

OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.

This department is conducted by a member of the General Assembly's Committee on Young People's Societies. Correspondence is invited from all Young People's Societies, and Presbyterial and Synodical Committees. Address: "Our Young People," PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW, Drawer 2464, Toronto, Ont.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

Some of our churches have had a visit from a young Persian, the son of a native Christian, who owed his knowledge of the Saviour to that noble woman, Miss Fidelia Fiske. The most interesting thing about this dark-eyed stranger, was not our sight of him, and through him of his country, no, it was his view of us.

The instinctive courtesy of the Oriental was on his tongue, but in spite of that, it was impossible not to see surprise and disappointment in his face. The only standard he had to judge us by was the New Testament.

"I asked one of your Christian ladies," said the Oriental, in an impressive, musical voice, "what sacrifice she make for Saviour?" She say, "Go to church three time on Sunday." Ah, friends, in my country, Christian lay down his life for Saviour."

It is by no means a comfortable "giftie" that old Burns wished the fay to "gie us," of seeing ourselves "as ithers see us;" but nobody can doubt the wholesomeness of comparing ourselves with the converts from heathenism, and seeing how that fresh soil brings forth fruit—"some thirty, some sixty, some an hundredfold"—while we, alas! allow the cares and riches and pleasures of life to choke the Word. We need visits from these Bible-made Christians.

THE SOCIETY AND MISSIONS.

From the reports coming into the hands of the Assembly's Committee we learn that which many societies are doing nobly for the missionary cause, there is a large number which report little or nothing accomplished in this direction. This, we feel sure, is not because the young people are unwilling to take up this work, but largely because the society has not made use of the best methods of interesting its members in the extension of Christ's Kingdom. Every Young People's Society should be a Missionary Society. No Society should stand aloof from this work, but should seek to have some part in the evangelization of the world. In order that you may have something definite to begin with, we purpose placing before you a few trusts, which we trust you will be able to use in your Society. Begin at once, so that next year, when your society reports, there will be a decided advance in missionary interest and missionary effort.

APPOINT A MISSIONARY COMMITTEE.

The work is likely to be better done if certain individuals are responsible for its success. No society should be without this committee, and the most earnest and enthusiastic members should be placed upon it. A good committee goes a long way toward solving the problem of how interest in missionary work is to be developed. This committee should have a live chairman and a wide-awake secretary. Each member may be given something definite to do; one to look after the distribution of missionary literature, one to take charge of the missionary library, another to plan for bright missionary meetings, a fourth to look after the contributions. A monthly meeting of this committee should be held, at which each member reports the progress made in his department, and methods of developing the work are discussed. Have you a missionary committee? If not, appoint one at your first business meeting.

HOLD MONTHLY MISSIONARY MEETINGS.

If the members of the society are to be aroused to an earnest, intelligent interest in the extension of the Lord's work, they must have the information presented to them in an interesting way. "Facts are the fuel of missionary fires," and the main reason for indifference in this work is lack of knowledge. Have the facts brought before the society in an intelligent and earnest manner, and interest will be aroused at once. This is the purpose of the missionary meeting. It has been aptly said that successful missionary meetings do not happen. If these meetings are to be the means of awakening intelligent missionary enthusiasm, the following points will have to be attended to.

1. Painstaking preparation must be made. No meeting will suffer more from neglect in this particular. If you want success, you must pay the price. "Christ honors with His presence only those who honor Him with their pains."

2. The leader should be carefully chosen. Upon him depends largely the success of the meeting. He must have a carefully pre-

pared programme, and should be ready with a brief comment, a verse of an appropriate hymn, or a telling fact.

3. See that all the participants are prepared. Furnish them with information, and ask them in preparing their paper or brief address—there must be no long ones.

4. Variety should be secured by means of special missionary music—solos, quartettes, etc., missionary readings, recitations; brief prayers, papers, and addresses.

FORM A MISSIONARY LIBRARY.

There is no reason why every young people's society should not have a library of its own, and an important place in that library should be devoted to missionary literature. We would suggest such books as "From Far Formosa," by Dr. McKay; "The New Acts of the Apostles," by Dr. A. T. Pierson; "Heroes of the Mission Field," by Rev. W. P. Walsh; the biographies of John G. Paton, Mackay of Uganda, David Livingston, Joseph Hardy Aecima, etc. There is a splendid array of fascinating books on special fields, such as, "The story of Uganda," "Garenganze," "Amid Greenland Snows," "The story of Metlakhtla," "Story of the Telugu Mission," "Pioneers of Fugia," etc. There is a bright series of missionary books being issued by the Revell Co., Toronto, at 50c. which would form a valuable addition to a missionary library. The members of the society might be asked to contribute a book each for this purpose, which fact should be stated on the fly-leaf. A judicious selection of books would most effectively stimulate the missionary spirit in the society. There would be little difficulty in having them read, as some of the most fascinating books published belong to this class.

STUDY THE FIELDS OF OUR OWN CHURCH.

The importance of such study cannot be over-estimated. Intelligent study in all our Young People's Societies means in the course of a few years an earnest, intelligent, missionary church membership. Every member of the Society should have definite knowledge concerning every mission field of the Church, both at home and abroad. He should know something of the extent of the field, the stations occupied, the missionaries in the field, the difficulties and encouragements of the work, the number of church members, etc. This information can only be secured by systematic study. In a recent number of the REVIEW, we gave instructions for making missionary maps and charts. Make use of these, and provide the Society with a map of every mission field of our Church, marking upon it every mission and preaching station. A list of the missionaries in each field should also be hung up where it could be readily seen. And information about the fields and news about the missionaries should frequently be brought before the members. "The Home Mission Society," and the "Leaflets" issued by the F. M. Committee will be found invaluable in acquiring a knowledge of the fields and workers in connection with our own Church.

CONTRIBUTE FOR MISSIONS.

Every Society should adopt some method of systematic giving. Many societies have adopted the two-cents-a-week plan. This will make a good beginning, and if persevered in will educate the young people in the grace of giving. Collections, thank-offerings, works of self-denial, and other schemes may be found helpful; but it is regular and systematic giving that counts. Remember, the best way to raise money for missions is to give it. Do not depend on socials and entertainments for this purpose. Give! A society of fifty members contributing two cents a week will raise \$52 yearly; five cents a week, \$130. If every Young People's Society would do something in this direction, the work of the Church could be considerably extended, and thousands more could be reached by the Gospel. Let every Society set before itself this year, the work of raising a substantial sum for the missionary schemes.

PRAY FOR MISSIONS.

This is one way of helping on the work which is too frequently neglected. Pray for missions at home and abroad, for missionaries, native Christians, and native workers. Pray in private and in the meetings of the Society, and pray often. Among the Jews there has been a saying, "He prays not at all in whose prayers there is no mention of the Kingdom of God." This is the great need of our day. The Divine voice in the Old Testament rings out to the Church, "Ask of Me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance," and in the New, "I pray ye the Lord of the harvest to thrust forth laborers into His harvest." When the prayers of Christians are languid, the progress of missions is slow; and every revival of the prayer spirit at home is accompanied by new Pentecosts in the mission field. We too often underestimate the importance of prayer as a missionary agency. Fervent, believing prayer is needed in every Society. Let no meeting be held in which this work is not specifically presented at a throne of grace. Dr. Goodell, in appealing for more prayer said, "Let it be known that more, apparently, can be done now by prayer, than in any other way. Whoever prays most, helps most."