

The Coming European Congress.

The date has been fixed for the seventh international congress against the abuse of intoxicating liquors. It is to be held in Paris from April 4 to 9, 1899. This series is known on the continent as the A. twerp series. The previous gatherings held were held at Antwerp, 1885; Zurich, 1887; Christiana, 1890; the Hague, 1893; Basle, 1895; Brussels, 1897. Various other congresses have been held, but of a national character.

The arrangements for this gathering of next spring is in the hands of a committee of 50, among whom are senators, bishops, pastors, noblemen, state councillors, judges of high degree, members of the French National Institute, medical academicians, Sorbonne professors, university lecturers, inspectors of colleges and schools, headmasters, directors of departmental affairs, doctors of medicine, tutors, teachers, philanthropic ladies and gentlemen, journalists, etc. The honorary president of this preparatory committee is Senator Theophilus Roussel, M.D., and M. Legrain, M.D., physician of the lunatic asylums of the Seine department, is the "active" president.

The congress will be held in three sections. The first section will deal with the educational side of the movement, with special reference to anti-alcoholic instruction in public schools, hospitals, prisons, etc., and a discussion of results obtained where this plan has been inaugurated.

The second section will deal with the economic, political, and social side of the matter. Such topics as legal prohibition, the Gothenberg system, local option, tenements for workmen, action of alcohol on intellectual and muscular development, retreats for inebriates, longevity, etc., will be discussed.

The third section will be devoted to anti-alcoholic propaganda. Substitutes for the saloon, coffee-houses, and various associations against drink practices.

This is the first time that total abstinence or prohibition has ever been introduced into a French Congress by Frenchmen in the history of the movement.

Africa is rapidly opening to missions. The victory at Omdurman has opened the Soudan to the extension of Christianity. A number of pagan tribes hitherto remote of access can now be approached. Even the Mohammedan population, despite their well known obstinacy to conversion, offer a field for missionary effort. As usual the American Presbyterians are in the forefront of missionary advance, and will be the first to open schools at Khartoum.

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Dr. John G. Paton's reports for the past year tell of 1,102 South Sea Islanders won from cannibalism to Christianity, one missionary alone receiving two hun-

dred adults into church membership. A translation of the New Testament into another of the island languages has been finished by Dr. Paton, and will soon be issued.

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It is estimated that since the opening of this century at least 4,300,000 souls have been brought out of heathen darkness into the glorious light of Christian truth. There are to-day 1,166,217 communicants; 4,542 native ministers preaching the Word of Life to their own people, and 59,112 are employed as catechists, lay readers and helpers.

The Best Church Hymns.

Dr. Louis F. Benson, of Philadelphia, by comparing the hymn-books of English speaking people, has made this list of the hymns which at the present time are in the widest actual use in all the churches the world over. He thinks they lie closest to the heart of English-speaking Christians. All of them, we believe, appear in our Book of Praise.

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me.
2. When I survey the wondrous cross.
3. Jesus, Lover of my soul.
4. All praise to Thee, my God, this night.
5. Jesus, I my cross have taken.
6. Sun of my soul, thou Saviour dear.
7. Awake, my soul, and with the sun.
8. Hark! the herald angels sing.
9. Abide with me, fast falls the even-tide.
10. Jerusalem my happy home.
11. How sweet the name of Jesus sounds.
12. Nearer, my God, to Thee.
13. From Greenland's icy mountains.
14. Our God, our Help in ages past.
15. Jerusalem the golden.
16. Lo, He comes, with clouds descending.
17. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun.
18. Glorious things of Thee are spoken.
19. Hark, the glad sound, the Saviour comes.
20. Come, let us join our cheerful songs.
21. All hail the power of Jesus' name.
22. Hail to the Lord's Anointed.
23. O worship the King, all glorious above.
24. Christ the Lord is risen to-day.
25. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah.
26. Just as I am, without one plea.
27. God moves in a mysterious way.
28. Jesus, the very thought of Thee.
29. Children of the Heavenly King.
30. There is a land of pure delight.
31. Thou, whose almighty word.
32. Brief life is here our portion.

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