

HOW TO INCREASE THE MISSIONARY KNOWLEDGE OF THE CONGREGATION.

One excellent method at this season of the year is to urge the reading of literature. There is such an abundance of interesting reading that no one need lack something to arouse and stimulate him. These are days when missions are so attractive as to compel attention. The world is awakening, and the church is responding.

The recent remarkable World Missionary Conference has given the whole church both a challenge and an impetus to action. People are eager to hear and know about that wonderful Council. The minister has an unusual opportunity here to develop the active interest of his people in the extending Kingdom. Ever on the alert to lead them step by step to a broader knowledge of this world enterprise, he will seize the present occasion and make the most of it for the spiritual and missionary uplift of his congregation. No better missionary instruction can be given than the study of the weighty matters discussed at the recent World Missionary Conference. "That Conference," says Dr. John R. Mott, "constituted in its plan, in its personnel, in the spirit which characterized it, and in its promise, the most significant gathering ever held in the interest of the world's evangelization."

To furnish him for this pleasant and profitable task there are available a few books worthy of the highest commendation. The report of the World's Missionary Conference, (Nine volumes, \$5.00), is the greatest missionary publication ever issued, and will remain such for several years. It is really a missionary library by experts and brought up to the day and hour. These important volumes, so broad in their scope, present a statesmanlike exhibit of present conditions, dealing as they do with diplomacy, commerce, anthropology, and comparative religion, to say nothing of its major contribution to the great problem of Missions.

Those who feel that they cannot possibly afford the very cheap set, should secure the official one volume story, entitled "Echoes of Edinburgh, 1910," by W. H. T. Gairdner of Cairo, (\$1.00). It is an accurate yet concise account of the Conference,—its preparation,—its management,—its effect, and a forecast of its influence on the church at home and the work abroad. An inspiring volume presenting with marked success the spirit as well as the message of this epoch-making gathering. After an introduction, in which the world is viewed as a single whole, calling for a single world-mission, sketches are given, in successive chapters, of recent world-events, and their effect on the missionary enterprise; the two years' preparation for the Conference; the symbolism of Edinburgh as the scene of the Conference; the inaugural day; the personnel of the Continental, Oriental, American and British delegates at the Conference; and some of the striking and unusual aspects of the daily procedure. Every minister, elder and member of a missionary committee should read one or both of these reports of "the most important gathering since Pentecost."

One other new book must be men-

tioned. It is "The Decisive Hour of Christian Missions," by John R. Mott, (50 cents.) This book is packed with the latest data on Mission problems and it gives the conclusions of the author's long study of these questions. A reading of the book produces the inevitable conviction that conditions in the non-Christian nations are such as to warrant the belief that there never has been, and it is hard to see how there will be again, such an opportunity confronting the Church. It is a powerful appeal for action, a veritable call to arms. It is really the author's discussion of the subject which was thoroughly investigated by Commission No. 1, World Missionary Conference, "Carrying the Gospel into all the non-Christian World," and reported on the first and memorable day of the Conference. Dr. Mott was the chairman of that very important Commission.

The Foreign Mission Office, Confederation Life Bldg., Toronto, supplies all these books. With such abundant material of the choicest kind, and entirely new, no minister or congregation should be uninformed regarding the modern missionary enterprise. "The end of the Conference is the beginning of the Conquest; the end of the planning is the beginning of the doing."

LITERARY NOTES.

The 64th annual volume of the Canadian Almanac contains a wonderful fund of valuable information in its nearly 600 pages. No business or professional man can afford to be without a copy. Price 60c.

Canadian Pictorial for November is in every respect an up-to-date number of this illustrated magazine. A piece of music, two complete stories, well filled departments and numerous portraits and pictures are given.

Ministers and others wishing to subscribe for The Missionary Review of the World for 1911 can secure it at the \$2.00 rate by ordering through the Foreign Mission office (Rev. Dr. R. P. MacKay), Confederation Life Building, Toronto. This is a considerable reduction on the regular price.

We have just received the December The Nineteenth Century and After; The Fortnightly, The Contemporary and Blackwoods. Now is a suitable time to order one or all of these valuable periodicals for the coming year. Each \$1.50 per annum, or single copy 40c., Leonard Publication Company, 218 Fulton St., New York City.

For those who like a Southern story, a story of strong men and women torn by conflicting passions, a story of children and of the effect of their young lives upon the parents and the parents' effect upon them, The Doctor's Christmas Eve, by James Lane Allen, with its real Kentucky atmosphere will be particularly satisfying. It is from the MacMillan Company, of Canada. Price \$1.25.

Cassels for October presents an inviting table of contents. The same remark applies to The Quiver, in which Annie Swan's story is concluded. The October Girls' Realm will be welcomed by girls old and young. Stories, poems and illustrations make up an attractive number. Fashions for girls and the chapters on Health and Beauty and Correspondence furnish the reader with many useful hints. Published by Cassell & Co., Adelaide St., Toronto.

Every Christmas leaves the world better than it found it. The cold, frozen fingers of meanness are relaxed if just for a day, and hearts small and shriveled give a fresh throb as the long-closed-up arteries open to the trickling drop of warm sympathetic blood. Upon this day Laughter makes its annual pilgrimage and calls at homes where its voice is seldom heard.

ONTARIO GROWING SOBER.

Another great Local Option Campaign is in progress in the Province of Ontario. On Monday, January 2nd, 1911, between 80 and 90 municipalities will vote upon the question of Local Prohibition and the inevitable result would seem to be the still further weakening of the Liquor Traffic and strengthening of the Temperance forces.

This year, contests are on in both the extreme Eastern and Western parts of the Province. The town of Amherstburg in Essex County, and the town of Lancaster in Glengarry County, will both vote, together with many other places scattered in between.

Eastern Ontario has more than its share of contests. Every municipality in the County of Glengarry is into the fight, including the town of Alexandria, the Villages of Lancaster and Maxville, and the townships of Kenyon, Lochiel and Lancaster. Just over the border the village of Vankleek Hill in Prescott County, and the township of Roxborough, in Stormont County, are also voting. Other important eastern points in which the battle will be fought are the towns of Arnprior, Perth, Smith's Falls, Napanee, Ganouke and the villages of Merrickville, Newburg, and Newcastle.

In the northern part of the province considerable progress has already been made, and if the campaigns now on are successful, it will mean the entire cleaning up of large areas. Among other places voting are the towns of Barrie, Bracebridge, Huntsville, Burk's Falls, Beaverton and Sutton.

There will not be much doing in the North Western part of the Province, the only fights being in the villages of Port Elgin and Paisley, and the township of Albermarle.

The city of Guelph is, however, the centre of a hot fight. One of the strongest and best organizations in the province is that of the Citizens' Committee in Guelph, and the campaign is being systematically carried on along practical lines. Present indications are that Guelph will swing into the dry column in January.

Just near Guelph, voting will take place in Guelph and Puschett townships, Erin and Drayton villages.

Dufferin County has only three licenses. These are in the village of Grand Valley, which place is looked upon by both parties as a strategic point and will be the scene of a hard fought battle.

In Western Ontario the most interesting group of contests is that of the township of Aldborough, with the villages of Rodney, West Lorne, Wardsville, and the town of Bothwell. If these places are successful, it will mean a big white spot in the map of Elgin County.

The hottest place in the province, however, is the County of Welland. Here a county convention was held last spring, at which it was decided to bring on a fight in every municipality in the county as far as possible, with the result that ten municipalities will vote in January, including the towns of Welland, Thorold, Port Colborne, and Bridgeburg, with the townships of Thorold, Crowland, Humberstone, Willoughby and Bertie.

A striking feature of the campaign is the fewness of the attempts to repeal Local Option. Last year there were 111 municipalities in which repeal contests were possible, but in only 12 was the matter brought to a vote and only 2 by-laws were repealed. This year there are 128 municipalities in which Local Option by-laws have been in force for 3 years or more, and where repeal contests might be brought on. If the law were really a dismal failure as its opponents prophesied it would be, it might naturally be supposed, that at the first opportunity the people would get rid of it. But this year out of the 128 possible places repealing by-laws will be submitted in only about 6. These are as follows:

Ancaster Township, Colborne Village, Howick Township, Beverley Township, Goulburn Township, McKellar Township.