

theme of which may be summed up as "The New Approach to Missions," the message itself was given first place, but closely associated with it was the necessity for discovering the right messengers, and of giving them adequate preparation. Three sessions were dedicated to this subject alone.

The Continental Method

The continental training of future missionaries, as described by Dr. Julius Richter, is a most thorough one. Missionary work is to be a life vocation, the messenger an ambassador of Jesus Christ, the bearer of a message of reconciliation. He is given eight or nine years of preparation, divided into three periods. During the first he is a member of a community and is tested as to his right physical, social and spiritual background. This is followed by five or more years of training in theology, in the history of religious missions, the customs, habits and language of the country in which he is to work; and when this is done he is placed on trial in the mission field under experienced men for a year and a half. He begins his training at nineteen, and finishes it at twenty-seven. He is not content with a superficial knowledge of the language, he must know it as well as his own, even until he can dream in it. Only half of those who begin endure to the end, but those who do so endure are men of power, equal to the scholarly statesmanship required of modern missionaries.

Personal Qualifications Needed

Somewhat different was the point of view of the next speaker who gave as the requirement of the messenger, in addition to a vital religious experience and an adequate missionary message, a thoroughly educated mind, not too highly specialized, practical rather than theoretical, a personality with leadership and able to do team work. In the discussion which succeeded the papers the following personal requirements were disclosed: Sympathetic understanding of other people; humility; sense of humor; ability to adjust oneself to others and to work with them; honesty, capacity for growth.

Special Training at Home

Regarding the question of special training

at home, there was some divergence of opinion. Generally speaking, it was agreed that language study was best carried on in the foreign country itself, but that there should be at home thorough preparation in the philosophy of religion; Church history; history of missions; theology; missionary principles; history of Oriental peoples; phonetics; principles of sociology; and for women, home-making; how to value spiritual beauty; for all a quality of life, through a life "hidden with Christ in God." Emphasis was laid on the necessity of special study for those who went out to do specific work as medical men, teachers, nurses, kindergartners, etc.

Various Suggested Methods

The methods of receiving the necessary education formed the theme of the second session. Dr. Lovell Murray introduced the subject, giving a splendid outline of the work of the Toronto School of Missions, speaking especially of the experiment in providing classes for medical students concurrently with their university course. Discussion revealed the fact that in the United States there were many medical schools in cities without theological schools, and suggestions were made as to how such students might be provided with training similar to that given in Toronto by the theological schools there. Pastors of churches could do a good deal for these students, also the Y.M.C.A. A high tribute was paid the student volunteer secretaries and the movement for mediating between the needs of the students and some method of meeting the need.

Dr. Forgan, of Scotland, said that in Scotland some of the retired ministers took charge of this work for students, both in classes and by correspondence. In the university centres the theological colleges had evening classes; in some cases ministers and students held a school together. Other suggestions were: vacation study and selected courses; summer work among home missions; summer courses.

Spiritual Preparations the Chief Matter

Dr. J. H. Oldham was the last speaker. There were two ideas to be brought out. First, missionary training is an individual matter. There is special training in the various pro-