

The OBITUARY of the year has always a painful interest. From the list of Vice-Presidents six names have been removed. The Earl of Carnarvon died in June, 1890; in December His Grace the Archbishop of York (Dr. Thomson) and the Right Hon. Sir Thomas F. Fremantle, first Baron Cottesloe, and Sir Augustus Rivers Thompson, K.C.S.I.; the Rev. George Osborne, D.D., twice President of the Wesleyan Conference, has also passed away, and, while these pages are being revised, the death of the Archbishop of York (Dr. Magee) is announced. From the list of Hon. Life Governors three names have been removed:—those of the Rev. Dr. Charles Hebert, the Rev. Patrick Fenn, and the Rev. John Venn. It need not be said how grave is the loss to the Society through the death of men so distinguished and so devoted as those whose decease is deplored.

The lists from which these names have been removed have been during the year largely strengthened. To that of Vice-Presidents have been added the names of the Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham; the Lord Kinnaird; Sir Geo. G. Stokes, Bart., M.P., F.R.S.; the Dean of Westminster; the Dean of Windsor; R. N. Cust, Esq., LL.D.; and Rev. A. M. Fairbairn, D.D., Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford. Among the names of Hon. Life Governors have been enrolled those of T. Fowell Buxton, Esq., the Rev. Dr. Chalmers, of Canton; J. Storrs Fry, Esq., the Ven. John Richardson, Archdeacon of Southwark, and Robert Ingram Stevens, Esq.

Two important meetings signalize the year just closed. One took place in the Guildhall, when over two thousand young people celebrated the Society's Birthday. The other was held in the Mansion House, and the speech of His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, in which he bore warm testimony to the usefulness of the Society's work will be long remembered. The Archbishop of Canterbury added a copious and hearty statement, and the courtesy of the Lord Mayor, who presided at both gatherings, deserves cordial acknowledgment.

The survey of the work of the year begins with France, and writes its first chapter under the shadow of the vineyards and among the romantic villages of Brittany. It then passes—following the broad pathways of its work—from country to country of Europe, till it finds itself led—across the Eastern frontier of Russia—into the immense prairies of Siberia and the steppes of Central Asia. From these it turns westward through the Turkish Empire and Greece into Africa: from Africa eastwards again, by Palestine and Arabia, to Persia to India, the island-world of Malaysia, to China, to Australia; thence, across the Atlantic, to South America and Canada, until, taking leave of the Dominion at Newfoundland, it comes to an end among the cities and villages of England. In all this review of the countries and the peoples of the globe there is nothing more impressive than the evidences of the gradual establishment of a kingdom which is destined to include them all. When the century which is now closing began its course the area of Christian knowledge was a very limited one, and but few of the many languages had become familiar with the Story of the Cross. But it is different now. Four new versions, begun during the year, and making the Gospel vernacular in as many tongues, have brought up the total of the Society's translations to almost three hundred. This number includes all the greater languages of the globe, and the large majority of those which are of secondary compass and importance. As the eye passes from land to land it sees everywhere the scholar at work upon the Word of God, moulding with patient care some new version into shape, or giving an earlier one more perfect form. Nor is it in productive work alone that so liberal energy is being expended, for the accounts of the year report that some 330 Bible-women are busy in the Zenanas of the East; that over 600 colporteurs are, in almost every country, familiarizing the people with the Bible; and that more than 230 depots, like centres of light, are diffusing among many races the knowledge which not only refines and elevates, but saves. The workers in this great enterprise are of every nationality—of every grade of natural character and education. What is it that unites them in a brotherhood so cordial, and supports them in the face of the dangers and