

Ministerial Relief, corresponding to our Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund, was reported on. As here, that fund appears to have to contend with much apathy and indifference. Contributions to it have for years past been diminishing. This year 3,798 congregations made no contribution to it. Of \$150,000 required, only \$90,000 was given and the expenditure was \$20,000 over receipts, which was met fortunately by the surplus of last year. The sum available for each recipient is about \$300 annually.

The Judicial Committee on the appeal from the decision of the Presbytery of Cincinnati in the case of Rev. Dr. Henry P. Smith, caused much discussion. We can only say here that, in all its main features it corresponded to the now famous case of Rev. Dr. Briggs, and ended with the same result. Christian work among the Freedmen of the South is an important department of Home Missions. The report upon this was very encouraging. It has a large income. The work during the year had gone on very successfully. Over two hundred new churches have been formed during the year. The Woman's Executive of the committee had raised \$40,000. Next year \$250,000 are asked for this object. There are hopeful indications that the time is coming when the negro race in the United States will reach a high level.

The Board of Education has charge of assisting theological students through their education. The number of candidates for the ministry is increasing, but the board has had a difficult and trying year. During its course nine hundred and seven men have been aided, but the grants had to be reduced. The fund received nothing from four thousand churches and but for legacies received the deficit would have been very large. \$150,000 are asked for next year.

Home Mission work there as here is great, arduous and vital; though having to speak of difficulties the results for the year have been full of encouragement. The number who, through Home Mission work, have joined the fellowship of the church within the year was 13,368, contributions from churches and schools, despite the widespread and great depression, have been nearly as high as in former years. The Woman's Board in connection with Home Missions had raised \$66,000, yet an actual deficit for the year is left of \$147,000, which though serious is not discouraging. An earnest plea was made for greater liberality, so that next year there might be raised \$1,238,000 for carrying on this great department of work. Of the various and immense foreign populations, work among the Jews is singled out as being full of promise.

The Foreign Mission report presented much that was calculated to awaken both anxiety and encouragement. Trouble has arisen in Korea, Persia, Syria, and in Japan the reaction against foreigners is ominous. Records of progress and usefulness are, however, encouraging. In mission schools there are, 30,460 pupils, in the mission field 30,453 communicants, 635 American missionaries are in the field, 1,741 native agents, of whom 145 are ordained missionaries and 54 new missions have been established. The total receipts for the year had been \$843,411, leaving an adverse balance of \$102,000. The Woman's Society had raised \$324,000, which, along with Sabbath Schools and Young People's Societies, had made least decrease in contributions.

The Board of Publication and Sunday School work reported through Rev. Dr. Breed. The chief purpose of this board is to advance the work of the Sabbath School, to care for and train the young aright, and to interest them in the careful study of the Scriptures. This board alone reports this year an increase in contributions which amounted to \$94,000, giving it a total income of \$168,000.

Church Erection, a scheme now fifty years old and of the utmost importance in many ways, reported through its board. There is also a Manse Fund of more recent origin. Last year 158 churches were aided and \$80,000 advanced, while gifts to the amount of \$7,000 were made; \$15,000 had been granted to forty applicants for aid to build manses. For next year \$150,000 are asked.

The Board of Aid for colleges had during the year suffered a decrease of about \$29,000, but notwithstanding has done excellent work, several colleges and academies having with its help been liberated from an incubus of debt. Several important recommendations proposed were adopted on behalf of the board, which asks for next year's work \$150,000.

The Committee on Theological Seminaries reported through Dr. Dinsmore. In all there are in connection with the church thirteen theological seminaries, of which Princeton takes the lead with 233 students, and McCormick next, with 212 students. In the former sixty-two and in the latter fifty graduated. The committee reports harmony and peace and a successful year.

One cannot read the reports of this great American Presbyterian Church without being impressed by the magnitude of its operations, the vigour and zeal with which they are prosecuted, and the large number of splendid men in every sense, giving their talents and energy and faith and patience, with the vast multitude of members behind them, to carrying on the work of God in that great country; nor, if one thinks at all, can one but be almost overpowered by the thought of the greatness of the issues for the country and for the church of Christ depending upon it. The prayer of the whole church in Canada for her is that the Lord may more and more bless her and make her a blessing in her own country and to all lands.

FOREIGN MISSION COMMITTEE.

THE F. M. C. met on the 22nd and 23rd May. There were present, Mr. Hamilton Cassels (Convener); Drs. Grant, MacVicar, Moore, Wardrope, Mungo Fraser, J. B. Fraser, A. D. MacDonald, J. D. Macdonald, and Messrs. Milligan, Burson, J. A. MacDonald, Currie, Jeffrey and MacKay.

Both Mr. Wilkie and Miss Jamieson, who have just returned from India, on account of health, appeared before the committee, and reported themselves as very much improved by the trip home, and expect to return at an early date.

Mr. Wilkie gave a very interesting account of the condition and work amongst the Mangs. He baptized 58 adults during the year, and very many more are seeking baptism, but he considered it best to delay. They are very poor, many of them homeless, living under a tree, or an abandoned lime-kiln, open on all sides but shelter above. They have 17 or 18 Sunday schools amongst them, often held under a tree, and the number of Sunday schools is limited only by the supply of workers.

Mr. Wilkie has picked 14 of the most hopeful of the converts, varying in age from 17 to 22 years, and has them engaged in a course of study, in order that they may become workers amongst their own people. They are very much persecuted, especially by the heathen priesthood, but they are willing to suffer for Christ's sake. Our missionaries are striving to teach them certain industrial arts, in order that they may provide for themselves. This is the more needful, inasmuch as they by becoming Christians lose their former occupation, which was drum-beating at marriages and other festive occasions.

The work in Formosa is in a hopeful condition. Mr. Gauld reports that during a visit to the churches on the Western Coast, he was greatly interested to see shops closed on the Lord's Day in heathen cities, when closing the shop one day in seven means to these converts a great deal of sacrifice.

The work in Honan is becoming exceedingly interesting, enquiries coming from many quarters. Two more baptisms are reported by last mail. Much prayer should ascend for this work, which seems to be on the eve of a great ingathering. It will be in the Lord's time.

The serious condition of Mr. Goforth's son made it unsafe for Mrs. Goforth to undertake the journey alone, so Mr. Goforth comes too, which he says is about the most difficult thing he ever did, to leave the mission at this time, when the work is so great and the laborers so few.

Amongst the Chinese in B.C., the work is more and more encouraging, because the churches at the different points where the Chinese are found are beginning to take hold. Mr. Winchester and Mr. Colman are very earnest in their endeavors to open up new centres of activity.

The work amongst the Jews is opening up wonderfully. The Jews are on the way to their own land, returning in large numbers every year; the Exodus has begun. The discouraging thing to report is that whilst in our two missions in Palestine and Montreal we expended nearly \$3,000, less than \$900 came into the treasury. The friends of the Jews must awake, and should remember that whilst there are many side schemes starting, our own missions have the first claim on our liberality.

The following resolution, adopted by the committee speaks for itself as to the state of the finances:

"Having heard Dr. Reid's financial statement, the committee find that the expenditure for the year has greatly exceeded the revenue; that instead of the balance on hand at the beginning of the year, there is a debit for a large sum advanced by the W. F. M. S.; that a considerable sum had to be spent as interest on advances; and that there is no prospect of increased revenue being received for the current year. It is therefore resolved that no expenditures be incurred this year beyond what are absolutely essential, that no buildings in addition to those actually commenced or authorized in our estimates be erected, and that our agents in our various mission fields be notified of this, so that they may confine themselves strictly within the estimates that have been authorized, and open no new stations whereby any additional expenditure would be incurred."

R. P. MacKay.

The Ram's Horn. The only people who have much difficulty about believing God's word are those who are not willing to live the way it directs.

Books and Magazines.

The Canadian Magazine for May is a very readable number. The Comic Ballads of Homer, the first article, will attract the attention of lovers of the classics. Interesting articles on subjects peculiar to our own country or continent are: "A Sun Dance among the Sarcees," by A. C. Shaw; "Memories of Bathurst," by E. B. Biggar; "The First Plantation in Newfoundland," by J. F. Morris Fawcett; and Wm. Ogilvie, F.R.G.S., continues his interesting illustrated story of travel and exploration "In North-western Wilds." A remarkable article is Rev. W. C. Blackstock's "Ghosts of the Living and of the Dead," the writer presenting much reasoning and many incidents to prove the probability that ghosts do appear, and ghosts not only of the departed persons but of the living also. "With Two Canadians in Algeria," is the title of a copiously illustrated and well-written article by Alan Sullivan. Other articles are "Popular Superstitions," "The Royal Academy of Arts," "Narcissie's Friends," "French Journals and Journalists," and poetic contributions of varied merit. Ontario Publishing Co., Ltd., Toronto.

The Century Magazine for May well sustains its place among its competitors. An interesting article is the first, a sketch of Dagnan Bouveret, the painter, and of some of his work; "Pudd'nhead Wilson," by Mark Twain and Cceur D'Alene are continued, "A Loan of Half Orphans," by Thomas A. Janvier, in two parts, is begun in this number, to be finished in next. "Hunting an Abandoned Farm in Upper New England" is a suggestive title of a pleasantly written, appreciatively illustrated sketch. "Bookbindings of the Past" is for book-lovers and its rich illustrations will be appreciated by them; "Across Asia on a Bicycle," with its illustrations, will have great attraction for all cyclists. A reminiscence of bygone days is "The Capture of the Slave Ship Cora," the last slaver taken by the United States, by William Hall; "The Imitative Functions and their Place in Human Nature," by Josiah Royce, treats of an interesting subject as usual; "Topics of the Times," "Open Letter," and "In Lighter Vein," bring up the rear and are suggestive. The Century Co., New York.

We have but to mention the titles of the May number of *The Arena*, and to say that they are written by serious, earnest and thoughtful men, for our readers to see that this is a most important and instructive magazine. It is not to be expected that everyone will agree with all the conclusions reached in so many papers on important subjects now agitating the public mind, but there is much suggestion in them and valuable thoughts presented. The following are the titles of some of the more important papers: "The Religion of Lowell's Poems," by Rev. M. J. Savage; "The Ascent of Life," is continued, James R. Cooke, M.D., gives us "The Power of the Mind in the Cure of Disease"; "Heredity," by Helen H. Gardiner; "The Philosophy of Mutualism," by Prof. Frank Parsons; "How to Deal with the Saloon Evil," is a symposium. The number closes as usual by reviews of many new books of the day. The Arena Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.

St. Nicholas for May begins with a sea story to be continued "Decatur and Somers." An interesting article is that of H. S. Conant on "Some Ancient Musical Instruments," with full illustrations. The fifth paper on the quadrupeds of North America entitled "A Few of Our Fur-Bearers," is also well illustrated. "Recollections of the Wild Life," are continued. So also is "Jack Ballister's Fortunes." Brander Matthews contributes a very pleasant sketch of Washington Irving, accompanied by an excellent likeness. "A Four Leaved Clover in the Desert," is by Mary Hallock Foote and is to be continued. These with poems and many other short and spicy things complete this number. The Century Co., Union Square, New York.

The Critical Review for April contains a large number of short sketches on important subjects suggested by books written upon them. The longer and more important articles are "Hutchinson Stirling's Darwinism," "Benzenger's Hebraische Archæologie," "Prothero's Life and Correspondence of Arthur Penryn Stanley," "Kafan's, the Truth of the Christian Religion," "Powick's, a Dissertation on John Norris of Bemerton," and Professor Flint's History of the Philosophy of History. Brief notices of late works, and a record of select literature classified under various heads complete this number of a review which will be prized by students. Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 38 George St.

The Manitoba College Journal for March also reaches us somewhat late. It begins with a pleasant reference to the summer session about to be opened and the expected arrival, to take part in, of Revs. Dr. Caven and MacLaren. Besides the usual local and gossip items which give zest to a college journal, it contains articles "The Parliament of Religions," "Cornell University, its Foundation and Governing Principles," "The Poetry of Erin," "Atheism," "Reminiscences of the last Quarter Century," continued, and "From Montreal to Bombay," by Jean H. Russell, Manitoba College, Winnipeg.

The Theologue is the Halifax, Presbyterian College organ. It is neatly got up, pleasant in type and paper to the eye. The March number contains an interesting contribution. "The Oriental Pulpit," by the late Prin. McKnight. Other articles of interest and value are "Is the Salvation Army a Church," by Rev. Prof. Pollok, D.D., "Our Summer School," by Rev. D. M. Gordon, B.D., "The Story of the Labrador Mission," by J. D. MacKay, and "Preparation for Life," by Prof. James Seth. The usual local and College notes fill up a very readable journal. The Presbyterian College, Halifax.

The Missionary Review for May does not lag behind its predecessors. The editor-in-chief well sustains his share in the magazine, both in editorial department and in the Literature of Missions, which is well furnished with interesting contributions. A sketch of the late Rev. Dr. Nevius, of China, will be widely read. In the International department will be found a symposium on Japan, in which several well-known and competent missionaries take part. The whole number is up to what we now expect from this magazine. Funk & Wagnalls, 30 Lafayette Place, New York.