

taken the form of permanent foundations for scholarships. A thousand dollars invested gives the support of a man and his wife. A few endowments of \$500 for single students have been given. At present the Board of Trustees are calling for a few thousand dollars to build additional dormitories, and \$40,000 to enlarge the endowment to meet urgent present need. In no place can a suitably endowed theological seminary accomplish more than in this great mission field.

Gospel Work in Siam.

BY J. E. BUDGETT MEAKIN.

"I believe there is no country more open to unrestrained missionary effort than Siam, but I believe that there can hardly be a country in which it is harder to make an impression."

Such was the summary by one of the workers in Bangkok of what he had been telling me about the special features of the task before him. Complete religious liberty is guaranteed by government, and missionaries can with little difficulty settle wherever they will, while traveling is free to all, and the treatment that well-behaved foreigners receive at the hands of the natives leaves nothing to be desired. The real difficulty is to make an impression on the lethargic minds of the people, whose impassive inactivity is never more marked than in connection with religion. None but those who have tried it know what it means to address a crowd or a succession of individuals without an objection being raised, but without the least signs of an impression having been made. "It is like bombarding an earthwork," said one of the missionaries; "one's shots are buried, and nothing is seen. It would be a relief even if one hearer 'got mad' about it. There is a point to which the Siamese will yield, as if they would do so to any extent, but when you get to the important moment of all you find a

dead wall. One is almost afraid of men becoming nominal Christians when hard put to to avoid the trouble of arguing it out."

The best material is the Siam-Chinese race, which has sprung up as a result of the abundant immigration of Chinamen who marry native wives. These, whose devotion to ancestral worship and other forms of Chinese superstition has been naturally weakened, still retain much of the Chinese energy and grit, and what work has been done among them has afforded the best results. The Japanese have been compared to plastic clay which can be molded; the Siamese to sand, which lacks in itself the cohesion necessary for the sculptor, and the Chinese to granite, which withstands all tools but the best, but which lasts forever. For many years the American Baptists carried on an intermittent and desultory work among the Chinese in Bangkok, forming also several outlying stations, and altho they seem now to have abandoned the field, the native converts are going ahead themselves; but until the Baptists formally renounce operations here, tho they have no representative on the spot, others hesitate to enter the open door. They need at least a dozen workers in Siam, and the cause is losing ground as long as they hold back. The Roman Catholics have extensive missions here, and it is from among the Chinese that most of their converts are drawn, but while the Baptists are nominally at work among them, the American Presbyterian Mission, the only other society engaged here, has a most commendable hesitation to take up this important branch. The Chinese in Siam are not a mere handful; the whole country is saturated with them, and in their hands is almost all the trade and commerce but that with Europe.

What Siam owes to the missionaries already it would be difficult to state. Half a century ago she was one of the most backward of Asiatic countries, ruled despotically, and unbenefited by