

Educational Missions.

MR. JOHN R. MOTT, who is making a tour around the world in the interests of the Students' Volunteer Movement, writes in the *Missionary Review* regarding educational work as follows:

"We confess that we started on this tour somewhat disposed to look upon educational mission work as less important than directly evangelistic work. A careful study of the question in four or five mission countries has led us to attach the greatest possible importance to educational missions. No country has done more to deepen this conviction than India. Without doubt, educational missions have opened a larger number of doors for the preaching of the Gospel than any other agency. They have furnished the most distinguished and influential converts. They have done more than all else combined to undermine heathen superstitions and false systems of belief. They are to-day the chief, if not the only, force to counteract the influence of the secular character and tendency of the government institutions of learning. In the interest of the ultimate success of the missionary enterprise, we believe that educational missions would be abundantly justified, if they were doing nothing but teaching science, history, philosophy, ethics and political economy in their right relation to Christ."

District Epworth Leagues Organized for Representation in the Foreign Field.

TWELVE Districts are now organized for the mission work of our Church, and under the plan of "systematic giving and daily prayer" are each working toward representation in the foreign field under the direction of our Church.

"Be not weary in well-doing, for in due time we shall reap if we faint not," are the words of cheer and encouragement of the first great Missionary to the Gentiles. God demands that our consecration to His work be complete to bring the best results in the reaping time, and to avoid weariness in our labors we must have the best obtainable plans systematically worked. The words of encouragement which come from the following districts should strengthen those who are trying to organize and cheer those who are ready for going forward in this great movement for missions:

TORONTO EAST DISTRICT.

A meeting of representatives from the different Leagues in the Toronto East District was held in the Sherbourne Street Methodist Church, to discuss what the district could do for the mission work of our Church. The meeting was enthusiastic, spiritual and calculative. Everyone was surprised at the results which were already apparent from the working of the "Daily Prayer" and "Weekly Giving" plan.

It was unanimously voted that the Toronto East District undertake to support Dr. and Mrs. Kibborn in China under the General Board of our Church. This satisfied all but the Parliament Street Epworth League, the representatives of which thought the district could do more than this. The Parliament Street Epworth League has been working faithfully along the "Daily Prayer" and "Weekly Giving" plan for about one year. Their sacrifice and prayers have enabled them to raise \$130, nearly three times the amount they raised last year.

WEST TORONTO DISTRICT.

Early in November the West Toronto District Epworth League organization met in convention. One of the Campaigners addressed the convention on the work of worldwide evangelization. A resolution urging the District officers to give special attention to the Missionary Department of League Work, and recommending all the societies to adopt the plan of daily prayer and weekly giving, with a view to supporting a representative in the mission field under the control of the General Board of Missions, was enthusiastically passed.

TORONTO CENTRAL DISTRICT.

The Executive of the District called a meeting in Broadway Tabernacle of the Missionary Vice-Presidents of the District to consider the advisability of working for the missionary cause of our Church as a District. It was recommended that all the Leagues of the District unite in adopting "The daily prayer and weekly giving plan," with a view to support a missionary under the direction of our Church in the field. The District Second Vice-President and the Second Vice-Presidents of each League of the District were appointed by unanimous vote to confer with the General Board of Missions and the Woman's Missionary Society regarding what work would be advisable for the District to undertake. This committee will then present the recommendations of these societies to their various Leagues, which will be asked to consider their proposals, and to elect representatives to represent them at a District Convention, which will be called to decide upon the work which the District will take up.

COBOURG DISTRICT.

Cobourg District Epworth League, after nine months trial of the "Daily Prayer" and "Weekly Giving" for missions determined to work loyally for the support of Dr. W. E. Smith, who started for China under appointment of the General Board of Methodist Missions on October 1st 1896.

It requires great faithfulness on the part of the members and officers in order to organize and perpetuate this simple plan of praying daily and giving systematically. But it is God's way; it is "little by little" that God accomplishes the greatest work in nature or history. The *Christian Guardian* of September 23rd says: "Last year the Leagues on the Cobourg District raised \$60 for missions. This year the amount will be \$400." Now, when it is noticed that the faithful, prayerful, systematic plan has only been operating nine months in any of the societies, and many have just started it, we feel sure that the thirteen hundred Epworth Leagues of the Cobourg District will raise at least \$800 for Dr. Smith next year.

MATILDA DISTRICT.

At the Matilda District convention, held at Winchester Springs, in August, much time was given to the discussion of the missionary work of the League. The following resolution was passed: "Resolved, that this District convention endorse the plan of the Young People's Forward Movement for Missions. Be it further resolved that the Second Vice-President, or his representative, visit all the local Leagues to present the said movement, and we, the delegates here assembled, hereby pledge ourselves to give him our hearty support to obtain its adoption in our Leagues." Very encouraging reports have been received from a number of the Societies in this District.