

University. Our schools number about 190, with an enrollment of about 2,500 scholars.

The press work! Who can follow its influence? Over 25,000,000 pages were printed and sent out from our presses last year. We print in four languages, Chinese, English, Miao and Tibetan. The printed Gospel is doing a wonderful work and our presses are used by many societies.

The evangelistic work includes Church and Sunday-school work, Bible and tract selling, street preaching and visiting the tea shops, holding summer schools for Bible study, training workers, and personal work everywhere and always.

We have the distinction of having sent out the first missionary dentists—Doctor Lindsay and Doctor Throughton. Through the work of the dental department many of the wealthy class, hitherto inaccessible, are being reached.

China's political upheaval in 1911 abolished the Manchu dynasty, established the Chinese as rulers, introduced, in name at least, a republican form of government, and aroused in millions of her people a spirit of patriotism. During this revolution, the foreigners were protected by the rulers, but many were in danger from bands of robbers and from local disturbances. During the revolution our new hospital building in Chengtu was in very truth a house of refuge until conditions were quiet enough for the foreigners to proceed safely to the coast, where many remained for a few months. At the end of a year the work was again carried on in all departments.

Never before in the history of our Mission has the outlook been so bright as it is now. Our missionaries are asking for more workers, more prayer, and that we in the homeland keep informed regarding the wonderful opportunities which we have to-day in Szechwan. When war was declared, the Mission Board sent a cable to West China, stopping all building operations. This does not mean that the work will not go on, but that the Mission Board recognizes that these are stressful times and that it would not be wise to build while the income for the present year is not yet assured. More money is needed and we have faith to believe that our Epworth Leaguers will respond.

China's greatest revolution was not that of 1911, when she wrote Republic, instead of Empire, but it was in 1907, when with one stroke the Empress Dowager abolished the old educational system and decreed the introduction of a modern school system, modeled after that of Christian lands. With the introduction of the "new learning" came many changes. China set her face towards the light.

Szechwan to-day is not the Szechwan of twenty years ago, or of even ten years ago. Then the land was gay with the gorgeous colors of the opium poppy; now it is nowhere to be seen; opium has been abolished. Then beggars were everywhere; now an industrial home makes begging impossible. Evidence of reform is everywhere; the field-day sports of the government schools, the government university with qualified foreign teachers, the associations for abolishing foot-binding, the beginning of the study of medicine, and the acceptance of the services of missionaries, are hopeful signs that China is in earnest in seeking the best for her people.

"The Present, the Present is all thou hast

For thy sure possessing;

Like the patriarch's angel hold it fast
Till it gives its blessing."

—Whittier.

JUNIOR TOPICS

JAN. 17.—THE CALL OF SAMUEL. 1 Sam. 3.

We have learned how the Israelites came into the land of Canaan, and now we will learn some things which happened to them there. The tabernacle was placed at Shiloh, where a great many people came every year to worship God. Among the people who came was a woman whose name was Hannah, and who had a little son called Samuel. When Samuel was three or four years old she took him up to Shiloh with her, and left him with the good old high priest Eli. She wanted Eli to teach Samuel and to have charge of him till he grew up, so that he would be a good man. Samuel lived with Eli and helped him with his work in the tabernacle. As he grew older he pleased God more and more, and a great many people loved him. Eli had two sons of his own who were grown up, but they were not good men and did not want to please God as Samuel did. Eli was wicked himself, but he did not punish his wicked sons, which was very wrong of him.

A few introductory facts such as the above, should be told the Junior class, which is found in 1 Samuel 3. Two or three outstanding points should be impressed on the minds of the boys and girls. The following are suggested:

1. Samuel was quick to answer when the Voice called. He thought it was Eli calling him and went at once to see what he wanted. Some boys and girls do so what as Samuel did. Instead of saying, "Here am I," they say, "wait a minute," or "after a while," and then forget all about being wanted.

2. Samuel loved and respected the old man Eli and did not like to tell him that God was displeased with him, because he knew it would make Eli sad. We should always be kind and respectful to old people and never laugh at them as some boys and girls are apt to do.

3. God trusted Samuel with this important message for Eli because He knew Samuel would tell him in the right way. If Samuel had been a disrespectful, thoughtless boy, God would not have called him. He likes boys He can depend upon, and if we show ourselves willing and ready when we are young, He will trust us with bigger things as we grow older.

4. Samuel started for God when a very little boy to work for God. How much better than waiting till he grew up.—H. M. B.

JAN. 24.—OPIUM SLAVES. John 8: 31-36.

The Indian Government derives a revenue of four million pounds a year from the sale to China, of about eight tons of opium a week, and it is estimated that China produces ten times as much opium as she imports from India. These facts reveal the greatness of the problem that confronts those who feel that the curse should be removed. What is opium? It is the dried juice of the capsules of the poppy, and when used as a medicine produces stupor or sleep and alleviates pain. When used in excess it causes death. The Chinese use opium for smoking in long pipes, and it has a very bad effect upon the system and moral character of those who indulge in this terrible habit.

On May 30th, 1906, the following resolution was adopted in the British House of Commons: "That this House affirms its conviction that the Indo-Chinese opium trade is morally indefensible, and re-

quests His Majesty's Government to take such steps as may be necessary for bringing it to a speedy close."

In Foochow a few years ago a remarkable public meeting was held by the gentry of the city to urge all who care for Chinese well-being to join in efforts to free their country from the thrall of this deadly drug. One can hardly realize the devastation that has been wrought by the opium smoking. In a little more than half a century since the introduction of its use in China, it is conceded to be one of the greatest evils of that land. One of England's statesmen, Mr. Morley, said, "England will forego her revenue if China really wishes to lessen the importation of opium from India."

The Chinese are determined to prevent, if possible, the rising generation from becoming addicted to the opium habit, to which so many men and women have already been slaves, with ruined constitutions and vitiated moral character. In land devoted to poppy cultivation has been cut down. Users of the drug are being excluded from military and civil offices.

Science, education and law strong in force are being used to eradicate the dreadful evil.

If our Junior Superintendents have not read and studied the story, "From Opium Fiend to Preacher," written by one of our own missionaries, Rev. A. P. Quirmbach, get it at once from the Forward Movement Office. Rev. Dr. Burwash has said of it: "This simple story of the grace of God in the life of Cheng will create not only faith in the work of our missions in China, but faith in the Gospel everywhere."

There is a little leaflet obtainable from three cents from the W. M. S., Room 20, Wesley Buildings, entitled "Life from the Dead," in which Dr. Anna Henry, of Chengtu, tells the story of a woman who, suffering from the pangs of the opium disease, received medical care, as well as a spiritual uplift, in the hospital. Like the leper of old she returned later to express her appreciation of the loving ministry which effected a cure in her case.

"Only as they are fortified by the strength which God alone supplies can we hope to see them stand. For these poor, suffering, weak and struggling ones we ask for many prayers."—C. G. W.

JAN 31.—SAMUEL THE WISE JUDGE. 1 Sam. 12: 1-5.

When Samuel grew to be a man he was called a Judge. The people had no king except God, but God would speak to Samuel and tell him what He wanted the people to do, and Samuel would tell the people. The Israelites ought to have been very glad that God was their king, for no other king could be so good, so great as God. When Samuel was a very wise judge, because he listened to God and did just as He told him. If the people were wicked, Samuel would punish them, because God told him to. But the people grew tired of having God for their king. They wanted a king they could see, and one that could fight battles with them. They came to Samuel and said, "Give us a king." Samuel was very sorry they were so dissatisfied, but he went and prayed to God about it, and God said that if they wanted a king they could have one. He was sorry, though, to think the people had rejected Him, and told Samuel to tell them that