

by women; 40,513 zenanas are open to the worker. Medical work in zenanas is especially needed. The woman physician is regarded as their only deliverer in many wealthy homes. Everywhere she is the opener of doors and the healer of souls oftentimes, as well as of sick bodies. Medical work in hospitals, dispensaries and zenanas is becoming more freely recognized as a powerful ally of missionary effort. Said an educated Hindu, "What we really fear is your Christian women, and we are afraid of your medical missions; for by your Christian women you win our wives, and by your medical missions you win our hearts, and when that is done, what is there for us but to do as you say?"

A very important branch of missionary effort is that of the rise of *Christian literature*. About 1,000,000 a year leave school, and of that number 925,000 are totally ignorant of Christian truth. Evidently there is ample reason for pushing the work of publishing and distributing Christian literature. A good book is a cheap but very effective missionary. Part or all of the Scriptures are published in at least forty-three of the languages and dialects of India proper. Christian literature is being largely prepared by various organizations.

From this rapid survey of this great field we see that India is not a hopeless field nor especially discouraging, that the missionary force is far from adequate, and that there is room for many workers of varied capabilities, preachers, teachers, physicians (male and female), persons of literary talent, mechanics, and, in general, persons with strong love to Christ and the Christless.

May our interest in this part of the Master's vineyard increase.

C. W. SERVICE.

Africa.

WESLEYAN MISSIONS IN AFRICA.

IN connection with an anniversary of the Wesleyan Missionary Society at Durban, reported in the *Natal Mercury*, a report was read by the Rev. W. F. Evans which gave some interesting facts relative to their work. The society, it said, was the largest missionary agency in South Africa, and the returns made by the government of the Old Colony showed a small fraction less than one-half of the whole natives returned. In Natal they had also some very large and prosperous mission stations. They had 562 churches in South Africa, and 1,611 preaching places, making a total of over 2,000 places where regular Methodist services were conducted. To conduct this work they had 196 ministers, 138 evangelists, and over 2,000 local preachers, besides which there were readers and Sunday School teachers. They might say that with the 41,000 members associated with them there were in attendance an approximate number of 164,000 adherents. This organization was maintained by the circuits contributing to its support. Toward the funds of the society there was raised last year in South Africa over £5,500—an increase on the previous year of £470. From England there was received £6,100, so that in all the income to the funds of the society amounted to over £12,000. The sustentation, however, left them with a deficit of £210.

Two mighty forces are now striving in Africa for the mastery—Mohammedanism at the north and fetishism at the south. Christianity in that continent has but few soldiers. It is computed that they number but 700,000 counting the members of the Abyssinian Church. If scattered over the land it is computed that they would equal eighteen to

France, ten to Great Britain, four to England, and one to Massachusetts and Connecticut. The Mohammedans number about 50,000,000. Many of the Christians are European colonists, chiefly English and Dutch. About 40,000 have been rescued from barbarism by Christian teachers.

AFRICA'S PRICELESS JEWEL FOR THE KING.

PRESIDENT HOWARD, of Shaingay, put in a recent letter a little note, which had in it so much of tender pathos that we venture to reproduce it here. He says: "At this last moment I must add a word about William Shuey, the boy that died. He was a student in our school. This morning his mother came to see us. Her grief made us all weep. No American mother could feel the loss of her child more keenly. She lay down on the floor, while Mrs. Howard and I sat down beside her. We talked of the many mansions awaiting us all. She said that when Shuey was dying, he said the Lord came and spoke, saying, 'Shuey, this is to be a great day for you.' He also said that the Father held his hand. Then he sang a song with a man who was there, who was once a mission boy. We do not know yet what that was, though we can find out. It brings us more comfort than any of the things of earth to know that our little boy went home to Jesus. We will work on. This is pay, this is success. This boy's parents and all his relatives are Mohammedans. He might have died with no better hope, but he did not. So the Father shows His love in the darkness as well as in the sunshine. All the way along it is Jesus." This expressive note reveals one of the rare joys that come to the missionary. It is a great privilege to be the means of giving the Gospel of Christ, with all its hope and assurance, to one who without this missionary effort would have had no knowledge of the life eternal.

ON A GOLD BASIS.

AFRICA is more than a romance, it is a reality. It has a future as great as our own continent, perhaps greater. What wonderful advances have already been made in less than two decades! Already the rival of the United States in gold production, Africa is soon to surpass her. From the Witwatersrand District of South Africa alone the output for June was valued at \$4,000,000. For the first half-year it was \$22,200,000, an increase of \$3,400,000. If this rate of increase keeps up, the total production for this region will be about \$50,000,000, an amount that is almost as large as the whole United States has ever yet produced in any one year, which is about \$65,000,000.

If Africa is thus filling the depleted gold coffers of the world, shall not Christendom unite in sending back a portion of it translated into the message of eternal life? Yet these gold-seeking communities have carried the vices of civilization among the poor natives. Too often these representatives of Christian lands debauch the people instead of uplifting them. However, the English missionary societies have hundreds of consecrated and able missionaries who have followed the great tide of emigration from England to the East Coast. They are doing effective work. Hundreds of churches have been built, some of them elegant and costly. Many lost men have been won to Christ. The work is spreading out among the surrounding native tribes. Many natives who come from the interior to work in the mines return to carry some light to their people who sit in darkness.