

## Young People's Societies.

### THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE'S "PLAN OF STUDY."

Conducted by Rev. R. D. Fraser, Convener.

The Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study for 1899 will be issued very shortly. As in previous years they are arranged so as to be adapted to the various sorts of Young People's Societies. They are usually set for the second weekly meeting of each month and the Topic is treated in the Record the month preceding, in order that Societies may have the materials for the meetings on hand well in advance.

The special Topic Card for Presbyterian Y. P. S. C. E. Societies will be issued as before and will embrace uniform Topics, the Monthly Topics of the Plan of Study and the Questions on the Shorter Catechism for each meeting throughout the year. Price \$1.00 per 100.

Booklet containing the same matter and also Daily Readings for the whole year. Price \$1.50 per 100.

Orders for Topic Cards and Booklets to be sent to the Convener, Rev. R. Douglas Fraser, 592 Markham St., Toronto.

Topic for the week beginning November 13th:

### JOHN GEDDIE, OUR FIRST FOREIGN MISSIONARY. ISAIAH 60.

#### Literature.

Dr. George Patterson's Life of Geddie is unfortunately out of print, but may be found especially in many ministers' libraries and probably a few copies here and there in bookstores. It is full and valuable. At the time of his lamented death the author was contemplating a new edition, which it was hoped might have been in time for use now. There is a valuable article on Dr. Geddie by Sir William Dawson in the Record of Feb., 1897. Sir William was one of Dr. Geddie's early and most intimate friends. The "New Hebrides and Christian Missions" by Rev. Robert Steele, D.D., Jas. Nisbet & Co., will also afford information, not to speak of the well known Paton books. Dr. Paton's Life, and Mrs. Paton's Letters. The Reports of the General Assembly from year to year abound in interesting items. Mr. Greatheart, or the story of John Geddie's Life, price 10c., from Mrs. Telford, 72 St. Alban's St., Toronto, is a good summary of his life.

Special attention is drawn to the article by Mrs. Harrington, Halifax, Dr. Geddie's daughter, and to the Reminiscences of Aneiteum following, by Mrs. Geddie, who shared

with her husband the perils, hardships and labors of the pioneer work in the New Hebrides, and who is spending a busy and useful old age (she is now a great-grandmother) in East Melbourne, Australia. Rev. Dr. Annand, who was one of Dr. Geddie's successors in Aneiteum, writes recently of her: "She is still wonderfully strong and well, and does a good deal of work among the poor women of the neighborhood."

#### Programme.

A simple arrangement of materials for the meeting may be made under the heads of—"Geography," or "Place," "Ethnography" or "Race," "Biography" or "Grace, the grace of God as manifested in and through the missionaries who have labored there.

#### PARAGRAPHS.

##### The Field and the Staff.

1. There are now twenty-four missionaries and four associates on the roll of the New Hebrides Synod. "The John G. Paton Mission Fund" purposes sending out another missionary very shortly. The Mission Synod has asked the Melanesian Mission, which at present has no missionary on the three northern islands, Aurora, Oba and Pentecost, to give them over to their charge. If this request be complied with the Synod will then have the whole group under its care. Of the twenty-four missionaries, eleven labor under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The remaining thirteen represent seven other Presbyterian Churches. Three of them are supported by our church. "The John G. Paton Mission Fund" at present supports two missionaries and two lay assistants; it undertakes the salary of the assistant at the Native Teachers' Training Institution and maintains sixty native teachers, all at an annual cost of \$7,000.

The reports read at last year's meeting of the Synod indicated that great progress had been made during the previous year. A decisive step in advance was taken by the Synod itself in the ordination of Epetefeto of Aneiteum as the first native pastor.—Foreign Mission Report, 1898.

#### A Big Family.

On December 29th last Dr. Annand, of Santo, writes from Melbourne:—Since our arrival in Sydney, the 9th Oct., we have been busy with social and public duties. We remained in New South Wales, for two months, as we had business to attend to there which detained us. Besides for a time the weather was too cold for us to enjoy life further south. Now, however, we have more than island summer heat to endure even in Melbourne.