

the steady, laborious, and protracted revision of the versions in the great languages of India and China, where missionaries of mature scholarship and culture are united with native Christian scholars in bringing up the translations of the older missionaries to the present standard of scholarship.

In China, Corea, and Japan, not only are the missionaries united in the work of translation and revision, but the three great Bible Societies are also united in defraying the necessary expenses entailed.

It is hoped that this year will see the first Pashtu Bible completed for the people of Afghanistan, as 1894 has already witnessed the publication of the complete revised Bible for Persia; and the Malagasi people will receive their first Marginal Reference Bible, which is now passing through the University Press at Oxford.

In Africa, in New Guinea, in Japan, on the slopes of the Himalayas, in Assam, native races are having the Gospel placed within their reach for the first time.

IV.—BIBLEWOMEN.

The returns for the Biblewomen who were more or less maintained by the Society's grants in the year ending September 30, 1894, show encouraging progress. Some superintendents by imperfect reports make it impossible to do full justice to their work in a statistical table. But the great majority by the growing accuracy and punctuality of their returns prove how much they value these missionary grants, and how carefully they administer them. Returns have been received for 429 Biblewomen,—27 more than in 1892-3. The number of native women to whom, on an average, the Scriptures were read by them has grown to 4,546 a week more than before, and stands now at 26,560. Out of those who are being taught by the Biblewomen to read, no less than 1,549 native women have attained, within the year, the power of being able to read the Scriptures for themselves. The whole circulation for the year comes to 15,263 Bibles, Testaments, or detached books of Scripture. The 429 Biblewomen were geographically distributed thus:—India 310, Ceylon 76, Syria and Palestine 14, Egypt 18, China 5, Straits 2, Mauritius and the Seychelles 4. The reports continue to bear ample evidence of the high spiritual value of their work.

V.—OBITUARY AND NEW APPOINTMENTS.

The Society has lost during the past year ten of its Vice-Presidents—Bishop Pelham, D.D., the Bishop of Bath and Wells, Rev. Canon Lord Forester, the Lord Charles Russell, Rev. Canon Edward Hoare, Rev. Joshua C. Harrison, the Dean of Ripon, Rev. R. W. Dale, D.D., the Dean of Canterbury and Bishop Hale, D.D.; and five of its Hon. Life Governors—J. P. Daniel, Esq., E. A. Wollingford, Esq., Rev. E. E. Reinke, Dr. W. Moon, and Herr C. J. Mohn. Miss Le Couteur, a Lady Hon. Life Governor, has also died, and Rev. A. Mabile, an Hon. Foreign Member.

The following appointments have been made:—As Vice-Presidents—Rt. Hon. A. W. Peel, M.P., ex-Speaker of the House of Commons; Rt. Rev. Dr. Kennion, Bishop of Bath and Wells; Rev. Dr. Reynolds, ex-President of Cheshunt College; Victor C. W. Cavendish, Esq., M.P.; Alexander Peckover, Esq., Lord Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire; John Deacon, Esq.; Rt. Rev. Dr. Jayne, Bishop of Chester; Rt. Rev. Dr. Goe, Bishop of Melbourne; the Very Rev. the Dean of Durham; the Ven. J. Richardson, D.D., Archdeacon of Southwark; Rev. Canon Jacob, M.A., Vicar of Portsea; Rev. Dr. J. Monro Gibson; and Rev. E. E. Jenkins, M.A., LL.D., ex-President of the Wesleyan Conference.

As Hon. Life Governors—Ven. Archdeacon Scott, M.A., Canon of Lichfield; R. H. Briscoe, Esq., Wolverhampton; Hy. Jones, Esq., R.N., Portsmouth; Capt. Chapman, Windermere; Rev. S. Chorlton, M.A., Pitsmoor; H. Johnson, Esq., Croydon; Rev. E. Hewlett, M.A., Manchester; William Slade, Esq., Hastings; Rev. H. Stevens, M.A., Sydenham; Alex. M. White, Esq., Colchester; Rev. G. Brown, Pau; Rev. A. F. Buscarlet, Lausanne; Rev. R. B. De Wolf, M.A.; J. J. Neave, Esq., Sydney; Rev. J. R. McDougall, Florence; Colonel G. G. Channer, Ealing; A. Hubbard, Esq., Acton, and J. F. Pownall, Esq., Russell Square, W. C.