

"The work of colportage is extending also both in Scotland, where it has long been vigorously carried on by the Edinburgh Religious Book and Tract Society, and in England by various societies, the chief of which are the Christian Colportage Society, with between sixty and seventy colporteurs, and the Metropolitan Tabernacle Colportage Association, to which twenty-five new colporteurs have recently been added.

"The Committee feel that there is ample room for this work in England and that a great need is supplied when, as they believe is the case, the labors of the colporteurs are wisely directed, and the field chosen for them is such as enables them to reach places and persons who would not, in all probability, find their need of Christian literature supplied through the regular booksellers.

"While, therefore, the Committee adhere to their principle of being producers and not distributors of books, they have felt it right to show their sympathy with these efforts, and to encourage them as far as they can do so consistently with other considerations. They have accordingly adopted the practice, when they learn that new ground is being taken up, of granting a supply of books, to the value of £10, at half subscribers' prices, as the first start for the newly-appointed colporteur, and in all such cases an additional grant of tracts for gratuitous distribution is made. They have also in a few special cases supplied works of a directly religious and devotional character at half-price.

"The assistance thus given has been very gratefully acknowledged by the different societies and individuals interested in this means of spreading the truth through the press, and the Committee are assured that the considerable amount which has been thus granted has been well bestowed in assisting and encouraging a very important missionary agency."

The Secretaries conclude with the following admirable summary remarks :—

"The facts stated in the foregoing pages will be found, your Committee believe, to show that the sphere of the Society's influence continues to widen ; and the openings for the extension of its operations to multiply. They would, in conclusion, remind their friends that every fact which bears witness to the continued usefulness of the Society's work, and to the blessing which rests on the circulation of the truth, is a call to renewed prayerful effort in thankful dependence on Him from whom alone all the blessing has come,—whose is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory.

"The pages of this single report contain ample encouragement to all engaged in this work ; to all who help in it. The fact that, including the issues of the Foreign Societies, nearly 63,000,000 publications have been circulated in every quarter of the globe, either