

World of Missions

China's Millions.

At the recent meeting of the Executive of the Foreign Missionary Committee (Dr. Moore, of Ottawa, in the chair) many matters in connection with the mission work were discussed, but no business of importance was transacted. The annual report of the Honan Mission was received, and, for the first time in ten years, was encouraging. The missionaries in that field are now obtaining some practical results, after several years of diligent work.

The society for the advancement of Christian and general knowledge among the Chinese is making an effort to secure the services of the Rev. Donald MacGillivray, of the Presbyterian Mission at Honan. The aim of the society is to engage Mr. MacGillivray in the preparation of Christian literature for circulation amongst the Chinese, which, it is claimed, would have a direct educative influence. The society points out the necessity of providing some such literature by stating that many of the Chinese officials are now being educated, and the only reading matter available to them is that published by Chinese who are hostile to the Christian religion.

The condition of the work in India is similar to that of Honan, and many appeals have been received for additional missionaries.

The mission work among the Indians in Canada will be given particular attention at the next meeting of the committee, which will be held on the 16th of next month.

The Rev. Ng Poon Chew, of Los Angeles, Cal., is about to start a paper in the Chinese language to further the interests of missions among the Chinese on the Pacific Coast. For this purpose he has procured 250,000 type, which represent 11,000 different characters, and require that number of separate boxes in which to keep them.

The Mission World says there are in the church over 100,000 proselytes from Judaism, and in the Church of England alone 250 of the clergy are either Jews or sons of Jews. The gospel is proclaimed in more than 600 pulpits of America and Europe by Jewish lips. Over 350 of the ministers of Christ in Great Britain are stated to be Hebrew Christians.

From Far Formosa.

It is reported that Japan has been successful in her attempt to pacify this beautiful island, which came into her possession as one of the results of the war with China. All but one of the surviving rebel chiefs are said to have surrendered, and bodies of insurgents have laid down their arms. Those who have followed with deep interest the missionary work of Dr. G. L. Mackay will hope that the government of the island may be prudently and justly administered. The Friend of China is responsible for the statement that the Japanese government is steadily pursuing its plan of restricting the sale of opium to those among its new subjects in Formosa who have already become habituated to the drug, and is thus preparing for the total extinction of the vice. Many opium smokers have not been willing to endure the ignominy of being registered as such. Only 6,796 opium smokers have registered out of a total of 11,444 reported previously as the result of a careful official inquiry.

Careless seems the great Avenger; History's pages but record
One death grapple in the darkness twist old systems and the Word.
Truth forever on the scaffold; wrong forever on the throne;
Yet that scaffold sways the Future, and behind the dim unknown
Standeth God within the shadow keeping watch above his own.

—J. R. Lowell.

A missionary of the American Presbyterian Church, who writes of his evangelistic work at Vengurla, Konkan, India, tells us that the people are naturally intelligent and clever, and were originally related to our own race, but they are now for the most part uneducated and ignorant, degraded and superstitious. "It is a mistake for you to think that they welcome us with open arms and receive the gospel eagerly. They are very proud in spite of their degradation and ignorance, and often treat us as enemies, and are either opposed or indifferent to the message of salvation. They are entrenched in their own customs and philosophy, and imagine themselves superior. This attitude of the people is our greatest trial and obstacle."

"A commonplace life," we say and we sigh,
But why should we sigh as we say?
The commonplace sun in the commonplace sky
Makes up the commonplace day.

God often leads His people through dark depths to heights of peace and praise.

The Fifty-Fifth Session.

Dominion Presbyterian Special.

On Thursday last Knox College sent out its fifty-fifth class of students to enter the ministry of our Church. The class of this year numbers twenty well-equipped men. Their names are F. H. Barron, B.A., Thos. Iodds, B.A., Thos. Eakin, B.A., J. F. Evans, B.A., J. A. Harcourt, E. R. Heyland, T. C. Hood, B.A., J. W. Little, B.A., Jas. McCrae, B.A., A. H. McGillivray, B.A., F. Mathieson, B.A., J. L. Murray, M.A., T. R. Robinson, B.A., R. G. Scott, B.A., R. J. Ross, B.A., J. T. Taylor, B.A., B. M. Smith, E. A. Wicher, M.A., C. M. Wyse and H. D. Cameron. In the course of the next three months these men will have received license, some of them ordination, and some, perhaps will have entered upon their active work. As already stated in the Dominion Presbyterian, seven of them are going out to fields in the Northwest and British Columbia, three have decided upon the Foreign Mission field, and one at least, will pursue a farther course of study.

Mr. E. A. Wicher, M.A., is the winner of the Post-Graduate Fellowship, and, in accordance with its provisions, will study abroad for the next year. He will probably spend the year in Germany. Mr. Wicher also holds the Prince of Wales Scholarship, won in competition with the men of all the years. Until this year this prize has been offered only every second year, but will now be put in competition every year, and will not, as formerly, debar the holder from holding other scholarships won by him. Mr. Wicher is the first to come under the new regulation. He has also won the First Proficiency Scholarship in his class this year. In addition to pursuing the ordinary course of study, and these special courses, he has conducted the Greek classes in the Preparatory Department during the Session. His brilliant success has been all the more remarkable in that he has had several strong men against him, any one of whom has taken a sufficiently high percentage to merit a scholarship.

Among the graduates perhaps the most brilliant speaker is Mr. T. R. Robinson, who has won the Brydon Prize for two years in succession, and who is one of four to divide the fourth, fifth and sixth Proficiency Prizes in his year. Dividing the honors with Mr. Robinson as a popular preacher is Mr. Thos. Eakin, who has for two years been selected to fill the pulpit of Rev. Wm. Patterson, when that faithful son of Erin makes his annual pilgrimage to the old land, to get a whiff of the Maghera air once more. Mr. J. T. Taylor, the winner of the third Proficiency Prize, has already given his name to the Foreign Mission Committee for work in the foreign field. He, with his college chum, Mr. T. C.