

attitude of the synagogue towards the latest teachings of such sciences as geology and biology; what the Jew is bound to believe in connection with the doctrine of the Messiah and the idea of the restoration of sacrifice—these are matters about which guidance by competent hands would be heartily welcomed. But the very uncertainty that prevails in respect to such questions, an uncertainty which has ever existed in Judaism, warns us against expecting any agreement about matters of doctrine from an assembly of Jewish divines, however learned and earnest. It is otherwise with practical questions, the discussion of which is better suited to the Jewish intellect, and which press far more urgently for settlement. The necessity of discussing the direction in which Jewish law may safely be modified in obedience to the demands of modern life will be apparent when it is remembered that no authoritative codex of practical Judaism has been compiled for more than three hundred years.—*Jewish Chronicle*.

—The Hebrew New Testament.

One of the most remarkable phenomena in modern literary annals, says the *Old Testament Student*, is the rapid spread of the Hebrew translation of the New Testament by Franz Delitzsch, published by the British and Foreign Bible Society. In less than ten years over 60,000 copies of the work have been disposed of. The greater number have been distributed among the Jews of the Austrian Empire and South Russia. Of late years, starting from Tomsk, it has gone upon its mission to the very eastern borders of Siberia. Within the past year it has started on a westward course also. The emigrant missionaries at Liverpool, and more especially in New York, have found readers among the emigrating Jews for hundreds of copies. Stations have been established at Baltimore and Chicago. The book is also being eagerly taken by people living around the Sea of Tiberias, and in Stockholm it has found many friends.

Syria.—Influence of Mission Colleges. It is gratifying to learn from H. H. Jessup, D.D., of Beirut, Syria, that 46 young men have just completed their course of training in the various educational institutions of that city in connection with our church. Six young men were graduated from the theological seminary, who are spoken of as well-equipped for the work of the ministry. Twelve received their diplomas from the college proper, 6 from the medical college, 1

from the department of pharmacy, and 21 completed the course of instruction in the preparatory department. During the same week the Young Women's Literary Society held its anniversary. A notable feature in this was the presence of a Mohammedan sheikh, who expressed himself as greatly pleased with the society and interested in its success. Dr. Jessup reports that an unusually large number of Mohammedan sheikhs and effendis were present at the college commencement, and that one of the Mohammedan journals on the next day spoke in the highest terms of the occasion, especially commending the spirit and language of the opening prayer, which was offered by the Rev. George A. Ford, because of the petitions which were made in behalf of the Sultan, and of the supplication it contained that the students of the college might be the most faithful subjects of his imperial majesty. The Beirut press continues to be busy in scattering the leaves of the tree of life for the healing of the nations. During the first six months of the current year more than 15,000 copies of the Arabic Scriptures and parts of the Scriptures were issued, a larger number than ever before in any similar period. What is especially noteworthy is that every copy bore the following stamp: "By permission of the Board of Public Instruction of the Ottoman Empire." This can scarcely be construed as less than a seal of approval from those in authority.—*Church at Home and Abroad*.

Turkey.—Hon. Oscar S. Straus, United States Minister to Turkey, reached Washington for the purpose of conferring with Secretary of State Bayard preparatory to returning to his post on September 20th. Just before leaving Constantinople Mr. Straus made an argument before the Turkish authorities in support of an application of the American Bible Society of the Levant for permission to print New Testaments and Biblical tracts in the Turkish language. The privilege had been denied by the Minister of Public Instruction. Word has been received that the desired permission has now been granted by the Porte, and the American Bible Society has already formally expressed its thanks to Minister Straus. The British Bible Society and similar organizations of other countries will unquestionably receive the same courtesy at the hands of the Porte, and Mr. Straus will be entitled to their thanks.

Minister Straus is a Jew, yet here we find him helping two Bible societies to circulate the Old and New Testaments. It will not be forgotten, either, how much we are indebted to him for the reopening of the Christian schools in Syria.

—A London gentleman has offered the Irish Presbyterian Church to pay the salary for three years of a medical missionary, and also the salaries of two native assistants to assist him in his work. The appointment must be to a station not hitherto occupied by a medical missionary.