

in the country themselves. Your Committee have again urged the judicious distribution of Scriptures by missionaries on tours as one of the most promising means for enlarging the circulation in India, and they have again expressed their readiness to aid in such tours both by books and money. They have also made offers of assistance wherever any circulation can be effected among females by the ladies who teach in zenanas, or girls' schools. About 140 colporteurs are employed by the Indian and Ceylon Auxiliaries, and their sales are some 120,000 copies, large or small, in a year, and the demand for the Word of God in the Vernaculars of South India increases year by year."

## CHINA.

"The year has been one of large *issues* from the various depôts in China, 223,543 volumes having been sent out from Shanghai alone.

"A large number of local colporteurs are superintended by local committees, or individual missionaries. The staff of European colporteurs has been raised from one to four, and more of the missionaries of the China Inland Mission have been engaged to give much of their time to the sale of the Scriptures on their tours. The testimony is general to the marked difference in the attitude of the people towards the 'foreign devils,' and native colporteurs, who sell the Scriptures. Opposition, abuse, pelting with stones and mud, and the like are comparatively rare. Persons who have bought books in former years, and who have evidently read them with care, are met with from time to time. 'I am more convinced every year,' says the Rev. L. Lloyd, of Fuchau, 'that the distribution of the Bible in China is a work of the highest value, and that the result in God's time from this precious seed-sowing will be far beyond everything our weak faith expects.' A medical missionary has taken with him a Bible colporteur, and began work in the island of Hainan. His skill draws crowds around him. In one place, within a few hours, thirty came with bad teeth to be drawn. In another, the relief given to one man by a blister brought nearly the whole village begging to be blistered. They were offered the Gospel instead."

## JAPAN.

"The Rev. Isaac J. Taylor, your first resident Agent in Japan, received a cordial welcome from the corresponding committee, which had so successfully worked for your Society as to make the need of an Agent on the spot urgent. And a large increase in your circulation has followed his arrival, besides many other benefits. Your society has published, in conjunction with the National Bible Society of Scotland, the first Japanese New Testament *with References*. The References to the number of about 12,000 were prepared with much care by the Rev. John Piper, of the Church Missionary Society. Three editions of several thousand copies were called for in a few months. Among the Free Grants of the year were 30 copies of the parable of the Prodigal Son in Japanese raised type for the blind. Four books of the old Testament, translated by English missionaries, are now in circulation."

## AFRICA.

"Your Committee have long been anxious to do more in North Africa. Through the kindness of the British Society for the Propagation of the Gospel among the Jews, the services of the Rev. J. Lowitz have been transferred to your Society. His long experience and high qualifications justify the hope that your new Agency will, under God, be a great blessing to a dark and disturbed region. And he has special facilities for access to the French troops in Tunis and Algeria.