

Missionary News.

During the summer of 1910 a party of Americans will cruise in the Mediterranean to visit American colleges, missions and hospitals in the Near East. They will use the handsome steam yacht "Athena" to visit Macedonia, Turkey, Asia Minor and Syria. Conferences with missionaries are arranged in Constantinople, Smyrna, Beirut and Cairo in Egypt. The party will have sufficient leisure to enjoy the art of Greece, the inspiration of the Holy Land and the Egyptian temples up the Nile. Professor Harlan P. Beach, of Yale, will lead the missionary thought of the whole trip. Before the Missionary Cruise, the group will attend the Edinburgh Conference and the Passion Play at Oberammergau. The itinerary and programme has been planned by a large committee of missionary board secretaries. Membership is by private invitation, which can be arranged through the foreign boards. Mr. Von Ogden Vogt, Trinity Place, Boston, has general charge of the total programme.

It is a long list of evils that follows in the train of opium manufacture and trade. It is a matter for congratulation to the Government of the United States that they have absolutely prohibited the traffic in opium in the Philippine Islands, have made its use in any form a crime, and the possession of it by any person a crime. Would that the British Government would place itself on record in the same way for the abolition of this source of evil.

The Y.M.C.A. has recently opened a branch in Cairo, Egypt. The rules and regulations will be much the same as the Central Y.M.C.A. and the usual activities will be carried on.

The Chinese are beginning to grasp the importance of Home Missions, and the Chinese Congregationalists at San Francisco have in operation at Kirantung Province a flourishing Mission work, with six workers and five schools. This is a move in the right direction and a development of which we hope we shall see more and more.

The plans are maturing for a Christian university in China. The existing schools of higher learning are overcrowded and have a strongly materialistic bias, and so there seems to be a wide opportunity for the new college, where all professors and instructors must be strongly Christian. The probable situation will be Fuchang, an educational and missionary centre with a population of almost two millions.

Russian Stundists held their annual great conference September last, at Astrachanka, South Russia. During the meeting the first Protestant training school for teachers was opened. \$10,000, the cost of building, was raised by the Stundists themselves, and they are now hoping that funds will soon be forthcoming for a much-needed theological seminary.

Rome, the ancient citadel of Roman Catholicism, is said to be sharing in the "open door" movement, and is proving itself more and more friendly to evangelicals. The king himself has more than once received in audience representatives of the Protestant religion. And so the leaven is doing its work.

"Nine years ago, in the Bexer crisis—in China, the test applied applied to native disciples was not any confession or creed but a simpler and more universally applicable one. They drew on the sand a rude image of a cross, and led their prisoners to it, and bade them, as the price of their freedom and immunity from death, to tread on it and trample it under foot. With death and torture facing them if they refused, even in that hour of terror, thousands of men, women and even children would not allow themselves to put a contemptuous foot upon even so rude a symbol of the holy passion of their divine Redeemer; but heroically and unflinchingly died—not as Anglicans or Wesleyans, or Baptists, or Presbyterians; but simply as Christians. It remains to this hour a sacred memory that so great numbers of native disciples so accepted a martyr's death, and won the crown of life."