

(9) in a cheaper form will be a boon greatly appreciated. The publishers deserve great credit for the exceedingly neat and inexpensive reprint.

The beautiful legend of St. Christopher has given the text for the initial poem of a dainty little volume by Maurice Baxter (10). The poems are unpretentious, but read well, and are entirely devoid of that straining after effect so often evinced nowadays. The opening poem and "What think ye of Christ?" are, to our mind, the best in the book, taking exception to the line in the latter, "Or Virgin with the Doll Divine," which to our ears sounds crude and offensive.

Medical literature is hardly within our province, but we think ourselves justified in recommending the pamphlet before us (11). Its subject is cancer—that loathsome and insidious disease—and the author claims to have discovered an almost infallible method of cure without even the pain and danger of an operation. We have seen original testimonials which appear most convincing, and many of our readers would do well to examine the pamphlet for themselves.

Mr. Edgar Brinsmead has succeeded in writing a very interesting book on the pianoforte (12) that is well worth perusing. A volume that professionals would not despise, and yet exceedingly simple, it conveys a remarkably clear idea as to the management of our popular instrument, with many interesting details of its history.

WORK.

WORK is necessary for its own reflex influence. The man who does not work, dies. Faith may be the breath, but work is lung expansion. The blood may be the "life" of the flesh, but blood is nothing without heart-beats, and heart-throbs are work.

So is it with the individual, the local church, and the denomination. Much of the life of the future depends on work. Christ left a glorious Gospel, but it will not propagate itself. The waters of salvation must be utilised if they properly refresh the thirsty earth.

Every man, woman, and child who professes to be a follower of the Lord should seek to win another soul to God. The one talent should thus win one more, and the five talents should gain other five talents; and such work would soon convert the world.—*American Wesleyan*.

OUR NOTE-BOOK.

MOHAMMEDANISM is not free from sectarianism. There are two great divisions, the Shiites and the Sunnites. After Mahomet's death, a division arose as to the choice of leader; Abu Bekr, father-in-law of the prophet, being the choice of one party, who receive the "Sonna," a book of tradition, and are thus called Sunnites; and Ali, husband of the prophet's only child Fatima, being the choice of the other party—hence the name of Fatimites, or Shiites, signifying sectaries. The most rancorous spirit prevails between the two sects. The Sunnites are strongest in Turkey, and the Shiites in Persia.

It is interesting to learn, during the present crisis, that Christianity has been spreading for some time past in Asia Minor. At the anniversary of the Turkish Missions Aid Society, it was stated in the report that, while twenty years ago not one Protestant dared avow himself as such in the Ottoman Empire, the Protestant denomination is now freely acknowledged. There are 150 missionaries in the field, and 50 native pastors, with 20,000 enrolled Protestants. There are seventeen theological boarding-schools and 234 common schools.

In the Holy Land there are now 520 Protestant congregations, and 7000 children attending their schools.

A Wesleyan church has been opened in Rome, almost under the shadow of the Vatican. The Rev. Richard Green, of Liverpool, preached the opening discourse, and while dwelling on the mediation of Christ, deplored the exaltation of the Virgin to a participation in that office as detracting from the

merit of the Atonement and from the honour of the Saviour. The pastor of the church, the Rev. H. Piggott, afterwards conducted the Italian service, and defended the introduction of Protestantism into Rome; and while pointing out the difference between the Protestant and the Romish creeds, and asserting his attitude as a Protestant, declared his resolve to abide by the Pauline maxim, faith in love.

The British and Foreign Bible Society's annual meeting was presided over by Lord Shaftesbury. The report showed an income for the year 1876-7 of £206,978, while the outlay was £212,408. The issue for the year was 2,670,742 copies, making a total during the seventy-three years of the society's existence of 79,103,465. Several able addresses were given by Church dignitaries, Nonconformist ministers and others; and many evidences and illustrations were given of the blessed results following the operations of the society, both at home and abroad.

The Religious Tract Society's receipts during the year were £152,529 7s. 9d., and the issues 51,958,571, of which 25,014,462 were tracts. The total issues since the society commenced amount to 1,720,000,000.

The Rev. Anthony Wilson Thorold, M.A., vicar of St. Pancras, is announced as the new Bishop of Rochester. Mr. Rogers has had twenty-seven years of metropolitan clerical work, and will thus be well fitted for the duties of his diocese, a large and populous portion of which will be composed of the south side of London.

An interesting meeting was held at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on Monday evening, May 7, in connection with the Colportage Association. Mr. Spurgeon presided, and was supported by several colporteurs. It appears that the latter are distributed in twenty-seven counties. During the year nearly £6,000 was realised by the sale of books. There have been 400,000 visits to different families, with many conversions.

The income of the Church Missionary Society during the year was £190,693; that of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts £136,906; that of the London Missionary Society £109,000; that of the Wesleyan Foreign Missionary Society £146,231; that of the Baptist Missionary Society £38,359; that of the Methodist Free Church Home and Foreign Missionary Society £17,042; and that of the Wesleyan Home Missionary Society £39,919.

A new chapel and schoolroom have been opened recently in connection with the Children's Home, Bonner-road. The opening was accompanied by a festive gathering on the 1st of May. A public meeting was presided over by the Rt. Hon. W. E. Forster, M.P., and an address was given by Dean Stanley. A bazaar followed, and was continued over four days. Two lectures were given on the subject of "Memory," by Mr. W. Stokes. Sermons were preached each evening by the Rev. W. Fleming Stevenson, M.A., Archibald G. Brown, and H. Allon, D.D. The nett proceeds were about £950.

Services were held early last month in the West London Tabernacle for the purpose of bidding farewell to the pastor of the church, Mr. Henry Varley, who is proceeding to Australia, and thence round the world, on an evangelistic tour. Mr. Varley's friends mustered in large force, and addresses were given by Dr. Raleigh, Charles Graham, Adolpho Saphir, W. Jerrold, Vicar of St. John's, Notting-hill, etc. The Tabernacle was erected for Mr. Varley in 1872, and he has hitherto declined to receive any stipend. On the above occasion he was presented with a purse of gold, in token of the esteem and affection with which he is regarded by his congregation and friends.

At the annual meeting of the Church of England Incumbents' Sustentation Fund, presided over by the Marquis of Lorne, the Dean of Lichfield stated that out of 14,000 benefices the incomes of 3800 were below £200.

The Ragged School Union's annual meeting, over which Lord Shaftesbury presided, was packed to overflowing, and was brimful of interest from beginning to end. Anecdote, humour and pathos, and hard and dry facts, followed a report which told a tale of good done which cannot well be over-estimated. The singing and the speaking alike aroused and kept up the enthusiasm of the meeting to its close.

At the conferences of the Sunday-school Union, on Wednesday and Thursday, May 2 and 3, papers were read on "Piety in our Scholars," by Mr. B. P. Pask; "Sunday-school Management," by Mr. R. Barling; and "Young Women's Classes in Provincial Towns," by Miss Marianne Farningham. The annual meeting was held in Exeter Hall,

(9) *Power in Weakness*, 1s. 6d. Central Truths, 2s. By Rev. Charles Stanford. (London: Hodder and Stoughton.)

(10) *St. Christopher, with Psalms and Songs*. By Maurice Baxter. (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 3s. 6d.)

(11) *Cancers and External Tumours. Their Successful Removal by a New Process Without the Knife*. By W. E. Allabone, M.D., Mildmay-road, London. Post free, 1s.

(12) *The History of the Pianoforte*. By Edgar Brinsmead. (London: Cassell, 3s. 6d.)