

realize what a mass of machinery is required to keep the whole system in motion, so that each part shall receive its due share and no more, and that nothing really needful may be passed by.

There are various ways of meeting the difficulty. Special appeals, definite and sharply marked arrangements covering the whole year, in accordance with which each Sunday has its special contribution.

Of course no rule can be laid down. What will work well in one place will fail in another. Every community should carefully consider its own peculiarities and possibilities, and when a plan is fairly laid down it should be followed; not blindly, as if the church had done all its thinking for the year, but intelligently, and with such freedom as will allow a little change. It has been estimated that the total amount given in the United States toward mission work, in its various forms of foreign, home, and city, averages $57\frac{1}{2}$ cents to each church member per year. The full significance of this is materially lessened by the fact well known in every community that a large portion of the gifts for such purposes come from those who are not church members, but regular attendants on church services. Statistics of this are, of course, incomplete, but it would not be surprising if it should be found that the average to each actual communicant would be considerably less. The point of the statement, however, remains the same. Whether it be a trifle more or less, it is a very small sum, and would be recognized

as such by every one. It means, of course, that there are multitudes who never give anything. The wealth of the country increased from \$7,000,000,000 in 1850 to \$16,000,000,000 in 1860; \$30,000,000,000 in 1870 and \$43,000,000,000 in 1880. Following the same ratio there cannot be less than \$55,000,000,000 now. If it is estimated, as Dr. Dorchester does, that the evangelical Christians number one-fifth of the population, and hold one-fifth of the wealth—it is probable that their proportion would be greater, between one-fourth and one-third—then we should have not less than \$11,000,000,000 in the hands of the Christian men and women of the United States, bringing in an income, say at an average of three per cent., of \$330,000,000. The amount raised for foreign missions is about \$4,000,000, and the total of funds contributed to foreign, home and city evangelization is probably not over \$10,000,000, one-thirty-third of the income of Christian people. To this amount should be added the sum expended for church work. With regard to this no reliable statistics are at hand. There is, however, a very large margin ere the gospel tenth be reached. American Christians are not niggardly, neither are they extravagant. They are realizing more than ever that wealth is a trust to be used for the Master, but they need to know and to feel that "giving is, or may be, an act of worship," just as much as the bowing the head in prayer or lifting up the voice in song, and it rests with the pulpit to make this clear and keep it clear.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Christian Socialism.

FOR some time we have had lying before us a copy of *The Dawn*, a new paper published in Boston, in the interest of Christian Socialism. We have read it carefully; thought over it earnestly. With much that it says

we heartily agree. It recognizes a great need of life, and seeks to meet that need with the only thing that can satisfy it, the religion of Christ. In the first column it presents the different ways in which it sees light, and in which it hopes to solve the