

is the spread of the great truth of the Gospel, and their practical exemplification in all relations of life. For the accomplishment of this great work the Church must rise up to a fuller realization of her mission. "Let her," are Dr. MacVicar's concluding words,

Let her cease putting on airs, and counting the smiles of the worshippers of mammon, and let her come down to the lapsed masses, and make her presence and power felt among them. In one word, let all the resources and redeemed energies of God's people, and the manifold agencies—including the press, pulpit and platform—at the command of Christendom, be used a thousandfold more than at present in disseminating truth; and let the thinking of our age draw its inspiration from Him who wields all power in heaven and in earth, and we shall thus employ the best possible means to end all forms of social discontent.

MACKAY MISSION HOSPITAL, TAMSUI.

By last mail, a small pamphlet of no little interest was received from Formosa. It bears an Amoy imprint, and as a specimen of typography it is creditable. The pamphlet is entitled "Report of the Mackay Mission Hospital in Tamsui, Formosa, for 1886." Dr. Rennie gives a tabulated statement of the cases treated, and appends a few notes relating to some of them. Dr. Mackay also gives a short account of one of the forms of disease most prevalent in the part of the island where his special work lies, malarial poisoning.

During the seven years of its existence, with the exception of 1885, there has been a steady increase in the number of patients who have sought relief in the Mackay Hospital. The number of new patients who applied in 1880 was 1,346; while in 1886 it had increased to 3,448. The marked increase during last year is attributed to the subsidence of the hostile feeling against foreigners and foreign institutions, occasioned by the French invasion of Formosa. Prejudice is giving place to higher appreciation of the benevolent purpose in instituting and maintaining the hospital, and a growing confidence in the superior methods of Western medical and surgical science.

In the tabulated statement of cases treated the number is largest in skin diseases, next come diseases of the eye, there being no fewer than 101 cases of granular ophthalmia. Among general diseases, the returns give ninety-three cases of rheumatism; leprosy, thirty-two; debility from opium smoking, sixteen; malarial cachexia, seventy-four. The highest in the entire list is fever and ague, 1,086 cases. During the year, the number of deaths in the hospital was only two.

Dr. Mackay's brief paper gives a most interesting account of the superstitious ideas entertained by the people as to the cause of malarial poisoning, and the no less ridiculous cures prescribed by some of the native physicians. One of the causes of fever and ague is said to be the conflict between the hot and cold principles in nature; another cause of the malady is the supposition that the unfortunate victim has trod on counterfeit money placed on the street or on the roadside by some priest or sorcerer. A third reason for the disease is attributed to the belief that one devil, representing the negative principle in nature, fans the individual, causing chills, while another demon, supposed to represent the positive principle, keeps blowing a furnace, which produces heat and fever. These suppositious demons are held in great dread, and people are afraid to name chills and fever lest they become the victims of the dreaded scourge.

The description of the cures prescribed by priests, both Taoist and Buddhist, by sorcerers and doctors, are certainly very grotesque, and indicate that higher education has much to achieve before the "learned professions" of Formosa get beyond the region of the ridiculous. Speaking of the remedies prescribed by native physicians, Dr. Mackay says that most of them were used by the ancients, and he is satisfied that they have no efficacy in allaying or eradicating malarial poisoning. Quackery, it seems, is not unknown to some of the Formosa medical practitioners, as the following statement by Dr. Mackay will show: "I have often known native doctors to write out prescriptions so as to make money, whilst five to twenty grains of quinine were nicely folded in paper, and carefully kept for personal use."

The conjunction of physical healing with the soul-healing work of the Gospel has long since been amply justified by results. It is the design of the Gospel to benefit man. It cares for the body as well as the soul, as seen in the personal example of the

Great Physician. The missionary who can relieve distress gains the confidence of the people, and they are better disposed to listen to the message of eternal life. In this, as in all departments of his arduous work, Dr. Mackay is indefatigable. He mentions incidentally in his report that during 1886 he extracted 1,237 teeth, and along with all the preachers connected with the mission rendered medical aid to 5,176 cases throughout the three districts of which North Formosa is composed. The report closes with a fervent desire for the advent of some benefactor, who, like Jenner in the case of small-pox, will discover a prophylactic for fever and ague; and Dr. Mackay adds these characteristic words: "Come when he may, let the astonished world ascribe praise and glory to the eternal God, who created the star-built universe, and prepared a home where burning fevers, bitter sorrows, heart-rending diseases and malarial poison can never enter."

Books and Magazines.

OUR LITTLE FOLKS AND THE NURSERY. (Boston: The Russell Publishing Co.)—For juvenile readers this is a most delightful monthly. In every respect it is most excellent.

HARPER'S YOUNG PEOPLE. (New York: Harper & Brothers.)—Every week this admirable publication presents its patrons with attractive and instructive reading and the best of illustrations.

ST. NICHOLAS. (New York: The Century Co.)—The April number of *St. Nicholas* contains a variety of interesting and instructive reading, while in the way of illustration it leaves nothing to be desired.

CHRIST IN THE HEART, AND OTHER SERMONS. By Alexander Maclaren, D.D. (Toronto: S. R. Briggs.) Maclaren of Manchester, as he is familiarly called, is one of the able preachers of our time, whose words, spoken or written, always secure most favourable consideration. His discourses are strong, both intellectually and spiritually, and are fitted to make a deep and lasting impression on minds coming under their elevating influence. The present volume amply sustains the distinguished preacher's reputation.

SCRIBNER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons.)—One of the leading features in the April *Scribner* is the first instalment of the "Unpublished Letters of Thackeray." They are thoroughly characteristic of the generous-hearted and humorous novelist, and afford most interesting reading. Ex-Minister Washburne's Reminiscences conclude with a graphic account of the downfall of the Paris Commune. Other papers by eminent writers discuss questions of general interest, and serial fiction is able and abundant. The illustrations in the number and finish ought to satisfy the most aesthetic taste.

THE CENTURY. (New York: The Century Co.)—The April *Century* is a peculiarly strong number. What promises to be a fine series of illustrated papers on English Cathedrals is begun. The Life of Lincoln grows in interest as it approaches the stirring events that called him into special prominence. Dr. Edward Eggleston, continuing his series on colonial history, has a paper on "Church and Meeting House Before the Revolution." The War papers have not yet lost their interest for the general reader, as they continue to deal with the great historical events of the Rebellion. Fiction and poetry are plentiful and good. The *Century* keeps in the front rank.

DR. TRENT'S COUSIN. By Helen B. Williams. (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication; Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—Miss Williams has already shown herself a writer of good and helpful words in her former books. She touches life from the practical side, seeking to teach religion, not in its theory of morals merely, but as applied to daily conduct and habitual disposition. The present volume is planned to teach the meaning of St. Paul's wonderful thirteenth chapter of Corinthians. The characters are well drawn, and are not by any means too saintly for very actual life. The story is full of interest, and the lessons are clearly taught. Incidentally, many valuable suggestions concerning Christian work are given.

LENG TSO, the Chinese Bible Woman. By Rev. J. A. Davis, a sequel to the "Chinese Slave Girl." (Philadelphia: Presbyterian Board of Publication;

Toronto: James Bain & Son.)—The author is not a novel-writer, but having been himself a missionary in China he is thoroughly familiar with life and customs in that strange country, and also with the experience of the missionary, and the methods of missionary work. The present volume tells the story of the life and work of a Chinese Bible woman, who went about the country carrying Christ into the homes of the people. There is a slender thread of romance running through the volume, which adds to its interest. The book is full of information concerning the country, and abounds in realistic pictures.

HARPER'S MAGAZINE. (New York: Harper & Brother.)—The conclusion of Blackmore's "Spring-haven," with the victory and death of Lord Nelson, suggests the subject for the frontispiece engraving, "Corpses-Walk Pit." Interesting and profusely illustrated descriptive papers appear in the April number. "The Southern Gateway of the Alleghenies," by Edmund Kirke; "Mexican Notes," by Charles Dudley Warner, and "Through the Caucasus," by Ralph Meeker, afford very interesting readings. As a contribution on the labour question, there is a paper by Lee Meriwether, on "How Workmen Live in Europe and America." The fiction and poetical contributions are up to the high standard maintained in *Harper's*. There are some wholesome editorial remarks on "Pernicious Fiction." The number as a whole is decidedly good.

THE PULPIT TREASURY. (New York: E. B. Treat.)—The number for April closes the fourth yearly volume of this exceedingly rich, varied and suggestive magazine. Its helpfulness in every department of Christian work renders it indispensable to every preacher, and its future promises to be even brighter than its past. The portrait of Dr. J. B. Hawthorne, of Atlanta, Georgia, forms the frontispiece of this number. His sermon on the Pulpit, the Press and the Government, affords a good specimen of the author's bold and fearless style. A view of his church and a sketch of his life give additional interest. "Obstructive Forces," by Rev. Burdette Hart, "An Easter Sermon," by Professor J. Scrimger, and an "Exegetical Comment," by S. H. Kellogg, are articles of great and timely importance. "Leading Thoughts of Sermons" and a number of short but valuable articles on practical topics complete an excellent number.

THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY. (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.)—A beautiful etching of Oliver Wendell Holmes ornaments the April number of the *Atlantic Monthly*. The story of a diplomatic mission to the South, undertaken with the tacit consent of Abraham Lincoln, is told by Edmund Kirke. It recounts, for the first time, the terms of peace which Lincoln was willing to offer to the South. Mr. Whittier has a poem entitled "On the Big Horn." Other noticeable features are an amusing Negro story, "Lazarus Martin, the Cullud Liever," by W. W. Archer; "Via Crucis," a letter written by a Roman official in Jerusalem at the time of the Crucifixion, by Edward I. Steiner; "A Tory Parson," and last, but not least, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes' second instalment of "Our Hundred Days in Europe," in which he gives characteristic accounts of the celebrities he met. Mrs. Oliphant's and Mr. Aldrich's serial, and F. Marion Crawford's "Pau Patoff" are as interesting as ever, and there are some other excellent articles and good poetry.

THE HOMILETIC REVIEW. (New York: Funk & Wagnalls; Toronto: William Briggs.)—The April number opens with an exceedingly sensible article on the use of the M.S. in the pulpit, by Dr. William M. Taylor. Dr. Pentecost has a characteristic paper on "How Shall our Cities be Evangelized?" Dr. C. S. Robinson writes instructively on "The Best Methods of Getting Church Members to Work." Dr. Buttz, of Drew Seminary, gives the third article of the Symposium, on "How Can the Pulpit Best Counteract the Influence of Modern Scepticism?" A paper likely to attract wide attention is a masterly analysis of the qualities of Dr. Talmage as a preacher, by an eminent Professor of Homiletics. The sermons—eight in all—are by such eminent preachers as Dr. Palmer, of New Orleans; Dr. Bersier, of Paris; Dr. Reed, of Brooklyn; and Dr. Matthews, of London. All the other departments are full of timely, varied, bright and instructive thought on scores of subjects of special interest to the ministry. The number, as a whole, is quite on a par with the preceding numbers.