

What the Disciples in the States are Saying and Doing.

THE ALLEGHENY CONVENTION.

The General Conventions of the Disciples of Christ in the United States were opened Friday evening, Oct. 16, in Allegheny, Pa., by a social meeting. The Christian Woman's Board of Missions attended to its business first, occupying two full days, Saturday and Monday. On Saturday morning there was presented the report of the Corresponding-Secretary, Miss Lois A. White. This gave a minute account of the work of the past year, and was full of interest and encouragement. The President, Mrs. O. A. Burgess, delivered her annual address. Sister Burgess, it will be remembered, attended our annual meeting in Hillsbury in 1888. All who met her there have kindly recollections of her. She is looking well now, and presided over the meeting of the C. W. B. M. with skill and dignity and grace. In the afternoon Mrs. Joseph King, Superintendent of Children's Work, read her report, after which there was "A Mission Band Conference," and an address on "Some Details of Our Work in India," by Miss Mary Graybiel. In the evening M. L. Stroator delivered an address on "Our Western Work."

Lord's Day, Oct. 13.

This was a very busy day. At nine o'clock in the morning the Sunday school assembled. Bro. W. H. Graham is the superintendent. The number of scholars enrolled is 1,100; the number of teachers, 50; the amount contributed to foreign missions last year was \$629.00. A prize is given to every scholar who brings three new scholars to the school during the year, and also to those who miss but one Sunday in a year.

J. H. Garrison, of St. Louis, editor of the Christian Evangelist, was the preacher at the forenoon service. His subject was "The Signs of the Times and the encouragement we may derive therefrom." First, attention was drawn to the wonderful material progress of our day, and the way in which God is using it for the good of His cause. Second, it was pointed out that the man-made creeds are going. Third, the higher criticism was declared to have presented nothing to frighten the believer in Jesus Christ, and the audience was exhorted to receive the good and reject the bad of the system. In the fourth place it was maintained that the times require a superior class of preachers, learned, consecrated, self-sacrificing men, who would be willing to do hard work on small salaries. Bro. Garrison takes a hopeful view of the general religious situation, and of the prospects of our brotherhood in particular. It was a grand sermon on a live subject, well adapted to the occasion, and evidently made a profound impression upon the congregation.

President Robert Graham, of the College of the Bible, Lexington, Ky., and N. A. McConnell, of Iowa, presided at the Lord's table. It was a solemn and inspiring celebration. We judge there must have been well-nigh one thousand Disciples commemorating together the Lord's death.

At 3 p. m., there was a reception for all the missionaries present from home and foreign fields, and at 5 p. m. the C. W. B. M. hour of prayer was observed. At 6.30 p. m. the Y. P. S. C. E., of the Allegheny Church, held its regular meeting. Quite a number of visiting Endeavorers took part in this meeting. At 7 p. m. there was a praise meeting, led by Mrs. T. B. Knowles, of St. Thomas, Ontario. No sister participating in the public meetings of the C. W. B. M. acquitted herself more

creditably than did Sister Knowles. The evening sermon was by C. A. Young, of Ann Arbor, Mich.; the topic was "The Adequacy of our Imperfect Knowledge." Bayard Craig, of Denver, Col., after the sermon made an stirring address on "Woman's Work." This closed a very interesting, though somewhat exhausting, day.

Monday, Oct. 10.

On Monday morning the C. W. B. M. resumed its business. It is not possible to give extensive details, and it is not necessary. We were struck by the fact that the prominent workers of the C. W. B. M. are a set of capable Christian women, who know what they are about and how to go about it. The prompt and skillful way in which business was dispatched was admirable in a high degree. O. E. Randall gave an account of the work in Jamaica; on that island there are nineteen stations and 1,500 members. In the afternoon Ben. Mitchell made a fine speech on "How we reach the people of India." Bro. Mitchell, we understand, was formerly a Methodist missionary, but, learning the way of the Lord more perfectly, he was baptized and is now in the employ of the C. W. B. M. His wife and himself have been spending some time in visiting the churches in different States with a view to informing them in regard to the work in India, and stirring up an interest in it.

Plodges for next year's work were made to the extent of about \$1,400.00.

On Monday evening Mrs. Peris Christian delivered a beautifully worded and earnest address on "Human Needs."

The following extract from Miss White's report will give an idea of what the C. W. B. M. is doing:—

In Jamaica, employed all the time O. E. Randall, John Thompson, William W. Ramsey, J. H. Versey; a part of the time, J. C. Smith, Mark A. Collins. Total in Jamaica, 6. In India, Olivia A. Baldwin, M. D., Arabella Merrill, M. D., the entire year; each for a part of the year, Mary Graybiel, Mary Kingsbury, Kate D. Lawrence, one or more native helpers. Total in India, 6. Total number of workers in two countries in foreign fields, 12.

Within the United States, in California, G. K. Berry, at Eureka, and A. M. Growden in the early part of the year and B. B. Burton the last of the year at Sacramento; in Montana, Eli Fisher, at Missoula; J. N. Smith, at Helena; O. J. Gist, at Deer Lodge; Galen Wood, at Butte City; R. E. Dunlap the earlier part of the year next Geo. E. Barnaby, and J. A. Seaton the last of the year at Bozeman; M. L. Stroator as State Evangelist; in Oregon, David Wetzell in charge of the Chinese mission; in Minnesota, Leander Lane the first of the year and E. O. Sharpe for ten months in charge of the church at Duluth; in Colorado, J. A. Wickham in charge of the church at Monto Vista; M. L. Stroator, Evangelist, in Kentucky, at Hazel Green, Prof. Wm. H. Cord, principal, and Mrs. Wm. H. Cord, assistant in the Academy; in Virginia, Peter Ainslee in charge of the church at Newport News; in New York, O. G. Hertzog for eleven months and F. M. Arthur the last month in the year in charge of the Rochester church; in Michigan, Miss Ida Hawkinson doing city missionary work among the Swedes at West Bay City and C. A. Young in charge of the church at Ann Arbor. Bro. B. Mitchell has been employed as lecturer among all our churches, in which work he has been ably seconded by his wife, Mrs. Laura V. Mitchell, organizing Children's Bands and giving talk to the women in our churches on life in India, making a total of twenty-four persons either located in one of fifteen towns or doing evangelistic work. Besides this the Board has made appropriations to the Jamaica Christian Missionary Association, the Montana Christian Association and the Colorado State Board, by means of which still other workers have been employed, whose names do not appear on our roll

for the reason we do not send their salaries directly to them.

The total receipts for the year were \$48,138.99, being an increase over the previous year of \$8,735.89.

Tuesday, Oct. 20.

The Foreign Christian Missionary Society held its first public business session on Tuesday forenoon. A. McLean read the report of the Board of Managers. We should like to publish this Report entire, but want of space forbids. We presume copies of it can be had by addressing A. McLean, Box 750, Cincinnati, Ohio. The following paragraphs will be found interesting reading:—

FINANCES.

The last Convention recommended that an earnest effort be made to raise \$100,000 this year for foreign missions, and asked the Executive Committee to suggest to the States the amount that each ought to raise. The Committee devoted much time and thought to this task. If each Disciple gave seventeen cents the whole amount would be raised. The amounts suggested ranged from four cents to forty cents. The Committee took into consideration other elements beside that of numerical strength, namely: ability to give, previous record, and known interest in the work and willingness to contribute to its support. The amount suggested and the amount received from the several States and countries are given in a supplemental report. Some States gave more than they were apportioned. The Committee regret that all did not do the same. The whole amount received from churches, Sunday schools, Endeavor Societies, and individuals, is \$59,865.76. Aside from bequests, this is an increase over last year of \$7,256.29. Last year we received from this source alone \$12,000. This year we received only \$1,000. In the Treasurer's report some amounts received from the sale of securities are included, making the gross receipts for the year, \$56,865.76. The disbursements amount to \$71,001.68. It will be seen that the expenditure exceeds the income. Had it not been for the fact that the last year closed with \$9,697.53 in the treasury, we would have closed this year in debt. Bequests relieve us in emergencies, but bequests are a very precarious source of supply. It is upon the regular contributions of the living, and not upon the occasional gifts of the dead, that this work must depend. It goes with the saying that the income of the Society ought to be much larger than it is. The increase ought to be by leaps and bounds, and not by the almost imperceptible increments of the past few years. With the superabundant harvest of the present year there would seem to be no reason why the receipts of the Society should not be doubled, if not quadrupled.

THE NEEDS OF THE WORK.

Japan asks for fifteen families and ten young ladies. With such a force three could be put in a biblical school; two could be put in Tokyo as evangelists; and two in each of several other large cities. The need of Japan is urgent and must be met, and that speedily. Two missionaries for Japan are under appointment. They will sail within a year. The recent riot in China will result in the progress of the gospel. We ought to have a score of men ready to enter into the great cities that are certain to be opened as a result of the present agitation in that empire. Our stations in India are all terribly under-manned. Any number of men can find work in that immense and inviting field. Africa is becoming accessible in all directions. Year by year we have resolved to open a mission in this dark land. The Committee have not been able to obey instructions; the means necessary to open a work in Africa have not been provided. The harvest truly is great. There are a thousand millions to be evangelized. In India, out of a population of 200,000,000, not more than 500,000 have been disciplined. In China, out of a population of 130,000,000, not more than 50,000 have been disciplined. In Japan, out of a population of 40,000,000, not more than 35,000 have been disciplined. It has been stated by one of our missionaries that for every Christian in Japan there are six Buddhist priests. In Africa, out of a

population of 200,000,000, not more than 600,000 have been disciplined. Whole nations are practically unevangelized. Anam, with a population of 20,000,000; Afghanistan, with a population of 8,000,000; the Soudan, with a population of 100,000,000, at least; Tibet, Mongolia, and Arabia; these lands have scarcely been touched by the influence of the Gospel of the glory of Christ. The laborers are few. For every ordained missionary there are 300,000 heathen. We must pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers into His harvest, and to make His people willing to give bountifully for their support.

Orphanages, schools, homes and hospitals are needed. An appeal from China contains the following statement of facts: "Lacking the miraculous gifts, it becomes all the more necessary to employ those of which we are possessed, among which there is no other so sadly needed, so powerful for good, or so well fitted to disarm opposition, and to illustrate the character of our religion, as the gift of healing. The cures which modern medical skill is able to effect are warlike in the eyes of the Chinaman, and have all but the force of miracles in demonstrating the superiority of that faith which has fostered and developed this art, and which thus dispenses its blessings without money and without price. You have only to consult the published reports of the various hospitals already established in China, to understand what a powerful auxiliary this institution is to the preaching of the Gospel. A very large per cent. of the church membership will trace their conversion either directly or indirectly to the influence exerted by the medical work. When we opened our chapel here on the Drum Tower Hill, about a year ago, the animosity excited resulted in a riotous attack upon our persons and the property of the Society, which would have resulted in a heavy loss but for the timely interference of the soldiery. But since Dr. Macklin has opened a dispensary there the feeling has been almost entirely changed, and these same neighbors are now among the best friends of our work and frequent visitors to the chapel."

The need of medical skill among this people is appalling. The Chinese had already attained a remarkably high degree of civilization, when our ancestors were still living in savagery; but, while they have carried some of the arts to a good degree of perfection in the treatment of the sick, they have not passed beyond the stage of sorcery. Disease is often ascribed to the influence of malignant spirits, and idolatry and devil-worship are therefore considered essential to the cure of these troubles. Lots are sometimes drawn in the temples to discover what prescription the idol would make for the ailment. Charms of various kinds are an important part of the pharmacopoeia, and such strange remedies as tiger's bones, pearls, elk horns, the internal organs of a rat, and other equally remarkable substances of no medical value, are constantly employed. There is, of course, utter ignorance of anatomy and physiology, and the fear of the dead makes dissection an impossibility. Surgery is an unknown art, and even the little skill needed for the relief of a dislocation is entirely wanting. Not long since a man fell some distance in one of the yamons here, and put his shoulder out of joint. He consulted a number of native physicians at heavy cost, who prescribed various charms for putting the joint in place. You can readily imagine, then, what an immense amount of suffering exists in this great empire among the sick and crippled. Aside from its importance, therefore, as an aid to evangelization, this work is demanded at our hands as a mere act of humanity. No man who loves his fellows can think without a shudder of the multitudes living from year to year in pain that might easily be relieved, of the myriads of lives annually lost for lack of proper medical advice, and the thousands that are permanently injured by malpractice.

What are we doing?—There are over sixty hospitals in China, and between forty and fifty dispensaries supported by the various missionary societies. Does this seem a large number? Then consider that there are in this great empire eighteen thousand walled cities, and you will see how insignificant is the supply. But we have as yet not even one hospital. We have one phy-

sician on the ground with a fine command of the language, and otherwise splendidly equipped in every way except that he has neither the buildings nor apparatus necessary for his work. But while this is something to rejoice in, these men can do but a little of what they should do, if not properly provided with buildings and apparatus. Dr. Macklin is working along patiently, and doing splendid service as far as it is possible to do so, with the means at his disposal. He has two dispensaries, one at the South Gate, the most crowded quarter of the city, and the other at our chapel here on Drum Tower Hill, and sees patients every day except Sunday. During the last year there were 7,654 visits to these dispensaries. But of these there were only 104 in patients (and it is among the in-patients only that much religious work can be done). A fine lot has been purchased; a high, breezy location, the best situation in the city for a hospital, and the doctor has put up a small native building which will accommodate a few in patients, but it is altogether inadequate, and not at all suitable for the more serious cases that may come. Three young men are in training as assistants, and two of these have made considerable progress in the knowledge of medicine.

Our plan is to establish a good hospital here, and as many more at other points as the Society may feel able to equip, and then at these centres to prepare native young men for the practice of medicine among their own people, and send them out as messengers of mercy in all directions, in the hope that as they are being educated they will also become Christians, and thus, supporting themselves by the practice of medicine, become missionaries of the cross of Christ as well; bearing healing for the soul as well as the body. Accordingly, we are arranging for a medical department in connection with the school which we are just about to open here.

Our appeal, therefore, is first for sufficient money to erect a hospital building. For this purpose we ought to have \$3,000. Secondly, we need \$3,000 for the instruments and the apparatus needed for the teaching as well as the practice of medicine. Surely this is not an extravagant request. We do not believe it will be allowed to pass unheeded. We commend it to the prayerful consideration of our brethren and sisters whom God has made stewards of His wealth.

CONCLUSION.

The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews said: "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins, forever sat down on the right hand of God, henceforth expecting till His enemies be made His footstool." His attitude is that of expectancy. He is waiting in patience and in confidence to see all nations bow to His authority. He must be recognized as King of kings and Lord of lords. He must reign till every enemy is put under His feet. The Scriptures speak in the most confident tone of His ultimate and universal triumph. To Abraham the promise was given, "In thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." To Moses God swore, "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord." The promise is confirmed by an oath. The eternal purpose cannot be defeated. The kings of the earth may set themselves, and the rulers may take counsel together against the Lord and against His anointed. He that sits in the heavens shall laugh; and the Lord shall have them in derision. He placed His King on His holy hill of Zion and said to him, "Ask of Me, and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession." The mental attitude of the prophets and apostles was that of expectancy. One of them said, "All nations shall call Him blessed." Another said, "Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end." Another saw that there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting one, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. This should be the mental attitude of the Church to-day. What things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. We have every reason for encouragement. We have the promise