

accept and believe the Gospel, and in view of the many hostile influences at work, it is a cause of thanksgiving that evangelical Christianity in Japan has more than held its own.

In prosecuting the work all the various agencies known to Methodism are diligently employed. Preaching, class-meetings, prayer-meetings, Sunday Schools, Bible-classes and house to house visitation, have all been employed with good results; while lecture meetings have in many cases attracted the attention of some who would not attend ordinary evangelistic services. The net increase in membership may be regarded by some as disappointing, in view of the number of workers employed; but taking into account the strength of antagonistic influences and the great care exercised in receiving into the Church only those who give evidence of sound conversion, there is still reason to thank God and take courage.

This year the West China Mission takes permanent place in the work of the Church. The first band of missionaries to that field were appointed in 1891, and consisted of the following persons:—

Rev. V. C. Hart, D.D., and wife.
 " Geo. E. Hartwell, B.A., B.D., and wife.
 O. L. Kilborn, M.D., and wife.
 David Stevenson, M.D., and wife.

The party left Canada in October, 1891, for their distant field, the Province of Ts-Chuen, in Western China. Owing to disturbances in some of the central provinces, they were detained several months at Shanghai, and after leaving that city over three months were consumed in the slow and tedious journey up the Yang-tse River by native boats, before their destination was reached. At the city of Chen-tu, the headquarters of the new mission, the party were kindly received by the people, and were fortunate in securing eligible quarters in which to begin their work. But almost before the missionaries had time to occupy their new homes a sore bereavement came upon one of them. Mrs. Dr. Kilborn was suddenly seized with cholera, and, in spite of every effort to arrest the disease, died after an illness of eighteen hours. Terrible, indeed, was the stroke to the bereaved husband; but with Christian resignation he bowed to the will of Him who doeth all things well, and addressed himself to his work.

It is yet too soon to have reports of work done, but the indications are hopeful, and we have every confidence that when another year has sped its round there will be good news from West China.

CHINESE WORK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The reports of the Chinese work on the Pacific Coast are encouraging, and justify the policy of extending the work steadily but prudently. Victoria, the oldest as well as the strongest mission to the Chinese in British Columbia, has had a year of marked prosperity. The attendance at all the services has been good, though, owing to the migratory character of the Chinese population, much of the work has been as bread cast upon the waters. There is a net increase of fifteen in the membership, gathered in the face of considerable persecution from their countrymen, for the Gospel is still spoken against and hated by many.

At New Westminster comfortable mission premises have been erected during the year, and ten converts have gladdened the heart of the missionary. At Vancouver the regular services have been maintained, while preaching in the streets of the Chinese quarter, and to the Chinese crews of the C. P. R. steamships, has been utilized to extend the work.

THE INDIAN WORK.

In British Columbia there has been a gain of 169 in the membership, which would doubtless have been much larger could a sufficient force have been sent into the field. Educational work among the tribes of the Fraser was interrupted by the burning of the Coqualeetza Home; but steps have been taken, under the joint auspices of the General Missionary Society and the Women's Missionary Society, to erect a much more commodious building, and carry on the work on an enlarged scale. On the Port Simpson District the unsettled habits of the people still constitute the chief hindrance to the work of God. If it were possible to develop home industries, so that the people need not wander off to the distant canneries and hop fields, a difficult problem would be solved. More laborers are needed in this interesting field, but are not easily obtained. The romance of the foreign fields attracts many, and there is danger that the heathen at our doors may be very imperfectly cared for. There is no more inviting field in the world for a true missionary than among these poor Indians of the Pacific Coast; but we have need to pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers. The Girls' Home, established by the Women's Missionary Society, has now the necessary appliances for doing good work. The Boys' Home has done all that could be expected with its limited means. The medical work, under Dr. Bolton, has been of untold advantage to the people; and the completion of a hospital, now in course of erection, will give increased facilities for the work.

In the Manitoba Conference there is an apparent decrease in the Indian membership; but this is accounted for by the absence of returns from some new fields that were formerly outposts of old missions. In other respects the reports are encouraging. The Industrial Institute at Red Deer is approaching completion, and it is hoped will be in effective operation in the near future. In the matter of the buildings at Brandon, there has been long delay. A site was selected more than a year ago, but building operations have not yet commenced. The matter has been pressed upon the attention of the Government, and it is hoped that the delay will soon be ended.

Of the Indian work in the central Conferences, there is little to report. There is no possibility of extension, and all that can be done is to maintain existing missions in as efficient a state as possible.

THE FRENCH WORK.

On the evangelistic side the French work presents no new features. There is a net gain of twenty-four in the membership, and on most of the fields the missionaries are at least holding their own.

The educational work shows signs of vitality and growth. Seventy-two students (thirty-six of each sex) have been in attendance at the Montreal Institute dur-