

several applications for grants were considered and dealt with. Other routine business being disposed of, reports were submitted from the Revds. W. S. Ball, W. R. Parker, D. Baldwin, Dr. Beaumont, and W. W. Ross, agents. The schedule of colportage was read, and reports from the colporteurs submitted.

The meeting was closed with prayer led by the Rev. John Potts.

EXTRACTS FROM THE LAST REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.

AUSTRIA.

Only ten years have passed since Mr. E. Millard, who then represented the Society at Berlin, wrote to the Committee with an outline of plans for the breaking up of new ground, which he submitted to them for approval. His mind had for some time been occupied with a scheme which had for its object the circulation of the Scriptures throughout the Austrian dominions; and believing that he saw his way to the realization of his hopes, he asked permission to make the attempt. He proposed to make Vienna his headquarters, and feeling his way from that centre to the various states of which the empire is composed, gradually to bring its mingled races under the influence of Divine Truth. It was a bold scheme, and needed strong faith and large-hearted Christian zeal for its accomplishment. But God ever honours the faith which He bestows, and His servant can now rejoice in the assurance that He who put into his heart good desires, has brought the same to good effect. The little one has become a thousand, and the effort which was so enterprising in its conception, has been blessed of God almost beyond expectation. In seventeen provinces, extending from the Lake of Constance to the Black Sea, and from the Baltic to the Adriatic, the Scriptures have been circulated within ten years in thirteen principal languages to the extent of 1,405,400 copies.

It must not, however, be supposed that because such a haven has been reached there have been no storms by the way, or no shoals and rocks obstructing the course. Far from it: the most careful navigation has been needed, and much, under God, has been due to the watchful intrepidity of the pilot as well as to the Christian character of the crew. Mr. Millard commences his present report with an allusion to the struggles and troubles of the past year, which had induced him to anticipate a reduction in his sales. Such, however, has not been the case, for though, in some localities the number does not reach last year's amount, yet taking the agency as a whole, there is an increase in the issues of 1,853 copies. These have consisted of 26,682 Bibles, 53,184 New Testaments, and 37,444 Portions, or 117,310 volumes, and if to these are added 21,017, supplied to other agencies, a total will be reached of 138,327.

After giving a list of the colporteurs, the report says:—"One of these, named Ziger, the last on the list, is a remarkable instance of the distinguishing grace of God. A Croat by birth, and in heart a bigoted Roman Catholic, so given was he to idolatry that he built an altar in his own hut, where he might bow down to the Virgin and in his ignorance plead with her to mediate between his soul and God. He was, however, mercifully brought into contact with a colporteur, of whom he bought a Bible and there learnt that there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, and that there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we