

An exchange says: "M. Tsakni, a Russian writer, has published an interesting work entitled 'Queer Religious Sects of Russia,' from which it appears that there are not less than 15,000,000 followers of insane and cranky notions in the empire of the Czar. These communities of devout and deluded beings are constantly being enlarged, in spite of all efforts made to the contrary by the government.

"One of these sects is known as the 'Runaways.' As soon as they embrace the new faith they fly from their villages and towns, destroy their identity as much as possible, and henceforth live as savages. 'The Christs' are another curious sect. They worship each other. The chief ceremonies are a crazy species of dancing, yelling as loudly as possible, and pounding stones with sticks.

"The 'Skoptsys' believe in self-mutilation, but will not submit to amputation, even though it would save life. Like the 'Christs,' they dance and yell for hours without intermission.

"Still another of these deluded sects is the 'Dumb Boys.' Why they are called dumb boys no one seems to know; but it is a curious fact that the sect is composed of both sexes, old men being in the majority. It is claimed that some of these aged patriarchs have not spoken in fifty years, although perfectly able to do so did they so desire.

"The 'Suicides' are a sect led by M. Souckeliffe, who preaches self-destruction as an absolute necessity to salvation. He is very eloquent, and it is said that he leaves a church with a dozen suicides' remains strewn about the floor. Then the leader must be unsaved, as he does not commit suicide."

A Russian journal describes a peculiar religious movement in the winter of 1891-92 in the province of Kiev. The originator was a Russian, given to drink until the age of forty years, when he reformed and joined the Stundists, following zealously the religious rites of the sect, and often going into a condition of ecstasy. A few years later he began to suffer from hallucinations, among others perceiving extremely pleasant perfumes, which he declared to be the smell of the Holy Ghost. Then he conceived that he was possessed of the Holy Ghost, and that he was Jesus Christ. He obtained numerous peasant followers, who sold their

possessions, gave up work, and looked upon their insane leader as the Saviour of the world, in which there should soon be new regulations; no one should die, and no one should have need to work or to care for the future, for God would care for them all. Most of them suffered from hallucinations of the sense of smell, perceiving extremely agreeable odors, which they described as pertaining to God and heaven. Many had a feeling of remarkable bodily lightness, as if floating in the air, and many others were taken with convulsions, manifestly hysterical. The congregations were always noisy and exalted, some falling to the earth, others jumping, striking themselves on the breast and shouting inarticulately. Some would imitate conversation; but it consisted of incomprehensible, senseless sounds, which they believed to be a language spoken somewhere. Most of them were emaciated and anæmic. The epidemic was finally overcome by the authorities; those who were most insane being shut up in asylums, while the hysterical were sent to hospitals and convents.

There is a Bible and tract barrow scheme in North China. An ordinary Chinese barrow, designed as a Bible carriage, is supplied with Bibles and religious tracts, with attendant for one year, at a cost of about \$50. Donations are urgently needed to extend this work, and would be so applied if sent to the editor of this REVIEW or to Rev. F. Brown, Tientsin, China.

This is a new departure in aggressive methods of mission work in China. The usual method has been for the native assistant to attend the markets and fairs, spread out his square of calico, and cover it with a supply of Bibles and tracts. The curiosity has worn off, however, and some plan of distribution more attractive to the Eastern man and better calculated to arrest his attention is demanded. To meet this want the "Bible wheelbarrow" was designed in 1890, and has since been on its trial in