

period has had ample opportunities of becoming intimately acquainted with the operations of your Society in the East.

An able and satisfactory report of the Agency for the past year has been supplied by Mr. Thomson, from which it appears that the copies circulated have reached a gratifying total of 20,847, and have been widely dispersed.

Bulgaria has received the most ample supply, amounting to 8538 copies.

The issue of Turkish Scriptures has been threefold the number disposed of during the preceding year, exciting the hope that divine truth is gradually, though silently, making its way amongst Moham-medans, many of whom confidently anticipate the eclipse of their own faith, and the ultimate supremacy of Christianity.

INDIA.—It would afford your Committee unfeigned delight, could they depict in more glowing colours the operations of the Society in India. With a population so vast and so varied as that included within the limits of British India, the combined circulation of Scriptures, effected by all the Auxiliaries, amounts to little more than the comparatively insignificant number of 108,000 copies. Yet are the Committee assured that no indifference or inactivity, in relation to the work, can for a moment be alleged against those who administer the affairs of the affiliated Societies. Difficulties, however, of a serious character are to be combated and overcome, in endeavouring to secure a wider range of action for your Society. The neutral attitude still assumed by the Government in reference to the diffusion of the Gospel; the deep-rooted aversion of the natives to a religion which puts its interdiction upon the indulgence of their depraved lusts and passions; the implacable resentment towards Christianity which burns in the heart of the proud Mussulman; the utter inability of the great masses of India's population to read; the paucity of qualified labourers to go forth and scatter the seed of truth;—these and other untoward circumstances cannot fail to present formidable barriers in the way of all efforts for circulating the Bible.

CALCUTTA.—The Calcutta Auxiliary has recently celebrated its Jubilee, having been the first of the affiliated Societies planted in British India. During the half century of this Auxiliary's existence, many important plans have been adopted for the translation and dissemination of the Scriptures, issuing in the circulation of more than a million of copies.

The total circulation of the past year is stated to have been 28,485 copies.

NORTH INDIA.—ALLAHABAD.—The long

and painful period of inaction imposed upon the North-India Auxiliary has now happily passed away, and the day of labour has again returned. Furnished with an ample supply of God's word in the vernaculars of the surrounding population, the Auxiliary has resumed the same active measures for the circulation of the Scriptures as were adopted before its zealous efforts were temporarily paralyzed.

MADRAS.—The operations of the Madras Auxiliary are assuming, from year to year, an aspect of greater magnitude and importance. Proofs are given that portions of the word of God, casually borne far beyond the limits of Missionary labour, are sometimes earnestly perused, and lead the mind to a just and believing appreciation of Christianity. From the valuable and interesting communications addressed to the Auxiliary by Missionaries labouring within the Madras Presidency, it is evident that the Scriptures are in greater demand amongst the natives than formerly; and the wise precaution, now frequently adopted, of requiring a small price for the copies distributed, tests how far the professed desire for the word of God is sincere.

The circulation of the Madras Auxiliary for the past, was nearly 20,000 copies beyond the issues of the preceding year. The total distribution, including the issues by colportage, amounted to 65,939 copies.

BOMBAY.—The Auxiliary Society at Bombay, the centre of Scripture supply for Western India, cannot report any great amount of progress in the operations it directs. A circulation of 1359 copies amongst the ten millions speaking the Marathi language, and of 533 copies amongst the six millions employing the Gujerathi tongue, is a result as insignificant as it is depressing; and a total circulation of 4315 copies through the year indicates a range of action painfully limited when compared with the vastness of the field of labour.

CEYLON.—In the important island of Ceylon several Auxiliary Societies are in operation, placing, by their agency, the Scriptures of truth within the reach alike of heathen, papists, and Christian converts. In connection with the Dépôts at Colombo, Jaffna, and Kandy, 9514 copies have been circulated during the past year.

CHINA.—Christian hope again kindles for China. Resources and appliances for a great work in that populous empire have long been in a state of readiness, but the lack of opportunity has prevented that wide diffusion of the Holy Scriptures for which the contributions of British Christians have so amply provided.

SHANGHAE.—The issues at this place, though far below the ardent wishes of the