

was kept busy answering questions. He told us about the *Wesleys*, published in Halifax; the *Greeting*, published at St. John's, Newfoundland; and the *Methodist Recorder*, out at Victoria, B.C.

REPORTER No. 8.

THE BOOK ROOM.

But we had to go downstairs and see the Book Room itself; so bidding the Editors good-bye we descended to the street, and entered the store. How interesting it all was here, with the tables

We were introduced to Dr. Griffin, and felt at home with him at once. "If you hadn't any Superannuation Fund you would have to give a great deal more to missions. I overheard the remark this boy made as you came in," said Dr. Griffin.

"Why should we have to give more?" "Because the Missionary Society does not pay the missionaries enough to enable them to save anything to keep them when they are old, or provide for their widows and orphans, should they die," answered the Doctor.

"Is that what it's for? Why, father

keep Canadians from doing wrong without helping Foreign Missions."

"I don't see how that is," remarked one of the Juniors.

"Non-Christian nations are watching Christian nations, and only believe in Christianity through what they hear and see," explained Dr. Chow.

As we were going to say good-bye to Dr. Chow he introduced us to Dr. Cornish, who had been waiting for him. Dr. Cornish is the General Conference Statistician. Dr. Chow said, as he introduced him, and added, "I suppose you know what that means?"

"No," said several of the Juniors together.

Then Dr. Cornish very kindly explained the big word by saying, "I keep a record of all the Church members and the Epworth Leagues and Sunday Schools; the number of churches and parsonages and colleges, and what they all cost."

"And do you do anything for missions?" asked our Reporter.

"Yes, I keep records of them, too; the Church is all one, and the missions in West, China and Japan are of course a part."

"Is that how you can tell how much money we spend on ourselves and how much we spend on missions?"

"Yes," he explained the statistics in the *Christian Guardian*, and I have put them all in two big books called the *Encyclopedia of Methodism*."

We told Dr. Cornish we were very glad we had met him, and thanked him for his kindness, then said good-bye to both Dr. Chow and Dr. Cornish, and soon found our way to Richmond street again.

We were all delighted with our trip to Wesley Buildings. We learned that the Methodist Church, Canada, is really a missionary Church, and that the boys and girls and men and women who belong to the Church have a share in what the Church is doing in China, Japan and Canada. The men in the printing office, the men who run the presses, the editors who write the papers, the missionary secretaries, our ministers, and all the Sunday School scholars and Epworth



REV. DR. GRIFFIN.



REV. W. B. CREIGHTON, B.A.



REV. DR. CHOW.

and shelves laden with books in attractive bindings. One of the boys, who is a bookworm, said he wished he could read every book in the place, and he had a great deal to tell us about the work.

"Do you sell all the books that Methodists buy?"

"No, we have two other Book Rooms, one in Montreal, in charge of Mr. C. W. Coates, and one in Halifax, in charge of Dr. Heustis."

Now up came that question, "Why do you call this the Book Room?" the boy asked Dr. Briggs.

Dr. Briggs smiled and said, "The people call it that for short, but the real name is the Methodist Book and Publishing House." Dr. Briggs took us upstairs to the printing office, where the men were at the cases setting type; then through to where the great linotypes were at work. The boys were specially interested here, for the operator showed them the molten metal, and then the line of type, cast as it is set. A great many of us got our names made in type. From these machines we went down to see the great presses at work. Dr. Briggs told us that thousands upon thousands of pages of literature are sent through these presses every year—hymn books, Sunday School and Church periodicals and books, and we began to realize what a marvellous power for good the printing press is.

"But you must be very rich," said one little girl to Dr. Briggs. "My father is a printer, and he makes a great deal of money, and his office is not nearly so big as this one."

Dr. Briggs explained that the profits from the Book Room go into the fund for the support of ministers who are too old to preach, and to the widows and children of those who have died. He took us upstairs again, to meet Dr. Griffin, the Secretary of the Superannuation Fund.

REPORTER No. 9.

THE SUPERANNUATION FUND.

We soon found Dr. Griffin's office.

"Now, Reporter No. 9," said our Superintendent to one of our oldest boys, "you are to report about the Superannuation Fund."

"I am glad," said No. 9. "I heard father talking about the Superannuation Fund; he says it hinders the missionary funds, for the more we give to missions the more we must give to the Superannuation Fund."

said the ministers who had big salaries had the Superannuation Fund extra," said No. 9.

Dr. Griffin told us that the ministers who had good salaries help to increase the Superannuation Fund for those who get small salaries. Those who get the largest salaries pay 4 per cent., while those who get the smallest salaries pay only 3 per cent. The churches that give ministers big salaries and the ministers in these churches pay large sums to the Superannuation Fund. All the churches pay in proportion to the amount of money they raise for other things. The fund exists largely in the interest of the great majority of men on mission fields."

"And don't the ministers who pay the most in get the most out?" was the next question Dr. Griffin was asked.

"No, the minister who preaches the greatest number of years gets the most; all who are compelled to superannuate after twenty years, get \$122 a year, and an increase of an average of \$12 or \$13 for each year he has preached over twenty years; so that if a minister had preached fifty years he would receive \$500.00 a year as long as he lived," answered Dr. Griffin.

"And do the widows and orphans receive the same?"

"No, the widows receive only two-thirds and the orphans receive \$20 each a year until they are sixteen years old."

"But don't they need more when they haven't any father?"

"Yes, I am afraid they do."

Our Superintendent thanked Dr. Griffin for us. We never understood anything about the Superannuation Fund before.

REPORTER No. 10.

DR. CHOWN AND DR. CORNISH.

It was almost dinner time when we went up to the top of the building to the Board Room to see Dr. Chow, who had just finished with a committee meeting. He was glad to see us, for he said he was working for girls and boys all the time. Our Superintendent had told us that Dr. Chow's department was a Home Mission work. He tried to prevent gambling, drinking, cigarette smoking, and other bad things in Canada.

We asked him if he did anything for Foreign Missions?

"Yes," said Dr. Chow, "I do a great deal for Foreign Missions, for no one can do anything toward making Canada better or

Leaguers and the Church members really are all workers together for missions."

Our Superintendent made us learn this little verse of poetry by Dr. Van Dyke on our way home:

"Every mason in the quarry, every builder on the shore,
Every woodman in the forest, every boatman at the oar,
Hewing wood and drawing water, splitting stones and clearing sod,
All the dusty ranks of labor in the regiment of God.
March together towards His temple, do the task His hands prepare
Honest toil is holy service; faithful work is praise and prayer."



REV. DR. CORNISH.