

present ready-made information system. But surely it is possible to make some use of present day methods of teaching. Can we not introduce into our Sabbath School work some means of stimulating active thought and research, so that even the child shall be able to make some truth permanently his own?

#### CHURCH STATISTICS; NEW SCHEDULES FOR 1900.

The General Assembly at its meeting in June 1899, adopted new statistical forms with instructions that they take effect this year. The statistical committee met last week in Guelph and spent several hours in carefully going over the whole matter. It is hoped that the new forms will be found a decided improvement. In addition to statistics to be gathered from individual congregations, there are a number of new forms including statistics of Theological Colleges, Home Mission Fields, Augmented congregations, French Evangelization fields, Foreign Mission fields, Young People's societies, and Sabbath schools. It will be a very decided advantage to have the statistics of all the different departments of the church gathered by one committee, and all gathered together in one part of the Assembly's Annual Volume.

According to the Assembly's action the statistical committee are instructed to collect, compile and complete these statistical returns, and prepare for the General Assembly's blue book all the statistics which the new schedules call for. Clerks of Presbyteries, Secretaries of committees, &c.; are instructed to send returns to the General Assembly's statistical committee, of which the Rev. Dr. Torrance, Guelph, is Convener. At its meeting last week the committee decided to have the new schedules printed and sent out to Presbytery clerks &c., at the earliest possible date. The new tables to be prepared include one giving the receipts in detail from every congregation, Sabbath school &c., for the schemes of the church. This is to be furnished by the agents of the church East and West, and not as heretofore by congregational treasurers. The attention of all parties is directed to the fact that the Church year now terminates on the 28th February, and that all contributions must be forwarded prior to that date so that they may appear in the detailed list of receipts furnished by the treasurers East and West.

A statement in Dr. Warden's note of last week is worth some hard thinking. He states that he is obliged to pay out some \$6,000 for bank interest for money advanced to keep the business of the Church going during the year. That is a heavy drain upon the funds. It is charged against the cost of administration, doubtless, and brings that higher than it should be. It is phenomenally low now, but would be better were this interest drain not added. And it could, in a large measure, be avoided. In very few of the congregations is the payment for the Schemes of the Church made at one time. Why should it not be forwarded to Dr.

Warden at once? Would it not pay to forward a slip to every congregational treasurer every month, reminding them of the need for funds, and asking remittances. Make transmission easy and thought would send the money. Can this be done readily?

The American Colleges report an increased attendance this year in their theological classes. We have not yet heard from our Canadian colleges, but imagine they, too, will report an increase. The prospect was good at the opening of those who have resumed their work, but some members of the class are always late in returning, and an accurate report cannot be given until classes have been in operation for about a month. Knox College has reported full classes this year.

#### Literary Notes.

Some of the articles in the October number of *The Fortnightly Review* are of exceptional interest. Notably "Our Military Prestige Abroad," by Capt. Gambier. The allied forces in China, according to this writer, flatteringly used to have a British officer for Generalissimo because of the blunderings of our officers in the Transvaal. There are truths told concerning the inadequacy of the transport service, the readiness of some troops to surrender, and an attempt to carry on a war according to the drill book only, that, to Britons at least, do not make pleasant reading. In "The Burden of Empire," by W. S. Lilly, "Socialism and Anarchism," by Geoffrey Langtoft, and "The Struggle for Industrial Supremacy," by Benjamin Taylor, the social and political aspects of these questions are treated in a way that, if these articles were studied, would lead to more pointed, more practical discussions at our Alumni Conferences. Alfred Sutro has a translation of Maurice Maeterlinck's "The Kingdom of Matter." The writer of this original article cannot have read Romans 12:1, or he would not speak of "the body as the irreconcilable enemy that the Christian theory holds it." On "The Far Eastern Question" D. C. Boulger discusses "Is Russia to preponderate in China;" there is an "unsigned article "Why not a treaty with Russia;" and Diplomaticus treats of "The Chinese Problem." When to these are added seven other articles, all of them interesting, one can only say the issue is to be got and read and filed. (Leonard Scott Publishing Co., New York.)

The wonderful story of the Banza Mankake Church in Central Africa, which is thrillingly told by Rev. Henry Richards in the November number of the *Missionary Review of the World*, is well worthy of a place among the modern Miracles of Missions. "Mission Work Among the Jews" is described and strongly advocated by the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Pierson; the "Doings of the Boxers in Manchuria" are told by Rev. John Ross, of Mukden; "Problems of Modern Medical Missions" are discussed by Dr. Ernest W. Gurney Masterman, and Dr. Arthur J. Brown treats of "Our Future Missionary Policy in China" in a paper telling of the notable conference in New York last month. The other articles and editorials in this number are equally able and important. Funk & Wagnall Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York.

The *Ladies' Home Journal* for November, continues "The Story of Beautiful Women," "The Story of a young Man," "Blue River Bear Stories," "Josiah and I go A-visiting," and "The Successors of Mary the First." The usual suggestions are given as to the fashions, and there are several articles which will be helpful to mothers. The number is a specially good one. The Curtis Publishing Co., Philadelphia.

The October number of the *Contemporary Review* covers a broad field of subjects. The South African Settlement, and Our Future Policy in China, are discussed at some length. Then a Russian Publicist has an article on the Secret Springs of Russian Policy, while T. Orman Cooper writes of work on the Beira railway. Col. Tonsdale Hale gives an estimate of Count Von Walderssee in 1870; and in the *New French Idealism*, and Ruskin the *Servant of Art*, we turn from the practical to the question of literature. Leonard Scott Publication Co., New York.

At this season, organists and choir leaders who are on the outlook for new Christmas music will be interested in the following recent selections from the press of Messrs. Wm. A. Pond & Co., New York, which have just come to our notice: Christmas solo, "Hark what means those Holy Voices," for soprano and contralto. Carols: "Listen to the Shepherd's Call," "Hark the Herald Angels Sing," "Over the World on Christmas Morn," "Come ye lowly, come ye lowly." Christmas anthem: "The Song of Salvation," mezzo soprano or baritone solo and chorus. "Ave Maria" in E flat, dedicated to Miss Jennie Tremblay of Ottawa. There are also a number of instrumental numbers for the pianoforte and guitar.

#### Begin Now.

The Christian who is constantly waiting for great opportunities to do good will never be anything more than an unprofitable servant. J. Hudson Taylor tells of a young Christian who had received Christ as his Savior, but who said to the missionary that he would wait until he learned more about Him before making a public profession.

"Well," said Mr. Taylor, "I have a question to ask you. When you light a candle, do you light it to make the candle more comfortable?"

"Certainly not," said the other, "but in order that it may give more light."

"When it is half burnt down, do you expect that it will first become useful?"

"No, as soon as I light it."

"Very well," said the missionary, promptly; "go thou and do likewise; begin at once."

Your religious life began when you gained your first victory over sin; you gained it by Christ's help. Your grasp on the Saviour for help, for forgiveness, for strength to serve Him, was an act of faith.—Theodore L. Cuyler, D. D.

The greatest enemies of the cause of God are those who profess to be the children of God and live in sin. Men who are not saved conclude that if these men are saved that the religion of Jesus does not do anything for the people who seek it, and they become skeptical.