

The Missionary Outlook.

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Field Notes.

AT the General Conference held last month, in Montreal, the Rev. A. Sutherland, D.D., was re-elected General Secretary of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church, with the Rev. J. Shaw, D.D., Assistant Secretary. This will make no change in the Missionary Staff, as Dr. Shaw has been acting as assistant for the past six years.

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THE labor involved in getting out the General Report so early can hardly be realized, except by those immediately concerned; but we are glad to say that it has been accomplished, and some copies were sent on the 25th of September to Montreal, for the use of the members of the Missionary Committee of the General Conference.

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OUR readers will be glad to learn that our work in Japan still prospers. The Minutes of the Japan Conference report thirty-seven ministers and probationers, while the membership has increased during the last four years from 591 to 1,125. Rev. D. Macdonald was re-elected President of Conference.

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THE latest reports regarding the Central Tabernacle, Tokyo, were received from Rev. Dr. Eby, dated August 29th, and are as follows:—

"The Tabernacle is getting along slowly, but surely. Weather against us, but workmen doing well. Providence has sent me an accomplished organist, a young English genius who will make his living as electrician and architect, and give himself to the Central Mission. Another methodist layman, successful as a Y. M. C. A. worker, comes at his own charges to help in evangelistic branches. I want a third, a first-class vocalist, and our equipment for the Central Mission, so far as "group of workers," for the present, will be complete. And God will send him in good time.

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IN this issue we publish a letter from the Rev. J. W. Saunby on our work in Japan, also one from the Rev. C. M. Tate respecting the Indian work in British Columbia, which we commend to the serious and prayerful consideration of our readers. It is impossible for the Missionary Society to extend its operations unless the people provide the means.

Editorial and Contributed.

MISSIONARY METHODS AND STIPENDS.

FOR a year or more a heated controversy was waged in the Wesleyan press of England respecting the missionary policy of the Church. It began in a series of letters by the Rev. Henry S. Lunn, M.D., published in the *Methodist Times*, with commendatory articles by its editor, Rev. Hugh Price Hughes. Dr. Lunn spent but one year in India, and then returned to England, where he arraigned the missionary policy of the Church, especially in regard to education and the scale of expenditure on the part of the missionaries. It seemed scarcely credible that so short a residence in the country could have supplied him with reliable data on which to base such sweeping charges; and, as might have been expected, his letters were assailed with considerable vigor. At the recent session of the English Conference the matter was pretty thoroughly discussed, and although a report was at last adopted to the effect that there was no substantial foundation for the charges made, the discussion, both then and previously, brought out certain facts which cannot very well be explained away, and which are well worth the careful consideration of all Missionary Boards having work in the foreign field.

It had been charged that educational works, especially in India, absorbed too many men and too much money, and that the results were by no means commensurate with the expenditure. It was contended that purely evangelistic missions win thousands where educational missions reach tens. In support of this view, attention was called to the missions of the Free Church of Scotland, which, following Dr. Duff's educational policy, reported in 1888, in the Madras District, 78 adults and 187 children, as the total of baptized adherents. The whole number received since the inception of the mission is but 622, while the expenditure has reached about three-quarters of a million of dollars. By way of contrast, the statistics of the Telugu Mission of the American Baptists were quoted, showing that at one station in one year there were twice as many conversions as the Free Church had won in the entire presidency in fifty years. Such figures are sufficiently startling, and, if even approximately accurate, afford serious food for reflection.