

ITEMS.

Old Damascus, where Paul met Ananias, and received the restoration of his eye-sight, is not entirely Christian, yet the name of Christ has perhaps never since Ananias' day been unrepresented here. It now has a population of 150,000, of which about 120,000 are Moslems, about 20,000 Christians, and about 9,000 Jews.

A remarkable meeting was the one in London the other day on the departure of eight new missionaries for the Chinese Inland Mission, which has some of the features of Bishop William Taylor's African Mission. Mr. J. Hudson Taylor is at its head. It is unsectarian, and is supported by voluntary offerings; they amount to some \$10,000 per month; and the mission has over 100 missionaries in China. They go inland, dress like the natives, and, as far as possible, live like them. They are artisans, and physicians, as well as preachers. They have done a great deal of brave pioneer work and are still at it. The meeting to which reference is made above was presided over by George Williams, who founded the first Young Men's Christian Association. The men who were going were all university men. They were famous as athletes, one of them the chief of the oarsmen and the other the best bowler at cricket in the kingdom. There was a brave officer who had surrendered his commission in the army for a missionary's life. The farewell meeting was like a Methodist lovefeast. Mr. Taylor goes back with them.

The Roman Catholics of Germany have organized a "Palestine Union" for the propagation of the Roman Catholic faith among the natives of the Holy Land, and the amelioration of the country by the erection of churches, schools and hospitals, and the establishment of Roman Catholic colonies.

The present mayor of Hong Kong is a Chinese gentleman who has embraced Christianity.

A young Japanese Christian, imprisoned at Tokio for too free ex-

pression of his liberal sentiments, laboured successfully for the conversion of a fellow-prisoner. Others gathered to hear him till he had a congregation of 300 earnest listeners. At his liberation he informed the authorities of the miserable condition of the prisoners, when he was appointed governor of a new prison, with permission to teach and practise the doctrines of Christianity.

Forty-three prayer-meetings were recently held in one evening by the Metropolitan Tabernacle congregation, London, Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, pastor.

A Bread and Cheese Mission is conducted by the East London Tract Society and Christian Mission. Missionaries go out during the silent hours of midnight, to carry a piece of bread and cheese to the hungry who are walking the streets, unable to pay for a bed in even the lowest lodging-house. A word is spoken and a tract given along with the food. Among persons thus relieved was an old man, 82 years of age, who was raking the gutter outside a greengrocer's shop, at three o'clock in the morning, for pieces of orange peel.

The national memorial to Gordon, in taking the form of a home for wounded soldiers and sailors, will be a very becoming and highly educational fact. It is very happy, too, that the Government of Egypt has given the land on which the institution is to be erected.

Sir William Muir has been so stout and steady a friend of missions and missionaries, that we follow him with great interest, and it is "just like him" that, though Principal of Edinburgh University, he finds time to attend evangelistic meetings for students, and urges them to be "out-and-out" Christians.

Japanese Christian Church members last year averaged \$4.90 in their benevolent contributions. If all the members of our churches gave on the same scale, the treasures of our missionary and benevolent societies would overflow.