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A HANDBOOK OF SABBATH SCHOOL MANAGEMENT AND WORK

This valuable Hand-Book, by Mr. David Fotheringham, is designed to aid teachers in their important duties. There is also appended a form of constitution and regulations for a Presbyterian Sabbath School, as well as a partial list of books helpful for reference or study to Sabbath School teachers. Neatly printed and strongly bound in cloth, cut flush. Price 15 cents postage paid. Quantities of not less than 12 to a school at the rate of \$1.25 per dozen. Address all orders to

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There have been additions to the wide range of subjects on which it gives reliable information. THE YEAR BOOK is more than a compendium of statistics and tables of church lore and records. It has every year articles written by eminent members of the church upon themes indicative of the growth of Presbyterianism, and interesting to Presbyterians everywhere.—*Globe*.

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It must be invaluable to every member of the denomination.—*Advertiser* (London).

This issue is superior to any of its predecessors, and gives a great deal of useful information in small compass.—*Gleaner* (Huntingdon).

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Notes of the Week.

MR. BEN TILLET, the noted labour advocate, declares that the Churches can get the working classes if they seek them in the right way. "If you hit out straight, they like you; they dislike to be nursed and coddled. The caste feeling is the chief difficulty to be removed. Let the Churches, instead of perpetually preaching equality merely in heaven, practice a little more of it here."

At a recent meeting of the London Sunday Closing League at the Polytechnic, Regent Street, Canon Leigh referred to a letter of the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser, who wrote to say that he did not feel able to go the whole length of Sunday closing in London, which he feared would cause serious disturbance. He said perhaps a disturbance would ensue; but what of that? Paul was not deterred from preaching the truth because the owners of vested interests in Ephesus got up a mob to make a disturbance.

THE Revision Committee, says the *Interior*, will make a unanimous report—which means that the "concept" of the Confession is to remain as it is—with an addition to its "verbal infallibility." Not even "preterition" will be slighted. It is to be the same sword, but the handle-end is to be next the Church, not to the enemy. The committee have done no wiser thing than to recommend no action to the next Assembly. Let the committee report progress and be continued. It is better that the Presbyteries be afforded an opportunity to speak, without either affirming or negating an overture. After a year's consideration the committee can perfect their work, and then when it is submitted we shall have it adopted with practical unanimity.

THE sad death of Mr. Cosmo Innes Burton, F. R.S.E., at Shanghai, where he held the post of Professor of Chemistry at the Technical Institute, is a loss to science of an enthusiastic worker. Mr. Burton, after a distinguished career at Edinburgh, Munich, and Paris, as a student, became first Research assistant at the Royal School of Mines, and University Extension Lecturer in Edinburgh. He had just gone out to his new field with his newly-married wife. Mr. Burton was the youngest son of Dr. Hill Burton, Historiographer-Royal for Scotland.

ANOTHER instance of the cruel treatment meted out to Jews in Russia was telegraphed last week. It is reported that a few days ago a force of Cossacks opposite the town of Myslowitz, in Prussian Silesia, discovered 300 emigrants crossing the frontier, when the half-savage cavalry of the Czar came dashing down upon them. The emigrants refused to obey the order to turn back and made a desperate resistance. The Cossacks speared them and trampled upon them with their horses, killing quite a number before the remainder yielded and allowed themselves to be driven back into Russia.

SIX missionaries are about to go out to Lake Nyassa and its uplands in connection with the Livingstonia Mission of the Free Church. The party will consist of Dr. Kerr Cross, who is in the old country on furlough; Mr. Donald MacGregor, a skilled crofter; William Morrison, a joiner and housebuilder; Dr. D. H. Fotheringham, M.B., C.M., of Glasgow University; Mr. W. Govan Robertson and Archibald C. Scott. Four new missionaries from the German portion of the Moravian Society, of whom Mr. Richard is best known, will sail by the German steamers, and probably three missionaries from the Berlin Evangelical Society.

MR. STEAD, in his new monthly, *Help*, says that the greatest advantage that has accrued to the social movement from General Booth's bold initiative has been the enormous impetus it has given to good works in all the Churches and outside the Churches in the new stimulus it has given to social reform, and the attention which it has drawn to the condition of the submerged tenth. The Church Army has profited by the General's boom to develop work identical with that of the Salvationists, and there is a talk of a Catholic Salvation Army in the shape of some Franciscan order, with its labour home, farm colony, and colony over the sea, under the auspices of Cardinal Manning.

A GLASGOW contemporary says: Principal Brown, of Aberdeen, is now nearly half through his eighty-eighth year, but his physical activity is amazing. "See him walk along Union Street," says a local journal, "and his rate of speed seems almost phenomenal. It would certainly tax the pedestrian powers of most men of half his age. In this respect he is a worthy descendant of that fervently excellent and physically agile ancestor of his who filled the secession pulpit of Craigdam and who was known as 'the rinnin' minister.'" A portrait by Mr. Sheriffs of Dr. Brown, the property of Lord Provost Stewart, his son-in-law, is in the Royal Academy Exhibition at Edinburgh this season.

THE work of Rabinowich, the converted Jew, progresses. His new hall, Somerville Hall, Kischeneff, was opened December 23 last, after long waiting for official sanction. The advantages of the new hall were soon realized. The services during January were attended by many Jews who had not previously heard Mr. Rabinowich, as the situation of the new hall is more favourable, and many expressed regret that they had not sooner availed themselves of the opportunity of hearing the Gospel. The interest in the exposition of the Word seems to be deepened. Besides the Saturday services, there is a meeting for Bible reading every Tuesday evening. In this meeting Mr. Rabinowich asks questions, and permits the hearers to ask questions on the passages read. Christian pamphlets and also New Testaments have been distributed. Interest-

ing letters have come from various parts of Russia asking for counsel—among others, one from a rabbi—all of which show that a spirit of enquiry has been roused.

THE British national drink bill amounted last year to £139,500,000 sterling, showing an average expenditure per head upon intoxicating liquors of \$16. In 1889 the expenditure per head was \$15. The expenditure upon alcohol in 1890 was one-fifth of the national debt, one-twelfth of the estimated income of all persons in the United Kingdom, and between one-fifth and one-fourth of the annual value of all the property and profits upon which income tax was levied. It was 32,000,000 more than the whole capital of all the savings banks in 1889, and four and a half times the amounts deposited in these. It was eleven times the capital of all the industrial and provident societies of the country. It was four and a quarter times the gross receipts from passenger traffic on all the railways of the United Kingdom in 1889, and three and a half times the gross receipts from their goods traffic, or nearly as much again as the receipts from both species of traffic combined.

MR. W. J. MENZIES, W.S., agent for the Church of Scotland, presiding at a meeting to form a branch of the Laymen's League at Morningside, moved a resolution expressing the opinion that an earnest effort ought now to be made to effect a reunion of the Presbyterian Churches in Scotland. There were about 3,200,000 Presbyterians in Scotland, and the Presbyterian churches numbered 3,242, being more than one church for each thousand of the population. It was a commonly received theory that a well-conditioned congregation should be composed of 2,000 persons; but, making allowance for sparsely peopled districts, and giving 1,600 persons to each church, it would be found that 2,000 churches would be quite sufficient for the Presbyterian population of all Scotland. Consequently, with a united Church, 1,200 places of worship would be unnecessary, and Mr. Menzies estimates the cost of the upkeep of these at not less than \$1,000,000 per annum. Mr. John Hay Thorburn, Convener of the Free Church branch of the Laymen's League, proposed a resolution which expressed the opinion that the laymen of the different Churches might do much to bring about the reunion of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, and that by mutual consideration a basis of reunion could be formulated which might be honourably accepted by all.

FOLLOWING is an extract from a letter to a Presbyterian minister in London, written by Professor Watts, Belfast: It is unnecessary to enter into detail on this subject. The conclusion warranted is that, if our churches were organized—as some of them are, and as they all ought to be—there would be no need for the rise of a new denomination, such as Mr. Booth's, to supplement their efforts. I look upon the Booth movement as designed of God to turn the attention of our Churches more earnestly to the problem of evil presented in the moral desolations of our city populations, and to the necessity of utilizing for their rescue all the gifts possessed by their entire membership. The Churches of these lands have all the temporal and spiritual resources necessary to do all that General Booth proposes to do, and many of them are doing on smaller scales what he claims to be a social and evangelistic discovery of his own. His scheme may be viewed and estimated under two aspects. It embraces two elements—the philanthropic and the evangelistic. With regard to the former, no one who is cognizant of the misery of vast masses of men, women and children in the slums of our cities and towns will venture to throw any obstacle in the way of any man who has the head and the heart to embark in any scheme likely to relieve it. It is a God-like work, and one cannot but wish it great success. As to the evangelistic element, one would need an amount of information which is not available to me here, regarding the qualifications of the evangelists employed and their teaching, before fully endorsing the work of the Salvation Army in this department.