

time—surely not an empty dream! They think too of German youth who have discovered the emptiness of their Nazi faith, seeking once more to learn from that Book which in years long past was the main foundation of the religious life of Germany. Some lands too, freed from their conquerors, in their task of rebuilding their national life, will find the Word of God to be a most valuable and necessary component, while others, who have been satellite forces allied with the Nazi regime, can start again to build amid the ruins wrought by their own misguided folly, on that Word which has been the source of strength to many fighting for righteousness and freedom. Great tasks will face the people of Great Britain, but within our own borders there will be an urgent demand to restore the waste places in the religious life and to build up the walls of our own Zion. At the present time there is an ever increasing demand for Bibles in Scotland, and prayerfully we wait for times of religious quickening so that those who return from service, many of them with deep longings and high aims and ideals, will find an atmosphere which will bring out the very best in them. They have proved that "man shall not live by bread alone."

#### THE WORK IN THE AUXILIARIES.

ONE of the most encouraging features of the Society's work in these years of War, has been the devoted interest, untiring service, and generous response of many office-bearers, collectors, and contributors. In spite of difficult conditions, many collectors being away on service, etc., the amounts from the Auxiliaries have shown a steady rise since 1939. This year again, returns so far from different areas indicate that their total for last year has been exceeded and it is hoped that this gratifying result may be evident in other quarters also.

In the Eastern Section, it is gratifying that the unsparing efforts of the Eastern Organising Secretary, Rev. Gilbert Earle, combined with the work of the collectors and others, is meeting with such response, while in the West, the labours of Mr. T. W. Crawford are still bearing fruit. The Directors are glad to be able to intimate that Mr. David McGavin, the Society's Secretary in China, has now safely reached Scotland with the members of his family, and his help in the work of the Auxiliaries will be a real asset as he has meantime been asked to take the place vacated by Mr. Crawford. Mr. McGavin will be ready to assist any of the Auxiliaries as far as possible to maintain interest, by deputation visits, etc.

The work of the Glasgow Ladies' Auxiliary, under the Superintendence of Miss E. F. Grant, continues hopefully, in spite of problems which are specially evident in large areas. Many of the collectors who formerly could be depended upon to undertake the work of collecting are now on service, or busy with other work, and anyone who could volunteer for the work of collecting during war-time could be assured that a very useful piece of work was being performed. Some who no longer find it possible to collect have taken a Collecting Box which is displayed in the home, and these when opened contain amounts which add considerably to the total contributions. A box will be provided for anyone who expresses a desire to help in this way.

#### "In battle, as we have been since July, 10th, when we landed in Sicily, THE SOLDIER DOES PRAY, AND LIKES TO HAVE THE BIBLE,

even though he may not always read it."—From a Chaplain's Letter.

IT WILL never be possible to estimate the blessing which has come to many through the reading of the New Testaments provided for those in the Services, but many testimonies have come from Chaplains and others to show that the distribution effected by the Society has made the greatest difference to the lives of many. There is a constant demand for the Word, and one of the most recent requests was from a Senior Chaplain attached to the 51st Division, asking for replacements. In the early days of the War the men of this famous Division had received supplies; in the training camps at home they had been a source of strength to many; in the dark days after the fall of France, the Testaments cheered many a heart; on the beaches at Dunkirk, while patiently waiting to be evacuated, the little books were often seen in the hands of the soldiers. During the fierce struggles in North Africa consignments were continually being sent out, but as the Chaplain points out, some were worn out or lost, and so 10,000 copies were required. It is not an easy request to fulfil, but already the first consignment has left for the Central Mediterranean. We are sure that the prayers of many will follow them.

The hearts of most have been stirred by the accounts of the arrival of the repatriated Prisoners of War.

#### The New Testament in Prison Camp—A Constant Companion.

An interesting illustration of the way in which the Scriptures had been cherished by those in captivity is given in a message received from Rev. Joseph Gray, T.D., M.A., who, at the beginning of hostilities, as Senior Chaplain to the 52nd (Lowland) Division, made certain that the Testaments were well distributed and utilised. A call had just been made by Mr. Gray on a repatriated Prisoner of War:

"He took out of his pocket the Testament which I sent him through your Society, and which he received when he was in hospital in ——. The Testament has been stamped by the German authorities. He has returned with few possessions, but the Testament has been his constant companion. It has been a moving experience to see the little Book again. God bless you and the National Bible Society of Scotland!"

#### In Hospitals in North Africa.

Chaplains attached to Hospitals in North Africa write of the ready acceptance of the Testaments by the men:

"It would have rejoiced your heart if you could have seen the enthusiasm which greeted the news of their arrival . . . It is of course true that several men like to possess a copy of the New Testament as a sort of talisman or lucky charm, but I always seek to impress upon all such that it is not the fact of the Testament in their pocket which counts, but the fact of having the Word of God in their hearts. On the other hand, there are many who in the hour of danger have been brought face to face with eternal verities and who are genuinely seeking a new way of life . . ."

Another writes:

"As I have moved among the two thousand patients I have found them most