

of 123,000 no less than 103,775 worship in Wesleyan churches, while some 10,000 are adherents of the Roman Catholic faith. In the schools of the Wesleyan Mission are over 40,000 children, with 1,095 teachers. The other working force comprises ten European missionaries, seventy-two native ministers, forty-nine catechists, 1,838 local preachers.

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REV. R. WHITTINGTON, M.A., and family, have arrived home from Japan on furlough. During vacation time, when relieved from school duties, Bro. Whittington made extensive journeys into different parts of the empire, and made himself thoroughly acquainted not only with mission work in general, but also with the social, educational and political problems of "Japan in transition." He will be able to give valuable information to our churches.

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IN view of the return of Mr. Whittington, and the consequent depletion of the educational staff in Tokyo, the Rev. Dr. Cochran, who has spent the last year in California, slowly recovering from the effects of a severe illness, at once wired the Mission Rooms, expressing his willingness to return at once to Japan. The offer was promptly accepted, and he sailed from San Francisco on the 20th ult. Dr. Cochran, though much improved in health, had been advised by his physicians to rest another year, and he had asked for a superannuated relation for the next twelve months, but when the needs of Japan became known, the old missionary zeal blazed up, and, trusting in God, he has returned to his field. Let the Church uphold him by faith and prayer.

THE SOCIETY'S ANNIVERSARY.

THE Annual Meeting of the Missionary Society of the Methodist Church will be held this year in the Centenary Church, St. John, N.B., on the evening of Tuesday, September 29th. On the previous Sunday missionary sermons will be delivered in the various Methodist churches in St. John, and in a number of other towns, by members of the General Board, and collections taken in behalf of the Fund. The Board will assemble for business in Centenary Church, on Tuesday morning, at nine o'clock, and its sessions will be open to ministers and other friends of the Society. Detailed information will be given through the *Guardian* and *Wesleyan*.

We earnestly bespeak the prayers of the entire Church, on behalf of the Board at the approaching session. Matters of grave importance will pass under review; diverging, not to say conflicting, interests must be reconciled, and such disposition made of the large

income of the Society as will commend itself to the enlightened judgment of the Church. Such a task requires patience, wisdom and business capacity of no ordinary kind, and so we say, let earnest prayer go up to God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit

AZABU CHURCH.

ON the first page will be found a photogravure of the new Azabu Church, Tokyo, Japan. A photograph sent us some time ago went astray, and never reached the Mission Rooms. Obtaining another has taken time, and hence caused delay in publishing.

This is the church which the Rev. Y. Hiraiwa, during his visit in Canada, solicited funds to build, and the friends who responded to his appeal will be glad to see that the undertaking has been successfully carried through. The building was designed by Mr. Hiraiwa; dimensions, 54 ft. x 66 ft.; material, red brick; cost 4,900 yen, or about \$4,000. A paper model of this neat and commodious church has been received at the Mission Rooms, for which we are indebted to Mr. Hiraiwa.

COMMITTEE OF FINANCE.

A MEETING of this important Committee was held at the Mission Rooms on the 1st inst., with a fair attendance of the members.

The General Secretary presented the annual balance sheet, certified by the auditor, Dr. Wm. Carlyle; also a statement of income and expenditure for the past year, showing the gross income to be \$243,015.43, being a net increase of \$22,989 over the previous year. An analysis of the income shows increase in the following departments:—Subscriptions and collections, \$5,620.26; legacies, \$22,207.53; miscellaneous, \$2,705.04; while the following show a decrease:—Juvenile offerings, \$1,909.41; donations on annuity, \$5,000; Indian Department for schools, \$633.42.

After routine business had been transacted, the question of the new China Mission was taken up. The General Secretary reported that W. J. Hall, M.D., of Athens, Ont., now working as a medical missionary in New York, was available for the proposed new mission, and was strongly recommended by Rev. Dr. Hart as in every respect qualified for the work. The possibility of Dr. Hall being sent having been incidentally mentioned in several places, Dr. Hart had already received voluntary promises of help to an amount sufficient to pay his expenses out to China. After a careful consideration of the whole case, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Whereas another thoroughly qualified laborer for the Chinese Mission has providentially appeared, in the person of W. J. Hall, M.D., of Athens, Ont., who