

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

THE JEWISH MISSION, TORONTO.

Nearly two years ago a committee of gentlemen appointed by our General Assembly started a mission to the Jews in Canada, by renting a hall and rooms at 154 Terauley street, Toronto, and securing as superintendent, the Rev. S. B. Rohold, who was at that time in charge of the Bonar Memorial Mission, Glasgow. Three ladies were appointed as missionaries, one of whom had been laboring for a number of years as a Bible woman amongst the Jewish women and children, later a trained nurse was added to the staff, then two male assistants.

At the very beginning a prayer union was started, which meets on the third Thursday in each month in the mission hall. This winter the interest of these meetings has been considerably enhanced by a series of short addresses by our superintendent on "What is Judaism?" They have helped us to understand the mental make-up of those whom we are striving to win. For fully a year the workers have recognized the fact that a great awakening has been going on amongst the Jewish people in various parts of the world; but in Toronto only the men seemed to be touched, and the awful atmosphere of utter indifference when we spoke to the women of spiritual things was most depressing. But a change has come, answers to prayer are being received. At the meeting of our union this month one of the lady missionaries rose and offered thanksgiving to God for the work of the spirit amongst the women, six having confessed Christ during the last three months.

Other departments of our work are—reading rooms for men and women, the former familiarly known as "The Cave of Adullam," attracting not only men who wish to read but all who are in trouble of any kind, who come to the superintendent and have their difficulties relieved; the latter is not so well patronized as the mothers have their home duties and don't care for reading, and the business women are too tired in the evenings, and only a few are interested in educational matters. But Saturday and Sabbath evenings this room is filled with the children and bigger girls clamorous for books and magazines.

Then we have night school for men and women, five evenings in the week for the teaching of English, after which is a gospel service in Yiddish.

We have doctors, a nurse, a chemist and a free dispensary for men and women four afternoons in the week, when we have a song service and an address in Yiddish pointing the patients to the physician of souls.

Wednesday afternoon the mission fairly hums with activity. In a room on the ground floor the mothers meet for their sewing class. Garments have been previously cut out which they are shown how to put together and when finished are given to them. Two of the lady missionaries who are in charge talk to them, sympathize with and teach them how to sew. After an hour and a half of work, a short service is held, their little ones who have been in the nursery upstairs are brought down, when a cup of tea and cake are served to all, and the mothers go home with the comfortable feeling that in the missionaries they have true friends.

In the nursery upstairs two ladies with big mother hearts and unbounded patience, not only care for and amuse from twenty to thirty little ones under five years of age, but develop their characters. A child who comes for the first time and throws himself down screaming in a fit of ill temper because the mother has left him, very quickly learns by being ignored and

neglected that such conduct is very naughty, and as no child can bear to be "left out in the cold," in the midst of a roomful, it will not repeat the offence; or the child who at first cries to take home the doll or toy it has been playing with and is firmly refused, on the very next week, with a smiling face, will give it to the teacher when the hour for closing has come.

In the adjoining two small rooms two students from the Ewart Home wrestle with the problem how to utilize in such cramped quarters, the surplus energy of from 12 to 18 boys, said energy flowing not in a peaceful stream but rather in a turbulent torrent. But these ladies doubtless comfort themselves with the thought that great men were usually very troublesome boys and with these boys the prophecy of greatness is very real.

In the hall by far the most numerous company assembles, between 50 and 60 school girls are arranged in classes with a self-sacrificing lady over each class, who teaches them plain sewing. All are under the superintendence of two of our most enthusiastic volunteer workers. The one provides, prepares and directs the sewing and brings a treat of some home-made cake each week, the other takes charge of the service and being endowed with a wonderful talent for the use of chalk, she generally gives the address herself, making some Old Testament story just live on the blackboard. Several times during the year a member of the W. C. T. U. has given an illustrated talk on the evils of intemperance, and on more than one occasion students from the Ewart Home have given most interesting addresses. The boys are present during this service and all the children led by one of the ladies with the piano, join most heartily in the singing of some motion songs, or "Oh Beulah Land," or other beautiful gospel hymns. Then all are seated around tables and given a cup of tea and cake, thus ending a most profitable afternoon.

The number attending our Sabbath School has greatly increased this winter and for the first time we have a class of boys over 13 years of age. The largest class in the school is composed of the infants and is taught by our nurse, a real lover of the little ones. The next largest is the girls' Bible class, where girls ranging in age from 11 to 16 are led in the study of the word by one of our most consecrated missionaries. The secretary of the school is also the pianist and has had splendid success in drilling the children in singing gospel hymns. Divinity students as well as lady volunteers are doing good service, not only in their classes but in taking the weekly blackboard review.

While the Sabbath School is meeting in the hall, the Bible class for men assembles in the reading room and are studying Isaiah from Hebrew Bibles. It is a wonderful class because of its personnel. A few are baptized Christians, others are secret believers, as a public confession would mean the breaking up of their homes and they are waiting until their wives are willing; others are anxiously inquiring whether these things are so. At their Christian social some thirteen ministers assembled on the platform while over 200 men were in the benches and the look of intense interest in their faces as they listened to the addresses showed how vital a matter Christianity is to them. It was a grand sight. Visiting in the homes of these men we have found many interesting circumstances. In one the wife had been a secret believer for 4 years, her husband was bitterly opposed to Christianity but is now attending the meetings and she hopes soon that they

both will be baptized. In another the husband is a believer but will not be baptized because his wife would leave him. He offered to hire a woman to take care of their baby, and bring his wife to the mission if we would teach her English. He has been talking to her for some time of Jesus and her prejudices are giving way. In still another home the husband has been an earnest believer for over a year, but his wife has many relatives in the city, orthodox Jews, and she would not listen, lately however, she has given in in a number of points and consented to have the missionaries visit her.

The hospital visitation has also been greatly blessed. We have only space for one illustration. A Jewess who for many months had been a patient, first in a large hospital, now in a small one, has been visited week by week by all the lady missionaries in their turn, but when spoken to of eternal things she would stiffen up and refuse to talk. Last month she accepted Christ as her Savior, and lo, such a change in her countenance! The face that was so drawn and lined with pain and discontent now fairly beams with peace and happiness.

So the work goes on. The Master is culling out His Church from the world, from Jews and Gentiles and He has chosen to use the prayers of His followers as a prime instrument in the work. Therefore we appeal to all friends of Israel to uphold the hands of the missionaries by their prayers, thus be that goeth to the battlefield and he that besieges the throne of grace may rejoice together over many souls won for the Master.

THE R.C. CHURCH AND THE
SABBATH.

One of the most serious evils of our day is the desecration of the Sabbath, with which many other forms of wrongdoing are closely allied. For its rapid increase in later years the influence of the Roman Church is largely responsible, and in an address delivered in Brooklyn, N.Y., last month, the Rev. John F. Nash, priest of the church of the Sacred Heart, spoke of the position of Rome in this matter. As reported in the New York Herald, December 17, 1909, he denounced the Puritans, whom he characterized as "a band of lunatics" for enacting so-called fanatical laws to govern Sundays; he asserted his belief that baseball, cards, and other amusements are perfectly permissible and that regulated liquor selling on Sundays is not to be condemned. He also said: "Football, baseball, boxing, rowing, swimming, chess, checkers, dominoes and cards are all recreations and all justified.—The Converted Catholic Magazine.

What our contemporary says may be true of the United States; but in many parts of Canada, especially in the diocese of Montreal, the Roman Catholic church is outspoken in its condemnation of Sabbath desecration, as it is of intemperance and the "bar" traffic. In a marked degree this is true of the attitude of Archbishop Bruchesi to both questions.—Ed. Dominion Presbyterian.

Mrs. Robert Brodie and little daughter, Jean, of Montreal, are the guests of Mrs. (Rev.) J. B. MacLeod, at the manse, Martintown.

The Qu'Appelle Presbytery has nominated Rev. Dr. McLeod, of Barrie, for the moderator's chair in next General Assembly.

It has been the greatest error of Christendom to make the work of evangelization the perquisite of a class.—Dr. James Stalker.