

Young People's Societies.

THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S "PLAN OF STUDY."

CONDUCTED BY REV. R. D. FRASER, CONVENER.

The Monthly Topics for 1897 consist of a General Survey, and are adapted to all the various sorts of young people's societies. The second weekly meeting of the month is to be devoted to them; and attention is drawn to the fact that a specially prepared Topic Card for Presbyterian Y.P.S.C.E's. is for sale by the *Endeavor Herald Co.*, Toronto, at 60c. per hundred. It is issued by arrangement with the Assembly's Committee, and embraces the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study.

Topic for week beginning April 11th.

THE WORK ABROAD.

Our Foreign Field.

Isa. 49 : 1-12.

LITERATURE.

The excellent summary given this month by Rev. Dr. Morrison, the Secretary of the Eastern Division of the Foreign Mission Committee, and Rev. R. P. Mackay, Secretary of the Western Division, will, of itself, afford ample material for a capital meeting. Better still, use it as an index to the Report on Foreign Missions in the Minutes of Assembly, which your Minister or Elders can supply.

The RECORDS for a year would be found a valuable mine of information and incident. Every public Sabbath School and private Library has its books on Missions, from which facts relating to our own fields may be obtained. Funk & Wagnalls' *Encyclopedia of Missions* is replete with information. *Dr. Geddie's Life*, by Patterson, and *From Far Formosa*, should be utilized. Rev. R. P. McKay's Leaflets on China and India, and excellent little pamphlets on Honan, Formosa, Central India, The Indian Missions in the North-West, may be had at merely nominal prices from Mr. McKay, at the Church offices, Confederation Life Building, Toronto. He will also furnish free an excellent little booklet just published, "Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.—Abstract and Appeal."

POINTS FOR THE PROGRAMME.

A sketch map on blackboard or sheet of wall paper of one or more of the fields.

A list of our foreign missionaries, to be divided up among the younger members and recited.

The Scripture warrant for Missions.

The Prophecies and Missions.

Biographical sketches, of some of our best known missionaries.

A medical missionary; a Zenana worker; a teacher at work.

Educational work in Missions.

The Indian Industrial Schools.

Native preachers and helpers.

The work still to be done.

What can our Society do to wipe out the deficit?

Paragraphs.

I. A SEVEN FOLD ARGUMENT FOR MISSIONS.

1. A missionary *Gospel*. It teaches that all men are lost and need salvation; and, that the offer of salvation is universal.

2. A missionary *Spirit*.—Nothing else leads to such a high type of piety and consecration amongst Christians.

3. A missionary *History*.—The highest civilization has sprung from and is linked with Christianity.

4. A missionary *Progress*.—However slow it may be, there is a gradual and sure moulding of personal and social life in missionary fields.

5. A missionary *Purpose*.—To carry the good news to every land and every creature.

6. A missionary *Prophecy*.—That the kingdoms of this world are to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ.

7. A missionary *Presence*.—"Lo! I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."—*Missionary Review of the World*.

II. CHINA'S BITTER CRY.

Think of this Empire of the East, stretching its coast-line 3,000 miles by the Pacific Ocean; 430,000 square miles larger in area than all Europe; four degrees wider than the whole United States; including one-quarter of the continent of Asia, and one-fourteenth of the habitable Globe within its borders; its circuit half the circumference of the world in which we live!

China's death-rate would bury all London in seven months, all New York city in two, all the United States in less than seven years, all the United Kingdom in four years and a half.

Think of its people, numbering one-quarter of the human race—six times as many as in all the United States, equal to the population of Europe, or of Africa, North America, South America and Australasia. 24,000 die in China every day.

To reach this inconceivable mass of humanity, there are only 1,500 messengers of Christ.

"A need, a need known, and the power to meet that need, constitute a call."

Christian Endeavor.