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For the use of Sabbath School Teachers.

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For the use of Superintendents and Secretaries.

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Notes of the Week.

It is the intention of the congregation of St. John's Wood to provide their minister, the Rev. Dr. Monro Gibson, with an assistant during his year of the Moderatorship of the English Presbyterian Church, so that he may be able to discharge with comfort the additional duties that will devolve upon him.

GREENOCK Free Church Presbytery, on the motion of Rev. W. L. Robertson, has appointed a committee to draw up a statement against late Saturday night shopping to be read in all the town congregations. The ministers were at the same time enjoined to call the attention of their people to the exhausting and unnecessary labour imposed on a large portion of the community, and to the fact that it interferes with the due observance of the Sabbath.

THE two societies of rich Jews, one with its headquarters at Odessa, the other in Bessarabia, whose object is to settle impoverished Hebrew families on lands purchased by the societies in Palestine, are meeting with considerable success. Funds are coming in, considerable tracts of fertile land are already, or will be soon, in their possession, and their agents are seeking out suitable families who will consent to engage in agricultural pursuits in their wonderful old fatherland.

RELIGIOUS journalism in the United States has lost a kindly, courteous, polished Christian gentleman in the death last week of Dr. Edward D. G. Prime, brother of the late Dr. S. I. Prime, with whom he was associated in the conduct of the *New York Observer*. His active editorial life, begun in 1853, continued till about five years ago, when failing health compelled him to seek rest. Dr. Prime was the author of several works, biographical, religious and of travel and was for some years the pastor of the American chapel at Rome.

THE only new thing of interest this week, writes a Belfast correspondent of the *British Weekly*, in Church circles is the levelling up scheme of the Irish Government in the matter of the Denominational Training Colleges for National Teachers. This scheme is contained in a letter from the Chief Secretary to the commissioners of National Education (Ireland). In the proposals set forth in this scheme all the religious bodies are alike concerned, and deeply interested. Presbyterians must face, sooner or later, a training college of their own on denominational lines.

THE Rev. John Isdale, of Free St. Andrew's Church, Glasgow, died recently in his seventy-fourth year. A son of the parish incumbent of Dron in Perthshire, he had the distinction of being the youngest minister who came out at the Disruption, and his death leaves only one Disruption minister in Glasgow, Dr. Andrew A. Bonar. For more than a year he had been suffering from a painful and incurable malady, but he was able to officiate up to the first Sabbath of the month in which he died. He was a man of quiet but intense earnestness and of great liberality of sentiment.

DR. SCOTT called attention in Edinburgh Presbytery to those churches in which there is only one service on the Sunday during part of the summer months. In particular he animadverted on the case of Old Greyfriars, which was shut for six weeks. Dr.

Scott holds that the parish church should always be open. In the course of the discussion Rev. Alexander Kennedy, of Trinity, remarked that in the matter of the hours of service he would take his instructions not from the Presbytery but from the kirk-session—a declaration which Dr. Scott characterized as the most unconstitutional he had ever heard.

THE annual meeting of the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions of the United States Northern Presbyterian Church was held last week at Auburn N.Y., with an attendance of more than 200 missionaries, delegates and visitors. The reports showed sixty-four missionaries and twenty-six Bible readers in the employ of the Board in Africa, South America, Mexico, China, Japan, India, Korea, Siam, Persia, Syria and among the North American Indians. The receipts were \$67,000, an advance on the previous year of \$10,000. The employment of female physicians was specially mentioned, and regret expressed at the necessity, through lack of funds, of closing a hospital in Persia.

THE Associated Press has evidently thought it not worth while to send anything concerning the meeting of the General Conference of the Evangelical Alliance in Florence, Italy, which opened on April 4. We understand that the Conference was well attended, that a congratulatory message was received from King Humbert, and that the programme which had been prepared was carefully followed. Among those who have presided at its various sessions are Count Bernstorff, the Hon. E. V. Bligh, Bishop Walden, Dr. Edouard Naville, the Hon. Cartaret Hill and Lord Radstock. Dr. Schaff, of the Union Theological Seminary, sent an interesting paper on "The Renaissance and the Reformation."

"THE Lighthouse" is the name bestowed on a roomy though rather stunted range of buildings at Shoreditch in which General Booth has started a new shelter. The premises, hitherto used as a stick and umbrella factory, have been adapted to their present purpose at a cost of \$10,000. They will afford a home for 350 men, mostly employed at the Hanbury Street labour shops under the social wing of the army. The beds are of the usual coffin shape with leather coverings. An "elevator" for young girls will soon be opened, and General Booth states that he has at length met with suitable land on which to try the farm colony experiment. Shelters are about to be opened in Bradford, Liverpool and Leeds. The sum subscribed for the social scheme now approaches \$600,000, but Mr. Booth expresses his determination to regard this as capital, not to be touched for working expenses.

DR. ANDREW A. BONAR presided at a largely-attended meeting of the Committee on the Dods-Bruce cases, held in the Christian Institute, Glasgow, recently. A statement was submitted by Rev. George Wallace, vice-Convener, in regard to the action of the sub-committee. Resolutions were unanimously adopted rejoicing in the recent finding on the doctrine of Holy Scripture adopted by the Confession of Faith Committee. The Committee regard an explicit re-affirmation by the Assembly itself of that finding as specially called for in view of recent utterances on this subject and of the tendencies of the age, and as needed to restore the confidence, unity, and brotherly love which are so essential to the well-being of the Church. The sub-committee were re-appointed, with instructions to watch over the whole question, and to take such further action as may be needed for obtaining a deliverance from next Assembly in harmony with the finding of the Confession of Faith Committee.

ON the occasion of Mr. A. Matheson leaving Stratford to assume the duties of Bursar, to which he has been appointed at the institution in Belleville for the education of the deaf and dumb, he was made the recipient of a handsome silver tea-service, suitably engraved, and an address from his fellow-citizens. The presentation was made by the mayor. Mr. Matheson, who carries with him the good-will of people of every shade of politics, made a feeling

reply. Suitable remarks were made by Mr. Mowat and Mr. Buckingham, early proprietors of the *Beacon*, his worship the mayor, Mr. John Payne, Mr. Duncan Stewart and others, and these also Mr. Matheson warmly acknowledged. For over a quarter of a century he was a resident of Stratford, and for nearly twenty years has owned and edited the *Beacon*. Very kind and encouraging words were spoken by Mr. Matheson and others, of the newcomers, Messrs. O'Beirne and Abraham, at whose hands it was predicted that the old *Beacon* would soon achieve greater power and influence than ever before.

IT is expected that the total revenue of the English Presbyterian Church for 1890 will show a small increase on that of 1889, when it amounted to close on \$1,000,000, being an average of \$3,430 per congregation. The contribution to the Sustentation and other Synodical funds has already been ascertained. The total sum subscribed to the Sustentation Fund amounted to \$215,990, and the whole receipts for Synodical purposes to \$205,665, as compared with \$192,450 in 1889. This advance is considered highly satisfactory, as the Synod funds have been practically stationary for several years. In 1885 they rose to \$250,375, but that year there were two legacies of \$25,000 and \$30,000 respectively, a most unusual thing, though common enough in the sister churches north of the Tweed. The Foreign Mission Fund stands higher than ever it did at \$95,145, and still the year closed with a deficiency of nearly \$15,000. It is only fair to say, however, that \$10,000 of that sum was carried forward as a debit balance from 1889. A strenuous effort is now on foot to extinguish this debt.

IN an interesting and temperate article in the *London Quarterly Review* the position of the average medical man is put in a painful light. According to the writer only 600 registered practitioners die each year, while 1,200 are added to the number. Then the death rate has decreased by six a thousand, and sickness in proportion. The consequence is that the competition is exceedingly severe; for a place worth \$500 a year forty-five well-qualified candidates entered. Unless a man can buy a good practice, which means the command of about \$15,000, his progress is terribly slow. It will take him twelve years to make \$1,000 a year; and that is the average income of the profession. To obtain a place in the highest ranks is supremely difficult. The country, it is calculated, can only keep in work say 300 consulting physicians, 300 specialists, and 150 pure surgeons. Hundreds of consultants, for anything they have to do, might as well go on a tour round the world; and a great metropolitan oculist says that of seventy specialists in London only about a dozen have any reputation or work. All this is sufficiently dismal.

THE acts of benevolence of Italian women are notable both for their number and their munificence. Splendid hospitals have been founded at Genoa by the Duchess of Galliera; the Duchess of Ceri, daughter and heiress of Prince Torlonia, lately gave \$40,000 for an aqueduct to provide water for the town of Avezzana, near the Lake Fucino, drained by her father; and the Signora Gola has presented her own magnificent villa near Turin for a gymnasium for the children of the schools and asylums of that city. An institute in Rome for finding places for girls out of work owes its existence chiefly to Signora Virginia Nathan, who takes the burden of its direction upon her own shoulders. Most touching of all, perhaps, is the work of another woman, Signora Maria Capozzi, a highly cultured lady who, after spending all her own little patrimony in founding a refuge for the poor and outcast, betook herself to asking charity in their behalf in the cafés and public squares. Neatly dressed in black, she distributes the prospectus of her institute at night among the frequenters of the cafés, and with a grateful smile receives the "soldo" or more which they give her. She is universally respected, but as there is a law against mendicancy, even when it is done in the holy name of charity, she was advised by the police to procure a license for selling matches or something similar.