

Religious Notes.

From Japan comes the story of an exposition of Christianity from a man who obtained a Bible which he read with much interest. When he had finished, he said: "This is a fine thing in theory, but I wonder how it would work in practice?" On the train on which he was travelling, he noticed a lady, who, he was told, was a Christian. He watched her attentively, to see how she would act, and said: "If I can see anything in her conduct like this Book, I will believe it." Before the day was over he had seen so many little acts of unselfishness on her part, and so much thoughtfulness and consideration for her fellow passengers, that he was deeply impressed. The result of that railway ride was that he went to his home determined to make the Bible the guide of his whole life.

The majority of ungodly men travel in a world of people, and only incidentally touch the realm of doctrine and written creed. They

study the characters of men rather than their motives, their living and not their cult or catechism. If, after coming into contact with a true man, they set out to find his religion, they are likely to find it, and once found, it will be of the true sort.

The report for 1906 of the Christian Movement in Japan gives the Christian communicants in the Protestant churches of Japan as 48,087, with 5,099 adult baptisms during the year—the same pamphlet affirming that "the influence of Christianity in Japan is far and away greater than the statistics of the churches would indicate."

In India 89 societies are engaged in Christian work; of these 32 are American, 31 are British and 9 are continental European and 17 international. These societies report 3,447 foreign missionaries, of whom 1,879 are men; 1,846 stations and 8,082 out-stations. There are 497,965 communicants in the native Protestant churches, and 420,296 pupils in the schools; 541 hospitals and dispensaries having within the year 2,000,956 patients.

Instruction in French and English is being given in the Y. M. C. A. at Barmen-Eberfeld, Germany, to prepare a great committee of young men to be serviceable to the foreign delegates who will attend the World's Conference of the Associations in that city in 1909.

The great World Convention of the Y. M. C. A. forces will doubtless be greatly benefited by this preparatory system. To look forward three years in the planning of such efforts is an indication of the wise forethought of the leaders in this movement.

The educational work of the Protestant missions in Mexico is recognized by the people to be of great value. Dr. J. W. Butler, writing of mission work in Puebla, says: "When we first entered the city the government commissioned secret police to watch us day and

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night. We were repeatedly told that we would never be allowed to get a Protestant foothold in that fanatical centre. Only a dozen children came to our school the first year, but to-day we have nearly six hundred children in our two schools, and government officials intrust their children to our care. It was a long struggle, but we have won a magnificent victory."—Home Herald.

Northern Nigeria—the most populous part of the Dark Continent, with a territory as large as Europe minus Russia—has a population of from 60,000,000, to 90,000,000, one-half of which is practically Mohammedan, and the other half pagan.

The Salvation Army has been able to offer some substantial aid to the Japanese peasants of the northern provinces who have been suffering from famine on account of the failure of the rice crop. The army in Japan now has a force of one hundred officers. There are students' homes for men and women, rescue homes and lodging-houses maintained by the Salvationists in the large cities. The Japanese authorities have been kind to these slum workers, giving them free access to the jails, although the prisoners are supposed to be under the spiritual direction of the Buddhist priests.

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