental and spiritual stimulants enjoyed at home, daily contact with many forms of moral degradation, indifference and hostility of those for whom we labor, absence of friends, all tend to depress and injure health.
11. That, on the whole, the Honan Mission may be rated, as to health, as high as any others in North China.