

SPECIAL
ARTICLES,

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

THE KOREAN PENTECOST.*

Korea, so long known as the Hermit Kingdom, has during the past year evidenced wondrous signs of spiritual life. The outstanding feature has been the special outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Korean Churches. From nearly every mission station comes the cheering news that never before has the Holy Spirit manifested Himself in such power, raising the members to a much higher plane of Christian living, and causing them to walk in newness of life.

In Pyeong Yang the revival was first evidenced in the evangelistic services connected with the men's Bible training class. The members had turned from the old life and had been trying to follow Scripture teaching, some of them for years. They had experience of sorrow for sin, but had not fully comprehended its awfulness. In these meetings they realized the terrible consequences of sin, the suffering which it had brought upon the sinless Christ, His love in dying for them, and they agonized till relief came through assurance of complete forgiveness. The city churches, the advanced school for girls and women, and the primary schools, all passed through the experience of these days. When the college students returned from their vacation, they shared in the outpouring of the Spirit. The Women's Bible Institute and the women's normal class followed. Later the Men's Bible Institute and their normal class received an infilling that is already bearing rich fruit.

In Seoul, the capital of Korea, there was a similar experience, by which the whole Church was changed, and the spiritual tone to which it attained still continues. A sensitiveness to sin, a spirit of prayer, and an earnest desire to save others were marked characteristics. Many were stirred to make public confession of sin, accompanied by promises of restitution, where they had wronged others.

The attendances at the various churches, Bible, and other classes have increased so largely that in one case it has been necessary to hold separate services for men and women, the church not being able to contain all at one time. The numbers enrolled at the Bible Class and schools have rendered the question of accommodation very difficult; in one Bible Class nearly 1,000 men were enrolled. Many of the women who attend are widows, who desire to devote their lives to Christian work.

In some of the Korean churches it is customary to make offerings of time as well as of money, each member stating how many days during the year he will devote to evangelistic work. A Bible Class in Seoul, numbering 450, pledged themselves to give 2,200 days this year. In Pyeong Yang, men and women who had passed through the fire of experience and were filled with the Holy Ghost resolved to visit every house in the city. They not merely invited people to attend the meetings, but, in the power of God, told of the Saviour's love for the lost sinner. Many hundreds professed faith in Christ, and the ingathering in the various Churches continues. A missionary society has been formed, and five men have already been appointed native missionary evangelists.

The spirit of sacrifice and self-denial is manifest everywhere. Men and women travelled on foot, over rough roads

*Mr. Duncan M'Laren, in "The Women's Missionary Magazine" on the United Free Church of Scotland.

through mountainous country, distances of 120 miles, to study the Bible for two weeks so as to have the truths made clearer. How these Koreans do love to study the Bible! They put to shame many in our home churches. One woman sold some of her hair that she might come to Pyeong Yang to study in the Bible Institute. Parents deny themselves that their children may go to school, and they find great joy in their sacrifice.

Christian liberality is also a conspicuous virtue. In a picturesque village where for several years there has lived a solitary Christian, this year the Gospel has spread rapidly among the villagers. One convert, impressed with the necessity of having a place in which to worship, not wishing to wait till the converts were able to build a church, sold his fine big working ox, and with the proceeds purchased a meeting-place. In another village, through the efforts of an old man who acted as teacher, and devoted his spare time to preaching and teaching women to read, the converts grew till they numbered fifty. They met for worship in the open porch of a house, but when the company increased, they decided to build. By doing all they could with their own hands and by other strenuous efforts, they succeeded in erecting a church to hold 120 people.

Such spirit-filled men and women exercise, as might be expected, an influence for good on those among whom they dwell. When groups of members from outside stations came to Seoul to attend the annual meetings of the Bible training class, the number was too large to be entertained by the Christians in that city, so the heathen neighbors were called upon to assist. Before the class meetings were over, all these neighbors were numbered among the Christians. That the converts have not entered the church for political reasons was markedly demonstrated recently, when the whole city of Pyeong Yang, aroused almost to riot by reports of events connected with the Emperor's abdication, was quieted by Christians going about urging the necessity for peace and order.

Amid the darkness and confusion prevailing in so many lands, it is a cause for profound thanksgiving to know that the Lord is working mightily in far-off Korea, that little kingdom so lightly esteemed by other nations, and which has suffered such grievous wrong from those to whom she looked for protection. God, Who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in the hearts of His people there, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. May He in His abundant goodness pour out like showers of blessing on the mission field of our own Church. Sisters, pray for it!

The American Sunday School Union offers two thousand dollars in prizes for three books, as follows: 1—One thousand dollars to the author who presents the best original work on "Christian Principles in Our Rural Districts; How to Make Them a Controlling Influence." 2—Six hundred dollars for the best original work, and four hundred dollars for the next best original work to be written upon: "The Bible an Attractive Book." Each writer should give an appropriate, original title to his work, and will be allowed freedom in the form and style of treatment of the topic. The society desires books of a practical, instructive, popular and evangelical character, of convenient size, having about 40,000 to 70,000 words in each book.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND REASON

The rise of Christian Science in the eastern portion of our country, and its rapid growth in all sections, furnish material for thought. One who has no bias for or against that faith, if there be such, can readily see that we have here an illustration of the capacity of the human mind in its power of believing. Christian Science has propositions about the most ordinary experiences of the which are in absolute contradiction of what have been supposed to be anxieties in all kinds of faith and knowledge. Heretofore we have considered ourselves creatures of reason. Our culture, science and theology have been built upon the testimony of our senses, upon the reliability of experience and upon the accuracy of our thinking processes. We thought we were creatures of reason and that we had reliable data upon which to reason.

Whether Christian Science is true or false it denies nearly all the facts upon which we have been accustomed to rest our faith, and our view of life generally. Possibly we have been wrong and are only coming to our senses in this new way of treating things, but there are some of us who are still clinging to the idea that our sensations, our experiences and the evidence of our senses can be relied upon as a starting point for our thinking. And yet here are educated, apparently rational, excellent people who suddenly discard all these primary principles and reach conclusions entirely subversive of the old way of believing. Devotees of this new faith gladly avow their rejection of the old processes of thinking and justify their beliefs which they reach through contemplation abstraction, separation from sensual things and their surmings of the individual. Is there any theory or doctrine impossible of acceptance? It would seem not from the number of schools and cults there are in the world.

After all it may be that preference, prejudice, mental bias and heart yearnings have more to do with what man believes than all the syllogisms, philosophy and doctrines which we have cherished as our sole mental reliance. Personally we have no sympathy with the theories of Christian Science. We are only looking at it as a collection of mental phenomena which seem to contradict our proud boast that we are creatures of reason. Either we have been using that proud word in a wrong sense, or we shall have to discard it from the list of our boasts. The full grown Christian Scientist knows and admits that he rejects all the facts upon which our theories and philosophies have been founded; the tyro in that school may be deceived, still believing that he is acting from intelligent data. In either case there is reason for humiliation for those of us who have counted on saving the race from error by cultivating the reasoning faculty.—Central Baptist.

"Our Own and Other Worlds," is a book on astronomy, containing beautiful illustrations, and now in the seventh edition. A child can understand it, and by it will gain an uplifting influence that will stay with him his life long. At the same time it will be a revelation to those of mature age. The book is on sale in the United States, in Canada, and in England. Or, write the author, Rev. Joseph Hamilton, Lindsay, Ont., enclosing \$1, and it will be sent to any address.