

June 8, 1911.

and ferment. In the Diocese of Honan there are at present three centres of work employing eight Europeans and five Chinese. A great opportunity is presenting itself in China at this formative stage. The Rev. R. H. A. Haslam speaks hopefully of the work in India. Dr. Archer reports an extensive medical work in Rhanaghat, Bengal, with few visible spiritual results at present, but with good promise for the near future. Work in Africa is carried on in German East Africa, British East Africa, and at Cairo, by five missionaries—a clergyman, the Rev. T. B. R. Westgate, and four ladies. A splendid medical work is reported from all these centres. The chief difficulty to contend with is the influence of Mohammedanism. Miss Louy Thomas writes of the Arancanian Mission in Chile, South America, which was commenced in 1897. It supports an industrial and agricultural school. A good work has been done, but conditions are at present somewhat unsatisfactory for lack of adequate assistance. According to the report, the Canadian Church has 37 workers in these various mission fields, of whom one is a Bishop and twelve priests. The various reports are admirably written, and are full of most interesting and valuable information as to the habits of the people, the physical characteristics of the different countries, political and inter-racial movements, etc., and furthermore breathe a spirit of unaffected piety and fervour. There is a noticeable absence of any attempt at puffing or self-advertising, and conditions are frankly faced. The Canadian Church has every reason to be proud of her representatives in the foreign mission field.

PRAYER BOOK STUDY.

The questions are published weekly for a year, and the answers from time to time. They are intended for studying the Prayer Book.

133. How often is the Psalter read through?

134. What portion of the Bible is read as Second Lessons?

135. Where are the First Lessons found? (Two answers).

136. When are the "Psalms and Lessons of ordinary course appointed in the Psalter and Calendar" omitted?

137. Where is the direction that "the Collect, Epistle and Gospel, appointed for the Sunday, shall serve all the week after where it is not in this book otherwise ordered"?

138. When is the Prayer for "All Conditions of men" not used?

ANSWERS.

Answers to the questions on the Prayer Book, both questions and answers are numbered alike, so as to avoid confusion.

73. The Rogation Days are three in number, namely, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Holy-Thursday, or the Ascension of our Lord.

74. All Sundays in the Year are Feast Days.

75. Upon Easter Day.

76. Easter Day is correct and not Easter Sunday, Easter can only fall on a Sunday, and therefore, it is enough to say Easter Day, and besides the Prayer Book calls it Easter Day in every place.

77. Easter-Day and Whit-Sunday. The plan is to prolong and emphasize the Easter rejoicings, also the Whit-Sunday rejoicings.

78. It means going before. The same applies to the collect at the end of the Holy Communion, "Prevent us, O Lord," means to go before and be our Guide.

79. They are exhorted to prepare themselves with Prayers and Fasting.

80. St. Stephen, St. John, the Evangelist, The Innocents. These three Saints' Days are the only

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three separated from the list of Saint Days following 25th Sunday after Trinity.

81. This answer is found in the Private Baptism of Infants at the questions "With what matter . . . and with what words was this child baptized?" In the Rubric at the end of the same service it gives the two essential parts (1) With water. (2) In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

82. The "just reasons" given at the end of the Publick Baptism of Infants, for retaining the sign of the cross may be seen in the 30th Canon, first published in 1604, in the reign of King James I. The point of this is as follows: It is acknowledged that Baptism is complete without it. It is made after Baptism is over. It does not bring any virtue to the Baptized. It is to intimate and express by the ceremony, as the ancients did avow their profession of Christ crucified, what the Congregation hopeth and expecteth from the Infant, that he shall not be ashamed to profess the Faith of Christ crucified into which he has been Baptized.

The 30th Canon says the infant "is by" that sign dedicated unto the service of Christ."

83. "Man that is born of a woman" etc., is from Job. XIV. verse one.

84. The rubric states that the Office ensuing is not to be used for any that die Unbaptized, or Excommunicate or suicides.

FAMINE RELIEF IN HONAN, CHINA.

I have just returned from the famine region east of the province. Now that the weather is broken the people are beginning to travel back to their homes, and where through the winter the refugees had their faces turned from the famine districts, they are now travelling back by hundreds only to find, most of them, that their land is again under water through the recent prolonged rains. Many a tragic tale had these people to tell, of parties dwindled by starvation to one-half or even one-third the original number. Most of them were still living on roots and bark, the blades of new wheat and Kao liang (straw); and the mortality must be even greater than in the winter, for we occasionally saw bodies in the fields, usually being eaten by dogs and heard gruesome tales of survivors eating the dead bodies of their comrades. A great deal of seed-grain is being taken East, but all under armed escort, and we daily heard stories of grain being looted. Kweiteh being the prefectural city of the affected districts it was natural that the refugees should flock there, and some 6,000 of these destitute people are in Kweiteh City itself. This has brought the cost of living up very high, so that the poorer people of Kweiteh are now in just as destitute circumstances as the refugees, and are leaving their homes to beg. In Kweiteh the officials are doing practically nothing, and the district magistrate has just been dismissed from office, on account of his incompetence in dealing with the famine problem. The Prefect, though

he talks most plausibly, has so far not shown much energy in the matter, and keeps pretty well to his Yamen, apparently wishing to be oblivious of what is taking place around him. He attempted to go to Yungcheng with money for distribution, but the flooded fields and the starving multitudes were too much for him, and he turned back home. The gentry in Kweiteh had collected a little money for relief, which they attempted to give, but lacking organization and method the multitude simply stormed the relief centre, so that after a second day this plan was abandoned. With the money in hand they then adopted another plan of buying grain and selling it cheaply. We went to the temple where this was being done, but though the gentry were there and the grain was there, there was not a purchaser in sight, and no wonder, for the prices were only 10 per cent. cheaper than the famine prices holding in the shops, while 90 per cent. cheaper would be no help to the thousands who had not the cash wherewith to buy. Yet outside the courtyard of this temple was filled with starving people, crying and moaning for bread, some unable to stand through weakness, and deaths occurring at the very doors of this temple granary. Coming away from the temple, one of our party counted five dead bodies in one place hardly a stone's throw away. Naturally, such a state of affairs would not be approved of by the best and most practically minded of the gentry, and where some who would have nothing to do with the selling of the grain, and were in favour of something more immediately effectual for the saving of life. Unfortunately they had already given their contributions to the General Fund, and were unable to do anything more by themselves. We had different conferences with these men and finally I agreed to be responsible for the furnishing of cooked food daily to three thousand women and children, provided they supplied the buildings and gave the necessary oversight. This they were only too willing to do, and will also give what contributions they can for this purpose. By now this work is under way and will be kept up until the middle of June, I expect, when the wheat harvest ought to relieve the situation somewhat in Kweiteh. If sufficient funds should meanwhile come in we shall extend relief to 5,000 or more, but for the present are confining ourselves to food for the women and children. Besides this, we have started an orphanage for boys in one of the city temples, put at our disposal for the purpose, and another for girls in our mission premises. These children are coming in at the rate of six or more a day, and before long we shall, I expect, have at least a couple of hundred. One of the saddest things connected with the famine children is the fact that men and women from Kaifeng and other places are taking advantage of the distress to buy girls for slaves and for worse purposes. On the road we passed carts and barrows full of these girls being brought from Kweiteh, and one night five of these little girls stayed in the same inn that we did. The result of this is that all the girls that are brought to our orphanage are under five years of age. Scores of people brought their daughters to us and offered them for a string or more of cash, but as we cannot buy them, this being nominally illegal, they turned to the ready market offered by these traffickers in girls. In their physical distress they seem destitute of all feeling of kinship, and sell their own offspring for a little cash to satisfy their hunger. But Kweiteh is practically only on the fringe of the famine district, the famine centre in Honan being the districts of Yungcheng and Siayi. The Chinese say that one-fiftieth of the population of Yungcheng have succumbed to the famine. If this is so and if the census of this district, taken last January, is approximately correct, it means that the appalling number of over 200,000 have died of starvation. The wheat harvest in the vicinity of Kweiteh city this summer will be quite up to the average, but there will be no harvest in the greater part of the above two districts. Fully two-thirds of these districts were flooded last autumn, and the exceptionally heavy spring rains have again covered the land with water which has not yet receded so that no prospect of a crop of any kind is yet to be seen. Famine relief for these districts will be required for months to come. At present there is no seed available and no animals for ploughing, the latter having died of starvation. We have just purchased in Kaifeng 48 cartloads of grain for Yungcheng, which has been forwarded under escort kindly provided by the Governor, and this should reach Yungcheng in a couple of days' time, where it will be distributed systematically by my own men. Further relief for Yungcheng will depend on the amount of contributions received by this Mission. The Central China Famine Relief Com-



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