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THE GODS OF THE NATIONS.

Last April an interesting exhibition was held in the Museum of Archæology in the University of Pennsylvania, a lengthy description of which is given by *Harper's Weekly*.

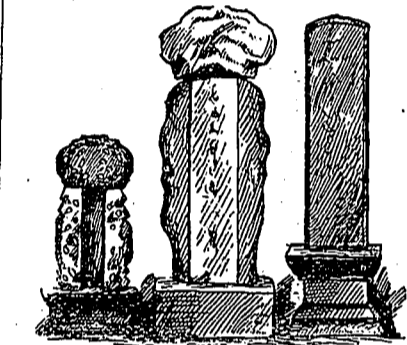
The basis of the collection is the Missionary Museum of the Board of Foreign

Missions of the Presbyterian church in the United States, brought together during the past sixty years by the missionaries of that body in India, China, and mid-Africa, and now for the first time subjected to careful study and scientific classification. This collection, made in greater part years ago, before native customs had been modified or changed, comprises many curious objects now unattainable, and of interest from their history and associations. Thus a sacred thread, worn by every Hindu of the three highest castes, was originally worn by an early convert, whose name, with the date of renunciation of his old belief, is minutely recorded, while an ancestral tablet was taken from the Hong occupied by the Presbyterian Mission at Fuhchau, China. The missionary collection has been supplemented with many loans from individuals and institutions in order to complete the circuit of the world, and the already large ethnographical collection of the museum itself, now in its

second year of existence, has been drawn upon. The catalogue, with prefatory sketches by various experts, is a hand-book of comparative mythology. It commences with a history of the religion of ancient Egypt, which is illustrated in the collection



India (Jainism) Paro Vanatha.



China (Ancestor Worship)—Ancestral Tablets.

by a Pantheon composed of images recently excavated by the Egypt Exploration Fund, and Mr. Flinders Petrie, whose work has received the financial support of the university. These have been arranged by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, the curator of the Egyptian section. Then follows India, with all the great gods of its innumerable deities—Brahma, Vishnu and his avatars, numbering many forms of Krishna, and Civa and his family, the destructive and regenerative forces, all arranged with reference to their relative importance.

Buddhism and Jainism follow, and among



China (Taoism)—Lau Tsz' and the Eight Genii, the notable idols here exhibited is a green stone image of Parc Vanatha, the founder of the latter religion, that is exquisite in its finish. The religions of China succeed—the state religion, with photographs of the Temple of Heaven at Peking, and ancestor worship, with ancestral tablets from private houses and ancestral halls; Taoism, with images of its founder, Lau Tsz', one with his disciples crowding around him, and then a hundred images of all sizes and forms, comprising the chief gods of that vast assemblage. Tu Ti Kung and his wife, the comfortable-looking old man and woman who are the gods of streets and houses, are in line with the formidable

Kwan Ti, the god of war, and the gods of medicine, physicians, barbers, sailors, and the deities that are worshipped for wealth and prosperity. Chinese Buddhism, with many forms of Amida and his sons, who preside over the Western Paradise, follow Taoism, and then a vast series of objects illustrating almost every detail of the religious life and ceremonies of our Chinese immigrants. Even their popular tales, which, filled with magic and necromancy, demand recognition, are accorded place in images of their heroes and heroines—notably Muh Kwei Ying, the martial heroine whose capture of her lover, Yang Tung Po, is one of the cherished incidents of Chinese romance.

Japan succeeds with a few objects of Shinto worship and an array of gilded



China (Taoism)—Tu Ti Kung and his Wife (Penates).

shrines, where the gentle deities of the Western Paradise, Amida and Kwannon, Shakanuni the teacher, and the compassionate Jiso, are ranged in order with the Seven Gods of Good Fortune and incense-burners and priestly implements.

The Mohammedan East, destitute of images, is displayed in a series of large photographs, illustrating the mosques and shrines of Jerusalem, Constantinople and



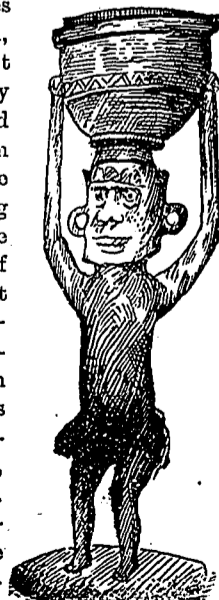
China (Popular Fiction)—Muh Kwei Ying and Yang Tung Po.



Japan—a Buddha from the famous temple at Ten-Ko. Mexico—Aztec Serpent God.

Cairo, Mecca and the pilgrimage, the dervishes and their ceremonies, and all the principal observances of the different sects. Besides are objects used by dervishes, stands for the Koran, and a number of beautifully illuminated Korans and other manuscripts from different parts of the East. The religions of America, discussed by Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, furnish specimens of rattles and masks from the North-West coast; rattles, drums, dance-sticks, from the Indians of the United States; and a variety of idols from Mexico, Central America, Yucatan, and the West Indies. Notable among them is an ancient serpent god from Mexico.

Polynesia follows, with curious images from Easter Island, representing ancient heroes, and many stone and carved wooden images from various islands in the Pacific. Returning to Africa, one of the earliest homes of civilization, and that of the highest civilization of remote antiquity, a collection of images or idols from those interesting people the Fans, collected by the Rev. Dr. Robert H. Nassau, completes the circuit. The collection comprises other objects than images



Polynesia—Idol from Solomon's Island.

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