

influence will be the greater where the inheritance covers a larger number of generations. But where children are not only born of evil parentage but grow up under degrading influences it is difficult to determine how much of the result is to be attributed to heredity and how much to environment. There are certainly facts observed occasionally in connection with the offspring both of the good and of the bad, which would indicate that heredity is not so potent an influence in determining character as it is sometimes assumed to be. The experience and observation of the late Dr. Thos. J. Bernardo in this connection must be regarded as interesting and valuable. Dr. Bernardo rescued from the slums nearly 60,000 child waifs, boys and girls, and placed them in homes where they had a chance to grow up good citizens. He had been engaged in this work for forty years, and it is said that only two per cent. of the children turned out badly. A month or two before his death Dr. Bernardo wrote:

"As to our scientific method, there is not much to be said, except this: that we have demonstrated the superiority of environment to heredity. I suppose there has never been such an example in the world as our institution affords of the great fact that heredity is not so invincible a foe to human life as has been thought. We have proved that if a child who is a son or daughter of criminals or prostitutes, and also the grandson or granddaughter of the same, and of whom we can prove that the great-grandfather or great-grandmother were of the same class—if that child is taken early enough from its evil environment and planted down in an absolutely new, fresh and Christian environment, and kept in it long enough, the power of heredity appears to be neutralized.

"I have had some cases like that who may be said to have been damned from their birth, who are now living virtuous, honored and respectable lives, upon whom no breath or shadow of evil has ever fallen. And the same thing is true as regards the degeneration of type from the physical point of view. We have been as a nation almost frightened to death with tales of our physical degeneration, and doctrinaires who have come to me to gain proof of their view have been overwhelmed with evidence to the very reverse. Puny, ill-developed, emaciated children, born in the gloom and shadow of a sunless life, surrounded by filth, vice and every incentive to badness, have come to me, haggard and emaciated, looking like little old men or little old women, while they were still under the school age. These have been taken in hand, and in some cases twelve months, and in other cases two or three years, have sufficed to wipe out all those physical impressions which appear to be ineradicable, and a healthy physical life, with a joyous childhood, developed in mind and body, has been the result of the special training, of the feeding, of the influences, moral and Christian, which have surrounded these children. I have pointed to some of the worst examples that come to me as triumphant proofs that such physical degeneration as has been deplored is not incurable."

### Editorial Notes.

—Three revivalists who hail from Wales or England and are reported to have been associated with Evan Roberts, the noted Welsh revivalist, opened meetings in Montreal on Sunday last. The names of the three are Rev. G. O. Griffiths, Mr. J. Tudor Rees, a Welsh lawyer, who has temporarily abandoned his profession to take part in the revival, and Dewi Michael, whose wonderful singing is said to have been a marked feature of the revival in Wales.

—The discouraging statements in reference to the condition of President Harper's health, which have been appearing in the daily press during the past week, will have been read by many with profound regret. According to the statements which have appeared the only hope of saving Dr. Harper's life lies in the successful performance of an operation which is of so serious a character that his physicians refuse to undertake it, believing that the patient does not possess the necessary vitality. The many friends and admirers of President Harper are sadly forced to the conclusion that his work is virtually done.

—The historical statement in reference to the progress of the movement towards union on the Baptist side, as presented at the meeting in Main Street Church Tuesday evening, will be found on our second and third pages. The statement, as will be seen, occupies a good deal of space, but the occasion is exceptional, and it is well to have this important historical record preserved where it will be easily available for future reference. An account of the meeting of Tuesday evening and of other meetings in connection with the business of organization will appear in our next week's issue.

—'Zion's Advocate' says:

"It seems that the proposed union evangelistic meetings in Boston are not to be held after all. The secretary of the committee of 25, which was endeavoring to arrange for them, makes the following statement: 'Finding the progress very slow toward full co-operation of the evangelical churches of Boston, and informed of the fact that Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, who was invited to lead the meetings here in January, is overwhelmed with invitations and engagements in other cities, the Boston representatives of the Presbyterian national evangelistic movement withdraws its offer of Dr. Chapman's services and thereby releases him from his engagement here.'"

—"It is stated," says the 'Watchman,' "that Mr. John D. Rockefeller will give ten million dollars for the erection of a church house for the Euclid Avenue Baptist Church, Cleveland, O., of which he is a member. The house is to be a modern building of many storeys with accommodation and equipment for sociological work on broad lines. It will combine the institutional features of church work with 'settlement' work and modern boarding houses or hotels for the poor. To judge from the accounts, no element is to be left out which is considered essential and promising for religious and racial work for the alleviation of the condition of the poor."

—A deep religious awakening in Norway is reported to be making itself felt in two directions. In one direction it assumes the form of an intense opposition to the economy and ritualism of the State Church. The second movement which co-operates with the State Church, is headed by a young peasant, Albert Lunde, who was a lay preacher and spent several years in studying church life in America. His evangelization and revival services in Christiania are attended by audiences of 5,000 and more and have the approval of the pastors of the State Church. His sermons are characterized by simplicity and the presentation of the great gospel truths without any fanaticism or radicalism. The movement is spreading rapidly, and Lunde recently, upon invitation, went to Stockholm to inaugurate a similar crusade.

—A far Western paper made the following statement:

"In Everett, Mass., there were 318 divorces and 206 marriages during 1903. In Chelsea the record was 307 divorces and 463 marriages. Newton saw 301 couples divorced and 351 couples united."

These statistics the 'Independent' characterizes as "shameless forgeries." In 1903, it says, the State of Massachusetts granted the largest number of divorces on record, namely, 1,721, or one divorce in 15.6 marriages. The statistics in Massachusetts and other States are reported by counties and not by towns. In Suffolk county, which includes mainly Boston, the total number of divorces granted was 508, or one in 14. Chelsea contains only a twentieth of the population of Suffolk county. There are no statistics of divorces for Everett and Newton, and the figures given are stupidly, if not also maliciously, preposterous. The real figures, however, as the 'Independent' says, are, bad enough without exaggeration.

### Acadia Notes.

The formal public opening of the new college year was held on Friday evening last, Oct. 6th, in College Hall. In addition to the students of the three institutions, and the professors and teachers, there were present many friends from the town.

The president had the pleasure of announcing that the actual work of the year had begun under highly auspicious circumstances, and that already nearly sixty new students had been registered, ten of these entering with advanced standing.

The opening lecture was delivered by Professor C. C. Jones, Ph. D., on the subject: "The Place of Mathematics among the Sciences." It was an able, comprehensive and highly interesting treatment of what might be popularly regarded as an abstruse theme. The lecture was also admirably delivered, and furnished evidence that to his other distinguished talents and abilities Professor Jones adds the making of an able and effective platform speaker. The president took the opportunity to acknowledge the efficiency and popularity of Professor Jones in the work of his department, and to assure him of the high value that is put upon his services.

At the conclusion of the lecture, the president alluded to the resignation of Dr. Kierstead and his removal to Toronto and sought to pay fitting tribute to his character and abilities and to the great and varied services rendered at Acadia by him through so many years. Explanations were then made as to the new grouping of studies, the creation of the independent chair of English Language and Literature, and the appointment to the new chair of Professor Roland Palmer Gray, formerly of Rochester University. Professor Gray was formally introduced, and in response made a brief and happy speech.

The letters of commendation on which Professor Gray was appointed, letters from men of unquestioned standing and authority, led us to expect in him a Christian scholar of refined and gracious character, of expert training for the work of his department, and withal a most agreeable man to work with. Professor Gray has been on the ground for a month,

and the impression so far made upon his fellow professors and the students fulfils every expectation.

All the former professors, save Dr. Kierstead, are in their place, beloved and honored, and renewed by the privileges of the vacation. There is a fine spirit in the Faculty, as also among the students, and we are hopeful of a good year in all respects. Mr. Ralph M. Jones, who consented last year to suspend his studies at Rochester Theological Seminary, and give us a year as Instructor in English and Latin, having rendered a year of excellent service, returned last month to the Seminary to complete his course there. The work thus left unprovided for in Fishman Latin will be taken by Principal E. W. Sawyer, and the work in Junior Logic will be taught by Principal H. F. DeWolfe. It is greatly to the advantage of the college that the two principals have consented, at the call of the Board, to give us for the present year at least their valuable services to this extent.

Relieved of any further responsibility in the prosecution of the financial canvass, the president is rejoicing in the privilege of now giving himself without distraction to the intellectual and spiritual duties of his position.

Wolfville, Oct. 6th.

Thomas Trotter.

### A First Word.

As Field Secretary for our denominational funds, I permit me to address a word to the churches. October is the last month of the first quarter of our Convention year. Will you not see to it that your quarterly offering is made before the close of this month? If the first quarterly offering is not given before November, it disarranges the quarterly offerings for the whole year. The first quarterly offering is the one most apt to be missing. So if all our churches will this year attend at once to the first quarterly offering, there will be a substantial gain in our denominational treasuries. Do not fail to forward the offering at once, large or small, one hundred dollars or one dollar, to Rev. F. H. Beals, Treas., Wolfville, N. S. Now is the time to act, and this timely action will give impetus to the whole work of the year.

I. W. Porter, F.S.

### New Books.

#### DAY BREAK IN THE DARK CONTINENT.

By Wilson Taylor.

This is a mission study book. In addition to many years' study of mission problems relating to Africa the author had the rare privilege, a few years ago, of accompanying Bishop Hartzell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in one of his missionary tours through the Dark Continent. He writes with a full knowledge, a personal touch and most intense sympathy with "the souls of black folk."

The eight chapters which comprise the book are well divided. Four tell of the darkness and four point to the coming light. There is not a dull page in the volume. A series of questions at the end of each chapter and "References for Papers or Talks" add greatly to the value of the volume as a text-book. We have examined these questions and suggestions with great care and commend them to all study class leaders. The illustrations, maps, and index are excellent. The volume is compact. It can be carried in the pocket. It is a good book with which to begin the study of what promises to be the "missionary continent" of the twentieth century.

Published by the Young Peoples' Missionary Movement, New York.

#### THE MAKING OF A TEACHER.

By Martin G. Brumbaugh, Ph. D., LL. D., Professor of Pedagogy in the University of Pennsylvania.

While the author of this volume has not aimed to present an exhaustive analysis of the factors involved in the making of a teacher, he has endeavored to set forth in the light of present-day needs what seem to be the most needed elements of guidance to that end. The purpose has been to vitalize certain educational principles, to push their application home to the conscience and, if possible, to inspire in the heart of the teacher a great desire to make the most of his opportunities. Much of the material embodied in the volume appeared originally in a series of twenty-five articles in the 'Sunday School Times.' To this other matter has been added and the whole moulded into such form as to make it, in the judgment of the author, most helpful to teachers. The author has written with the purpose primarily of aiding Sunday School teachers, but as he deals with the principles and methods of instruction rather than with the subjects to be taught, the teacher of the secular school will find here the same underlying guidance needed by him in his work. The author justly emphasizes the great importance of those who attempt to instruct the young in the Sunday school knowing how to teach. This is more important than everything else except the truth taught. The book is one which may be cordially recommended to those teachers who, though conscious of their needs and the great difficulties with which they have to contend, still recognize the great importance of their work and have an earnest desire to secure the best possible results.

Published by the Sunday School Times Company, Philadelphia, and William Briggs, Toronto.