

Board, and the result is an income for the year ended June 30th, 1905, of \$385,741, an increase of nearly \$42,000 over the preceding year.

"In addition to the large income reported for the past year, contributions have been received towards the college to be erected in Chentu, West China, amounting to \$5,651, and for the new hospital in the same city, \$5,285. Adding the sums actually paid to the gross income of \$385,741, we have a grand total for missions for 1904-5 or \$396,677."

The rallying cry for the near future is Half a Million for Missions. We remember when half this sum was considered a very large amount. But with an earnest effort, a little more self-denial, a larger faith, this can be reached within a year. It is a crisis in the history of our Church and of our country. There is a tide in the affairs of nations as well as of men which, taken at its flood, leads on to fortune. Not the mining of more gold, not the broadening areas of our wheat-fields, but the laying broad and deep and stable the foundations of a Christian commonwealth—this is the supreme duty of the hour.

A PREVENTIVE OF INSANITY.

Dr. T. B. Hyslop, the famous authority on mental diseases and superintendent of Bethlehem Royal Hospital, at the recent meeting of the British Medical Association, said that in all his dealings with the insane he discovered that there were few among them who are in the habit of praying. He regards prayer as the best preventive of insanity. Referring to the fact that insanity is sometimes attributed to religious excitement, he says "no religion and no sense of moral obligation are much more frequently the source of insanity, through the indulgences to which they lead."

THE UNION OF ENGLISH METHODISM.

Methodist reunion in England seems nearer materialization.

Says The Christian Advocate: "Three of the smaller bodies—the United Methodist Free Churches, Methodist New Connection, and Bible Christian Churches—after being in negotiation for several years, have drafted a scheme of union. The Conference, meeting annually, is to be composed of about three hundred members, equally divided as lay and clerical. Four years is named as the general period

of a minister's stay. By two-thirds vote of Quarterly Meeting this may be extended for a fifth, sixth, or seventh year; beyond that the sanction of Conference is required."

Out of three hundred votes only five were cast against the basis of union. The draft of the constitution has been sent to the circuits for action. If it is met with the unanimity which the Conference forecasts, the union will forthwith be consummated.

OUR DEACONESES.

The Deaconess Movement has been of very great advantage to our Church in Canada. At the first it was looked upon somewhat askance, and in a critical spirit, but it has changed its critics into warm friends, and won the sympathy and co-operation of our best churches and people. This has been largely the result of the tactful and consecrated zeal of Miss Jean Scott, its superintendent from the beginning, who has been a welcome gift from American to Canadian Methodism.

The Deaconess Movement has created new and nobler ideas of womanhood and of Christian service among our people. It has attracted to its ranks some of the most devoted women of Canadian Methodism. It has been of vast service in our Christian philanthropies, and in our Church organization, especially in visitation among the sinning, the suffering, and the sorrowing. Its training-school has given an opportunity of Christian culture and preparation for home and foreign missionary work to a very large number of the best daughters of Canadian Methodism several of them daughters of the parsonage and some of them prize medalists in our universities.

Our work extends from Newfoundland, far out in the Atlantic, to the mid-continent city of Winnipeg, and to the shores of the Pacific. Anything that will give unity and solidarity to the widely scattered units will, I believe, be greatly to the advantage of the Deaconess Movement; will remove in some degree the sense of isolation; will create that feeling of sisterhood, and facilitate courses of reading and study.

The Rev. Mark Guy Pearse, who was long the co-laborer with the Rev. Hugh Price Hughes, in the London West Central Mission, advocated strongly some organization of the sisterhood, and preferred the word "sister" to any other