

HUNGARIAN REFORMED SYNOD.

The last General Council of the Pan-Presbyterian Alliance having commissioned its general secretary, Rev. G. D. Matthews, D. D., to visit the Reformed Church of Hungary and secure if possible its co-operation, Dr. Matthews attended the General Synod at Budapest, which assembled November 9, 1904. This body consists of 112 members,—ministers and elders in equal proportion,—representing 56 presbyteries. The Hungarian Reformed Church has for its chief symbol the Second Helvetic Confession, written by Bullinger in 1562 and published in Latin in 1576. There are now in Hungary five provincial synods, forming practically independent denominations but uniting for certain federal purposes in a general synod once in three years. One of the provincial bodies—that of Transylvania—is pronouncedly Unitarian in its views, but the others are less affected by these influences than formerly, and have come into closer touch with the English and Scotch churches in matters of belief. The General Synod of the Reformed Church in Hungary always chooses two moderators,—one, a minister, who presides at all ecclesiastical debates and discussions; the other, an elder who has charge whenever the business interests of the church are involved. Many of the lay delegates present at the late General Synod were Hungarian magnates, all of whom came to the opening session in their magnificent national costumes. The civil curator, or as we should say, vice-moderator, was Baron Banffy, who practically conducted the whole session. The Synod never reached the request of the Alliance presented to it by the general secretary, but promised to take it up at some adjourned meeting, evidently favoring the invitation should it be found unopposed by the state, to whose final authority all churches are constrained to bow.

UNION CREED FOR AUSTRALIA.

The Methodists, Congregationalists and Presbyterians of Australia having long debated the question of federation, it has fallen to the Presbyterians to propose a creed for the united body. The late General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Australia proposed a short creed containing nine heads, as follows: "(1) The supreme and full revelation of God to man is the Lord Jesus Christ; the supreme authority in doctrine and duty is the Holy Spirit speaking in the Old and New Testaments. (2) God is personal, transcendent and omniscient. (3) The Godhead is essentially triune. (4) Jesus Christ is God manifest in the flesh, truly God and truly man. (5) God is love and his love is holy and sovereign. (6) The divine Fatherhood expresses an eternal relationship which has been revealed most clearly by Jesus Christ though whom the children of men come into possession of the Spirit and the privileges of son-

ship. (7) Sin is universal in the human race, and it implies lawlessness and alienation from God, and unless repented of and forgiven, involves eternal death. (8) Salvation is wholly of God, having the Father as the source, Jesus Christ as the mediator and the Holy Spirit as the agent, and is appropriated by faith. (9) The active and passive obedience of Jesus Christ is vicarious and propitiatory."

U. S. and English Publications.

Senator Drummond, at Ottawa, and the United Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, are at one in urging the British postal authorities to reduce their postal rates and arrangements as regards British periodicals of every kind for Canada, so as to make them as favorable as those between Canada and the United States. This is the least that should be done, seeing the United States has so much the advantage in time. We doubt if British publications will ever be able to compete in Canada with those of the near-at-hand Republic, but much more could be done than yet has been done. In certain lines, in the graver monthlies and weeklies, Great Britain is beyond compare; though in publications calculated largely for wholesome entertainment, our transatlantic kinsmen have nothing to present of equal attractiveness to say Harper's Monthly or The Century Magazine.

It is not very easy to build up special Chinese walls to bar out publications in the English language. The English speaking world is a pretty big ocean, the tide of which rolls this way and that, like the wind, as it listeth. This has been emphasized by Mr. S. Morley Wickett, lecturer on Political Economy at Toronto University, who spoke recently on "Canadian and United States Migration." In fifty years the loss of Canada to the United States has amounted to 3,250,000. But with so large and rich a country to the southward holding out inducements, how could it have been otherwise? But now a strong return migration to Canada from the United States has set in. Mr. Wickett thinks that "while these international migrations may at times be regrettable, they are not without advantages as a whole to the nation and the individual;" that they will continue; and that the presence of so many Canadians in the United States, and of "Americans" in the Dominion, cannot be other than a pledge of amity and peace.

The Quarterly Temperance Lesson.

There seems to be nearly a unanimous opinion the time has come for a vigorous pledge-signing movement throughout Canada, in order that the young may be warned and protected, and in order also that a solid foundation may be laid for continuous advance in the fight against the liquor evil. As in other departments of moral reform, we know of no sphere more

important than the Sabbath School. The quarterly temperance lesson should be judiciously, yet vigorously employed; the speaking need not be "fanatical," as some would say, yet effective, and along lines of common sense, and with the quarterly occasion there should be full opportunity for pledge-signing. Some pledges have three clauses—anti-tipping, anti-treating, and anti-bar-room. Others have simply the pledge to abstain until the signer is 21 years of age. These are matters of method. The great thing is to make the quarterly temperance opportunity in the Sabbath School effective, and to combine with it a pledge signing movement. There should never be any doubt in any Sabbath School as to whether its influence as an organization is for or against the liquor traffic.

Literary Notes.

The Cosmopolitan for March (Irvine, N. Y.), opens with a well illustrated article on "King Carnival in France and Italy." Then follows an exhaustive account of "The Empire of Rothschild"; and after that several excellent short stories, including such writers as Martha McCulloch-Williams, Howard Markle Hoke, Lee Wilson Dodd and Clinton Dangerfield.

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine for February (Leonard Scott Publication Company, New York), contains several articles of great interest, in addition to a long poem by Alfred Noyes and instalments of the three serials now running. The war is of course given a fair share of attention, and literary matters also are not overlooked. Under the heading "The Renascence of Sycophancy," a most trenchant criticism is given of James Douglas' work "Theodore Watts-Dunton: Poet, Novelist, Critic." Two other books reviewed are Mr. Owen Seagram's "In Cap and Bells," and "Poems by Alfred Noyes."

That master of paradox, Mr. G. K. Chesterton, rises to a note of real eloquence in The Independent Review, when he protests that the Liberal-Imperialists have made Expediency not Right, their watchword. His argument, which he calls "The Poetic Quality in Liberalism," is reprinted in THE LIVING AGE for March 11. Discussion of the servant problem does not seem to be confined to the domestic journals. It occupies a prominent place in at least four of the leading reviews of the month. The candid and sensible contribution of the Viscountess Barrington to The National Review re-appears in THE LIVING AGE for March 11.—Few practical philanthropists possess the literary gift in so marked a degree as does the Superintendent of District Nurses in London, whose contributions to The Contemporary are attracting such attention. Her latest article, "Husband and Wife among the Poor," may be found in THE LIVING AGE for March 4.