

HER IMPERATIVE DUTY.

The duty of the Church of Christ to evangelize the world must be stoutly maintained. No apology for foreign missions is asked for today. From those who accept the customs and superstitions of Rome, or the declarations of German religious speculators and mystics and scientific agnostics, to the densely ignorant and superstitious savages of the islands of the sea, immortal souls need the Word of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ more than they need anything else. The Church is commanded by its Head, who is the King of kings and Lord of lords, to teach all nations, to proclaim to them the word of eternal life. Obedience to this supreme command will awaken antagonism, will often arouse bitter and furious opposition, but the command is to be obeyed. Through obedience to it and by no other means will the Kingdom which is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, be established over the whole earth. This is the greatest need of humanity, and this need is to be supplied by the preaching of the Word of God at any cost that may be required.

WELSH CONGREGATIONAL STATISTICS.

There is an impression outside the borders of the Principality that the effects of the Welsh religious revival have been eliminated from the churches, and that nearly all the converts have gone back to their evil ways. It is true that there has been a decrease in the number of the church members of the Welsh churches during the last few years; but the statistics of the four leading Nonconformist denominations in Wales at the end of last year showed a net increase as compared with the year 1903, the year before the revival, of 67,431. The official statistics of the Welsh Congregationalists have just been completed by the Rev. H. Eynon Lewis of Brynethin, the statistical secretary of the denomination, with the assistance of the several statistical secretaries of the county unions. The totals show that the Congregationalists have in Wales (including the Welsh churches in the principal English towns), 1,361 churches and schoolrooms; 179,021 communicants; 173,446 scholars and teachers in the Sabbath schools; 652 ministers with pastoral charge; 113 local preachers; 180 students preparing for the ministry. The total amount of the collections is £320,072 12s. 10½d. The total number of church members, although 2,280 less than the total of last year, is 8,647 more than the total of the year before the revival, which is equal to an average increase of 1,720 annually during the last five years.—British Weekly.

The leading article in The Living Age for August 21, "The Hush in Europe," presents a thoughtful and comprehensive survey of existing explosive conditions. The phrase which gives the article its title is borrowed from Lord Rosebery. Mr. H. N. Brailsford is the author, and the English Review the source.

The Wall Street Journal says: "There is nothing on earth that looks good that is so dangerous for a man or nation to handle as quick, easy, big money. If you do not resist its deadly influences, the chances are that it will get your son." This is true. The children of the "new rich" almost always go to pieces.

DR. GEORGE ADAM SMITH IN AMERICA.

The Boston Congregationalist pays a high tribute to the work done by Dr. G. Adam Smith at Chicago.

"An appreciation of Dr. George Adam Smith's five weeks' service as lecturer and preacher in the University of Chicago would demand many words, fitly chosen. A single sentence, however, may sum up one of its obvious effects—a new conception in the mind of those who have heard him of the present and permanent value of the Old Testament.

"Several Congregational ministers have attended practically all of his lectures, two rising with the sun and taking two hours of railway and street car travel before the hour of eight, when the principal course was given.

"The people who heard Dr. Smith day after day were amply rewarded in this one service—he made them know Jeremiah. He introduced his large class to other of the prophets of the times preceding the exile, but he lingered longest in the company of Jeremiah, and he closed the lectures under the shadow of the cross.

"Compared with his treatment of the Messianic hope, the old proof-text method seems among the childish things which it is a reproach to us longer to use. But it is only one method of study, not the Old Testament itself, which is outgrown. This has been only known in shreds and patches. The real meaning of it is almost as much a discovery as the letter of the narrative when it was translated into common speech in the beginning of the Reformation."

The Scottish correspondent of the British Weekly writes: Visitors to Grantown-on-Spey had on Sunday the privilege of hearing the Rev. Dr. Barclay, Montreal, preach in the parish church. Though he has spent many years in Canada, he is still thoroughly Scottish in his voice and manner of delivery. Taking as his text "Whereupon I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision," he preached on the "vision of Christ"—that vision which, in some way or other, comes to every man and woman. There were, Dr. Barclay thought, some in the congregation who could say, "I know whom I have believed," but there might be others who had doubts of various kinds. One thing, however, Dr. Barclay said they could not doubt, and that was the beauty of Christ's character. Disobedience or obedience to the heavenly vision lies for many in the fulfilment of some duty, and for a clear knowledge of duty the vision of Christ is sufficient to guide us.

The August Current Literature has been on our table for some time. Among the principal articles in this number are Mark Twain from a New Angle; The Latest Heresy Case; The Creedless Christianity Possible; The Religion of Swinburne; and Amusement as a Factor in Man's Spiritual Uplift. "Music and the Drama," contains much of interest; and in "Recent Poetry" will be found some good current verse. There are also numerous illustrations and clever cartoons in this issue. Address: 41-43 West 25th St., New York.

The Japanese are beginning to realize more and more that Christianity is the great universal religion and not the religion of any one nation or nations. It is reported that the professor of philosophy of religion at the Imperial university now does not hesitate to invite Christian scholars to lecture on Christianity to the students.

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND MEDICINE.

In old time medicine was largely in the hands of the clergy, especially the monks. When, however, the monks got to performing surgery, certain theologians took the ground that priests are prohibited from shedding blood, and as surgery could not be accomplished without that a papal edict was issued strictly forbidding priests to practice surgery, and later on this interdiction was extended to the whole field of medicine, the prohibition being repeated by council after council. The author whom we quote says that for several centuries after the old-time connection between the clergy and the healing art, vows of celibacy were imposed by all the universities upon graduates of medicine until the end of the sixteenth century. It was not until after the Reformation that graduates of medicine were relieved from the obligation of celibacy that had dated from the days when surgeons and physicians were either monks or priests. These facts are quite interesting, says the N. Y. Christian Advocate. In view of the report that Pius X has before him at the present time a project to repeal all the canonical restrictions which bar the Roman Catholic clergy from the practice of medicine. The object of the reform is to remove the disadvantage to which Roman Catholic missionaries are subjected by being unable to compete with those Protestant missionaries in Asia, Africa, South America, and Mexico who through practicing medicine and surgery are able to win the confidence of the natives, our author declares, "by first healing their physical ills before attempting to deal with their spiritual needs."

After a three months' evangelistic tour in the principal cities of Australia, Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman and Charles M. Alexander with their company of evangelistic helpers departed Thursday for Manila, where they will remain two days. They will reach Hong Kong about Sept. 1. After China, Japan and Korea, they will sail for America from Yokohama Nov. 15 on the steamer Empress of China. If they reach Vancouver by Nov. 27, as they expect, the party will be back in Chicago by the first of December. Dr. Chapman and his associates went to Australia by invitation of the Evangelistic Society of Melbourne, but Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and New Zealand all joined in this invitation. Their campaign in Australia has been very successful.

The China Inland Mission, which will stand always as a monument to the labors of Dr. Hudson Taylor, has now 928 missionaries, having received forty-five recruits during the past year. Through this mission 20,000 Chinese have been received into the Christian Church, 2,507 of this number coming in during 1908.

A Japanese explorer is bound for Albany in Western Australia. This is to be the starting point and base for an expedition to the Antarctic Pole. He thinks he can do it and be back in four months. His name is Kodama Oomateru; he has had much experience in exploration, and certain patriotic capitalists of the four great cities of Japan are financing his expedition.

Members of Alliston and Burns "churches" in bidding "good-bye" to Rev. S. F. Sharp and his family, at a lawn social recently held at the home of Mr. Thomas Hood, Essa, Mr. Robt. Scott, in behalf of the congregations, presented Mr. Sharp with an address and a purse from each, and Mrs. Joseph Perrott, on behalf of the Alliston ladies, presented Mrs. Sharp with an address and life membership in the W. F. M. S. and to Miss Margaret a purse.