

World of Missions

Foreign Mission Notes.

The Foreign Mission Committee met in Toronto on the 16th, 17th and 18th inst—covering three days, an unusual thing. Yet the work in some respects was too hurriedly done. When members of committees become impatient details are apt to be overlooked, and sometimes mistakes follow.

Perhaps the item that will most interest the Church is the approval expressed of the call extended to the Rev. Donald MacGillivray, B.D., to go to Shanghai and devote himself to the preparation of literature. To some who think the missionary's one duty is to preach the Gospel, this action will be distasteful, for they do not see that writing new books or translating old ones from other languages is preaching the Gospel. The missionaries in China think otherwise. There has been a great awakening in China. A great demand suddenly arose for certain literature, and they will have it—good or bad. The duty of the Church is to be on the ground first, and meet that need. So the committee think; and it is counted an honor to the Church to have such a man as Mr. MacGillivray to give to this important work; one who knows the Chinese language so well as to entitle him to such a call. The General Assembly will be asked to approve of this action. Mr. MacGillivray will still continue to be a member of Honan Presbytery.

The next point of interest was the appointment of new Missionaries. It was agreed to appoint Dr. A. Nugent and Mr. J. T. Taylor, M.A., to Honan. Miss B. Goodfellow was also appointed to India, on condition of a successful medical examination. There were other applications; but there was a good deal of hesitation to the appointment of even these, for the usual reason that the revenue is not sufficient. The candidates were considered entirely satisfactory, and the need is very great, but if the funds are not forthcoming, is not the Committee going beyond its rights in appointing? So some thought. Others thought differently; that if God has raised up men and pressed them upon the Committee He will also furnish the means. The latter view prevailed as far as the appointments were made, in the hope that the gifts of the Church will justify the action.

A resolution was adopted in high appreciation of the late Dr. Kellogg, for some years a useful member of the committee.

The Rev. A. B. Winchester, who has been so long a successful laborer among the Chinese of British Columbia, has tendered his resignation on account of ill-health and other discouragements in the work. The Committee asked Mr. Winchester to reconsider and if possible continue in the work.

Miss Calder, who has returned on furlough, does not intend returning to India as a missionary.

An interesting discussion took place on the Presbyterian Volunteer Union for Foreign Missions, which was represented by Rev. J. McP. Scott, President of the Union. The Committee adopted a resolution of sympathy with the Union and its objects.

Do a Kindness.

Do a kindness, do it well;
Angels will the story tell.

Do a kindness, tell it not;
Angel hanks will mark the spot.

Do a kindness, though 'tis small;
Angel voices sing it all.

Do a kindness; never mind!
What you lose the angels find.

Do a kindness, do it now;
Angels know it all somehow.

Do a kindness any time;
Angels weave it into rhyme.

Do a kindness—it will pay;
Angels will rejoice that day.

Kindly deeds and thoughts and words
Bless the world like songs of birds.

A Bird That Has Lost its Nest.

Dr. Corbett, of Glasgow, is one of an increasing number of Christian preachers who have visited the Far East to see mission work for themselves. He tells of a touching confession of a Hindoo, one of a group he met in an Indian town, who made him sit down amongst them and wanted to know about his religion. They acknowledged that they were only gropers for light, and one of them said: "I feel that my soul is like a bird that has lost its nest. Sometimes it seems as if I flew a little nearer, then I know myself a little farther away, and so I keep floating and flying, waiting until some light shall burst upon me that shall guide me to my home; and I believe that my home is God." In that mood, who can doubt that many of these seekers for truth will see soon that Jesus Christ is the way to God, who is our home?—W. D., in London Presbyterian.

Says The Writer: "The first page of one of our well-known dictionaries was revised more than one hundred times."

Why Eye-Glasses are Universally Worn.

The question is often asked, particularly by those who can recall the customs and experiences of twenty-five years ago, "Why do so many persons nowadays wear glasses?" The answer is easy: "The increase in the number of spectacles worn is not to be regarded as an evidence of modern degeneration of the eyes, but rather that a long-felt necessity has been met." For it should be remembered that within the past quarter of a century much has been learned about the value of glasses, and the range of their application and usefulness has been enormously extended. Of course, the eyes need more help now than formerly, as the amount of work they are required to do is much greater than at any previous period in the world's history. The sewing machine and many other inventions of its class save the labor of the hands only to add to that required of the eyes. New employments, new amusements, and new fashions are continually being introduced to increase the exactions laid upon these sensitive and delicate organs. The steady decrease of illiteracy, together with the general cheapness of literature and a spread of a taste for it, the enormous circulation of novel, magazine and newspaper, the ever-increasing use of artificial illumination, all combine to overtax the eyes, and to weaken or possibly destroy the sight unless the required aid and protection be supplied through every means at our disposal. Thus it happens that the sometime luxury of properly adapted glasses has come to be recognized and understood by very many of the present generation as one of the real necessities of their lives.—John S. Stewart, in May Lippincott's.

The Food Value of an Egg.—Six large eggs will weigh about a pound. As a flesh producer, one pound of eggs is equal to one pound of beef. About one-third of the weight of an egg is solid nutriment, which is more than can be said of meat. There are no bones and tough pieces that have to be laid aside. Practically an egg is animal food and yet there is none of the disagreeable work of the butcher necessary to obtain it. Eggs at average prices are among the cheapest and most nutritious articles of diet. Like milk, an egg is complete food in itself, containing every thing that is necessary for the development of a perfect animal. It is also easily digested, if not damaged in cooking.

New York has two fire chaplains, one Protestant and one Catholic, whose duty it is to be pastors to the firemen at their engine-houses, and also to attend fires, in case a second alarm is struck, for such ministrations as any sufferer may require. For this purpose a swift team is always in waiting.