

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWSNOTES OF YOUNG PEOPLE'S
SOCIETIES.

Young People's Day will be observed on February 2nd. A beautiful exercise has been prepared for the occasion. Copies have been sent to societies. Ministers who have no societies, but who wish to use the exercise may have as many copies as they require by applying for them.

Three very interesting letters were received by mail one morning about a fortnight ago. One was from a young Convener in an Eastern Presbytery. This is his first year in office and the work is new, but he has the right spirit, and good things may be expected from him soon. There is no Presbyterial Union in his Presbytery, but he says: "I would like to have one as I believe it would give a stimulus to Y. P. work." He promises to bring the matter before the Presbytery at its next meeting.

The second letter was from a Montreal pastor who said: "Our session agreed to devote the evening service on February 2nd to the young people. We will use the order of service you have prepared, and I will be obliged if you will send me three or four hundred copies."

The third letter was from a minister in a Western Ontario town who wrote, "Put me down for 500 or 600 of the Y. P. Day service." In his church the evening service will be devoted to a consideration of the work of young people. If other pastors and sessions would take the same kindly interest in the work among the young people as the two mentioned above we should see such an awakening as we have not witnessed for many a day. Why should not February 2nd—Christian Endeavor Day throughout the world, and Young People's Day in the Presbyterial Church in Canada—mark an epoch in the development of our work, and in the intensifying of a missionary interest among the young?

The Assembly's Committee would like to see a Presbyterial Union in each of the sixty presbyteries of our Church. Then the work in the Presbytery could be centralized upon some of our own mission schemes, and not, as is too often the case, dissipated on objects which have no connection with our Church. The workers, too, would have an opportunity of meeting in annual conference to discuss general questions, and also the special problems which arise out of local conditions.

Rev. W. A. McTaggart, the energetic Convener in Toronto Presbytery, is planning a series of conferences at different points within the bounds of presbytery. Rev. H. Young, Convener in Lanark and Renfrew Presbytery, in conjunction with Rev. W. W. Peck, has arranged for a series of institutes on the work of Sabbath schools and Y. P. Societies to be held at Perth, Jan. 20th; Carleton Place, Jan. 21st; Arnprior, Jan. 22nd, and Pembroke, Jan. 24th. The system of holding district institutes has been followed in Kingston Presbytery for the past two years, and the scheme has produced good results. More workers have been enlisted and a widespread interest has been awakened.

W. S. MacTAVISH,
Convener of Com.

Kingston, Ont.

MISSIONARY RESPONSIBILITY.

We are permitted to reproduce the following references to the mission schemes of the Presbyterian church in Canada, from the session report of Stewarston congregation, presented to the annual meeting held on the 15th inst.

The contributions to the mission schemes of the church show a fair increase over that of the previous year, but by no means up to what might be expected from a congregation that can boast of a membership of nearly 600. If our people will take the trouble to study the exhibits made by individual congregations in other places, they will have no difficulty in appreciating the fact that those congregations which contribute most largely to missions are those which have the least difficulty in providing money to sustain their temporalities. The state of our finances is so satisfactory and the financial outlook is so encouraging that we should have no hesitation in deciding to make a large increase in our mission contributions during the current year. This is a line along which we very much need to "go forward," for the live churches of today are those which measure up to the duty and privilege of sending the Gospel message to those who are dwelling in the regions and shadow of moral and spiritual darknes.

"Tell it out among the heathen Jesus reigns above!
Tell it out among the nations that His reign is love!
Tell it out among the highways and the lanes at home;
Let it ring across the mountains and the ocean foam;
Like the sound of many waters let our glad shout be,
Till it echoes and re-echoes from the islands of the sea."

In looking forward to the work of the year on which we have entered, there are five salient points to which we should give attention:

1—That as a congregation we have undergone substantial development and enjoyed great prosperity.

2—That the possession of a new and well equipped church building improves our opportunities for work and increases our responsibilities as Christian men and women.

3—That there is a growing pressure in the home fields for earnest and active Christian work, while the Macedonian cry "Come over and help us" is sounding out from every part of the heathen world.

4—That in the spheres of industry and commerce our country and her people have prospered very abundantly during the past ten or twelve years.

5—The Lord, in answer to the prayers of his people, has opened wide the doors of the heathen and un-Gospelled world, and has placed within the reach of his praying people the means by which they may enter the fields already white to the harvest and gather precious souls into the kingdom to be jewels in the crown of our blessed Redeemer.

All this is a call to service which we cannot misunderstand, and which we cannot ignore, if we would be faithful to him who loved us and gave himself for us. What shall our response be?

"THE EMPIRE OF CHRIST."

By Rev. F. H. Russell, M.A.

In this timely book Mr. Lucas calls attention to the need for a re-statement of the missionary appeal from the modern view-point. The change in the attitude of the Church, and in many of its religious conceptions, with our increasing knowledge of the Eastern world and its conditions, calls for a change in plan and method of work in the foreign field. The author has had some years' experience of work in India, and discusses the problem in its bearing on the evangelization of that country. He emphasizes the supreme necessity of giving large place to what he calls the "India religious climate." The essential difference of atmosphere, of mental attitude, and religious outlook, that characterise the Hindu. Without a full recognition of this, we cannot hope to make Christianity an indigenous religion in India. To do successful work the missionary must assume a sympathetic attitude, and be prepared to accept the truth he finds in the Hindu religion. Christianity must be stated in terms that will appeal to the Eastern mind, and should aim, not at the imposition of an alien creed, but at bringing all that is vital in the religious thought of India into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Regard must be had to the essential difference between Christianity and our Christian theology. The former India needs, the latter it cannot assimilate. It is the Church's duty to give India a deeper religious life—not what she may deem correct religious ideas.

In connection with the problems which the work in India gives rise to, the author deals with the questions of baptism and caste. He contends that the emphasis which these have received is altogether out of proportion to their intrinsic merits. The Hindu should not be made to feel, as he undoubtedly does feel, that baptism is the goal of missionary effort, and that breaking of caste is fundamental to acceptance of Christianity. The latter may well be left to the Indian Church to regulate and ultimately abolish, as was the problem of slavery to the primitive church.

The views set forth by Mr. Lucas can hardly hope to meet with universal acceptance. His characterization of the Hindu mental attitude might be called in question by the Hindu who has come under Western influences, and it may be doubted if the Home Church is prepared to take in every particular the attitude he suggests. But the book presents much food for thought and calls very necessary attention, to many matters in the present plan and methods of the missionary propaganda that need remedying. It may be cordially commended to Mission Boards for its excellent suggestions as to the preparation of men for the work in India and the sort of work that should be expected of them when sent there. It gives a most stimulating and inspiring conception of the whole missionary enterprise as the building up and consolidating of the Empire of Christ, and should, for this reason alone, be in the hands of all who have His great work at heart.

* The Empire of Christ, The MacMillan Company of Canada, Toronto. Price 75 cents.