

38,000 are reported as Christians, not a few of who have become such through the influence of teachers and fellow-students. Of the 38,000, 27,000 are members of College Y. M. C. A.'s, 20,000 of

these being active members. The remainder opens a large and fruitful field for prayer and Christian effort.

S. R. BROWN.

## A MISSIONARY RETROSPECT.

By Rev. J. W. Saunby, B.A.

It seems to me I was born with a love for missions, the heritage of a godly ancestry. Among the memories of my childhood many of the brightest are associated with missionary literature and missionary anniversaries. The Indian missionaries from the Red River country of those days were my ideal heroes, in whom blended all the qualities of soldier and of saint. The old library at home was full of the missionary idea, but not so full as the consecrated hearts from whom, as from an open page, I learned life's choicest lessons.

With my second birth came the distinct command to go forth and tell the good news, the ultimate fulfilment of which was reached when I found myself in the regions beyond.

Early in the fall of 1886 I landed in Japan, fresh from college, with the usual emphasis upon the fresh. Of course, I came with my preconceived notions; even the emptiest head has a full stock of these, and very often in direct ratio to the emptiness. Very naturally, therefore, the unexpected happened. Instead of hardship I found comfort; instead of isolation, plenty of companionship, and that of the best; instead of stagnation, keen mental stimulus; instead of hatred and opposition on the part of the Japanese, welcome and blessed opportunities for work.

The difficulties, therefore, came from an unexpected source. Always exceedingly healthy I anticipated no trouble from what quarter. And yet the climatic change resulted almost immediately in the lowering of the vital force, followed quickly by failing vision, oft-recurring sick headaches, nervous debility, and, last of all, by a "Japanese head," which is indeed worse than useless.

Illness was an almost constant experi-

ence in our home, until we wondered if ever we would be well again. And this, of course, had an important bearing upon the continuance of our missionary work. When I went forth it was with no other thought than of making it my life work, and yet even here the unthought of has happened, and I find myself in the pastorate at home, glad and thankful, however, that I am no less a missionary in heart, but more. Never have I read as much missionary literature as I have this year, and never did my heart burn with zeal for that sacred cause as it does to-day. The Guiding Eye that led me out has led me home again, but I hold myself in constant readiness to go again when the call comes.

Another most unexpected phase also very quickly came to light. I expected to find nothing but the most loving harmony among the missionaries, and spiritual conditions that would be heavenly, but to my surprise, I found antagonisms and heart-burnings, and too soon was made acquainted with the fact that this condition of things was of years standing. But pray, do not misunderstand me! This is not confined to any one mission. I cannot say it is absolutely universal, but, as far as my knowledge goes, it is nearly so. If it is asked what is the prime factor in the cause of this, I would point back to the strife in the disciple band of our Lord as to which should be greatest. Ambition is innate in the heart of the best of us, but there is no room for it in the mission field except as sanctified to the actual work of soul-winning. That it is there, however, and is a perpetual source of trouble, is beyond question.

Nor do I wish to be misunderstood on another point. I believe the missionaries