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Notes of the Week.

OF the 25,000 children in the Edinburgh board schools during the past year only forty-seven, or less than two per 1,000, were withdrawn at their parents' request from religious instruction. And ninety per cent. of those in the higher classes, Professor Mackinnon says, could stand an exacting examination in the leading events of Old and New Testament history and in the Shorter Catechism.

A CONTEMPORARY says: Mr. Duncan Macrae, who recently died in his seventy-sixth year, was one of the ablest, the most learned, and most popular of the Highland laymen, a man whose death will be felt over the south-west of Ross, as well as Skye, as a public calamity. Mr. Macrae joined the Free Church at the Disruption, and held meetings in his house ever since, which were highly appreciated and invariably well attended by the people of Letterfearn. When in 1864 the congregation of Glenshiel was formed, Mr. Macrae was one of its most active promoters.

THE Agra Medical Mission Training Institute was founded in the city of Agra in 1881, by Rev. Colin S. Valentine, LL.D. In 1885 it was affiliated to the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society. Its object is to impart to native Christian youths a systematic knowledge of Divine truth in connection with medical tuition to prepare them for the work of medical missionaries. The students live in the institution, and receive the professional education and diploma of the Agra Government Medical College. At present there are eighteen students in the institution.

PROFESSOR JOHN S. BLACKIE finds the main cause of the decay of preaching in the English Episcopal Church, to be the undue prominence given to books and bookish cram in the general system of education, especially in the higher schools and universities. All preachers, he says, ought to know that reading a paper before an audience is one thing and preaching to an audience another and very different thing, the preacher being a man of practical appeal who must look his audience in the face and speak out freely and boldly. Man was naturally a speaking, not a reading, animal.

THE Salvation Army self-denial week dates from November 6 to 12. The Army expects to raise \$20,000 in Canada and Newfoundland during that week, to be apportioned as follows: \$5,000 for rescue and social operations, \$5,000 for the relief of sick and wounded officers and officers in need, \$2,500 for the training of officers, \$5,000 for the assistance of small corps in their indebtedness to the territorial headquarters, \$500 to the French work, \$2,000 for general extension. The soldiers will be expected to deny themselves some creature comforts so that the money that would have been spent upon them can be given to the fund. The general public will also be asked to give of their means. Principal Grant, Professor Blaikie, Dr. Withrow, Rev. Dr. Thomas, Mr. S. H. Blake and Rev. Dr. Briggs have approved of the self-denial scheme, and Sir Oliver Mowat wrote: "I feel much interest in the operations of the Salvation Army, and have much pleasure in enclosing a contribution to the self-denial fund."

A CORRESPONDENT of an English contemporary writes: The jubilee of the Rev. Dr. Simpson, late of Derby, and now residing in Edinburgh, is to be celebrated this year. Dr. Simpson was ordained at Forres, on May 18, 1842, and laboured afterwards in Edinburgh and in Derby. A meeting is to be held in Edinburgh, presided over by Dr. Andrew Thomson, and some suitable expression will be given to the regard and esteem so widely felt towards Dr. Simpson. Dr. Simpson is one of the many preachers who have never reached the recognition they deserved. His volume of sermons—

there may be more than one, but I only know one—is among the most original of recent years. Dr. W. M. Taylor, of New York, once said in conversation with the writer that Dr. Simpson's division of the text, "None might enter the King's gate clothed with sackcloth," was one of the happiest known to him. Among the ministers trained under Dr. Simpson is the Rev. John Smith, of Edinburgh, who was introduced to his Berwick charge by the minister of his early days.

AN important law plea has just been decided by the Privy Council. It arose out of an appeal by a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales in reference to the property of that congregation. The point involved had never been argued and decided in a court of law, and the decision now given will rule all similar cases. The law, as now declared by the Privy Council, is that a voluntary conveyance of land to a charity cannot be made void by a subsequent sale of the land to a third party by the grantor under the statute twenty-seven Elizabeth, chapter four. The title of a charity to its land is therefore good and absolute against all and sundry, including the donor of the land, who, having once conveyed the land, cannot afterwards meddle with it in any shape or form. The judgment is merely declaratory. This case has settled the law, not only for the Presbyterian Church, but also for all Churches and for all public charities. And it has declared what the law is, not only in New South Wales, but also in England, Ireland, the British colonies and the United States of America. Scotland, says a contemporary, is supposed to be excepted, inasmuch as we have a legal system of our own, founded on the Roman law and in many respects different from the English legal system. Under Scots law the right of the church to its property could never have been disputed as it has been in this case.

THE Constantinople correspondent of the *British Weekly* writes. The Evangelical Union Church of Pera was organized in 1866, mainly to meet the wants of members of non-Episcopal Churches resident in the city. The chief mover in the matter was Dr. Washburn, then connected with the American Mission, and now Principal of Robert College. Dr. Washburn was pastor of the church until he joined the staff of the college; since that time the pastors have been mostly drawn from the Free Church of Scotland. The late pastor, the Rev. J. Henderson, M.A., worked also in connection with the Free Church Mission to the Jews in Galata. Subsequently to Mr. Henderson's return to Scotland, the church sent a call to the Rev. F. W. Anderson, M.A., who was ordained to the pastorate by the Free Church Presbytery of Linlithgow, on August 11, and who arrived in Constantinople at the end of September. On Saturday afternoon, October 1, a meeting of the members and friends of the congregation was held in Somerville House, to welcome Mr. Anderson. Dr. Hannington, of the Free Church Jewish Mission, presided, and addresses were delivered by the Revs. Dr. Washburn, Dr. Thomson, of Bebek; Mr. Bowen and by members of the congregation. On Sunday, October 2, the Rev. Professor Nan Millingen, of Robert College, formerly a pastor of the church, conducted the first part of the service, and gave a short address introducing Mr. Anderson. Thereafter Mr. Anderson preached, and presided at the communion service. The congregation meets in the chapel of the Dutch Legation, Pera, the use of which has been allowed all these years by the generosity of the Dutch Government, and the friendly courtesy of successive Dutch ministers.

THE *Christian Leader* says. Few social reforms are more practically and certainly beneficial than the building of model workingmen's houses. What the Peabody buildings have done for the working classes all over London has often been referred to in the *Christian Leader*, and in Glasgow a similar experiment is now being tried. The capital has been subscribed by a large number of the prominent

citizens of the "Second City" under the chairmanship and practical direction of Sir James King. The buildings are simple and picturesque in elevation, without expensive ornament, but so grouped and massed that the effect is exceedingly good. Within, everything is of the soundest workmanship, the most perfect sanitary arrangement, and when the Glasgow Kyrle Society, which has taken a great interest in this housing movement, gets time to set to work among the tenants with its window-gardening pots, the old desolation heap at the corner of High Street, instead of breaking out into ancient fish bones and stale cabbage leaves, will blossom like the rose, or at least with the hyacinth and the geranium. Part of the new block has been leased to the University Settlement Association, and is to be called "Toynbee House," after Toynbee Hall in London. There is a large hall for social intercourse between the tenants of the houses and the members of the University Association. The hall will be used for meetings, concerts, gatherings of friends, for gymnastics and literary associations. There are men's club-rooms and women's club-rooms, and a drawing-room where there will be evening parties of the simplest and friendliest sort. This is an experiment which every Christian in Glasgow ought to follow with sympathy and, if possible, with practical help.

THE new Home for Aged Women on Belmont Street, Toronto, was the scene of a large gathering last week, at which a number of those actively interested in philanthropic work were present. Mr. Warring Kennedy presided. The thirty-ninth annual report of the Toronto Industrial Refuge and the ninth annual report of the Aged Women's Home were submitted. Letters of regret were read from the Lieutenant-Governor and Sir Oliver Mowat. The thirty-ninth annual report of the Industrial Refuge, which showed the institution to be in a good and prosperous condition, was adopted on motion of Rev. Septimus Jones, seconded by Mr. Thomas Brown. The annual report of the Aged Women's Home was also carried on motion of Mr. W. Mortimer Clark, seconded by Dr. James G. Hodgins. The treasurer's report of the two institutions showed a substantial sum to their credit. It was carried on motion of Dr. Orr, seconded by Mr. Robert Gilmore. A number of addresses were made congratulating the directors on the result of their labours, and on motion of Rev. John Burton, seconded by Rev. John Neil, the following board was elected for the ensuing year:—

President.—Mrs. Ewart, 66 Wellesley Street.
Honorary Visiting Members.—Mrs. Alcorn, Mrs. John Macdonald, Mrs. James Lesslie, Mrs. James Maclellan, Mrs. T. M. Thomson, Mrs. Hugh Miller, Miss Vander Smissen, Miss Greig.
Directresses.—Mrs. Gilmour, Mrs. Mortimer Clark, Mrs. Gunther, Mrs. H. E. Clarke, Mrs. Teller, Mrs. Jeffrey, Mrs. Heron.
Treasurer.—Miss Dickson, 26 Gwynne Street.
Secretary.—Mrs. Cox, 39 Huntley Street.
Visiting Physicians.—For Industrial Refuge—Dr. Britton and Dr. Moore. For Aged Women's Home—Dr. William Caven and Dr. Scadding.
Committee.—Mrs. Eby, Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Pattullo, Mrs. McLachlan, Mrs. Christie, Mrs. John Stark, Mrs. George Scott, Mrs. Beatty, Mrs. Ogden, Mrs. T. H. Bull, Mrs. Bertram, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. George Campbell, Mrs. Buchanan, Mrs. John Kay, Mrs. Orr, Mrs. Rannie, Mrs. McNally, Mrs. Bonnell, Mrs. Richie, Mrs. Colthard, Mrs. Andrew Smith, Mrs. Carman.
Committee on Admittance to Aged Women's Home.—Mrs. John Kerr, 277 Jarvis Street; Mrs. H. E. Clarke, 549 Jarvis Street; Mrs. Bertram, 14 Madison Avenue; Mrs. Pattullo, 185 St. George Street; Mrs. Christie, 44 Wilcox Street.

The new home for Aged Women is a handsome addition to the many benevolent institutions which are to be found in Toronto. It is a fine brick building, with stone facing, after the Elizabethan style of architecture. Its width is seventy-six feet, its depth 124 feet and it has three storeys. There is accommodation for fifty inmates, allowing nearly one room for each inmate. At present there are sixteen in the Home. The cost of the structure was \$20,000, of which \$5,000 was in the hands of the directors when it was built. It was built from designs prepared by Mr. William R. Gregg, architect.