

through anything but metal, and for that reason much of the building is done with corrugated iron. The ant hill is one of the conspicuous land marks in traveling over South Africa.—*Ainslee's Magazine.*

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.

One of the most encouraging features of the Y. P. C. Societies is, that they "are finding their greatest stimulation and largest opportunities for growth along missionary lines."

However important their social or educational efforts or aims, "the most important of all is their more perfect enlistment in all missionary activity through existing denominational organizations."

May God hasten the day when a new generation "trained to missions," may more fully obey the Lord's command to "go."

"But ye shall pass before your brethren armed, all the mighty men of valor, and help them; and until the Lord have given your brethren rest, as He hath given you, and they also have possessed the land which the Lord your God giveth them, then shall ye return unto the land of your possession, and enjoy (possess) it." Josh. i: 14, 15.—*The Baptist Missionary Magazine.*

HELPS FOR LEADERS.—I often wonder if we appreciate how many of our boys and girls are growing up without the simplest forms of missionary information. A goodly number are being trained in Mission Circles and Junior Endeavor Societies; but apart from these there are a host of children having absolutely no missionary instruction. How this shall be remedied is a vital question which must be answered if we are to have interested men and women to take up this work as older ones are obliged to lay it down. The Sunday school seems the place for special effort along this line. We hear it said again and again, "Knowledge is power." We must give the children the knowledge that they may possess the power which will help on the kingdom of God in this world. Information in story form always appeals to children, and leads to questions which, with tact, can be led into missionary channels. The papers and magazines of our denomination are full of material which can be so used to great advantage.—*By Miss A. R. Hursthorn, Life and Light for Women.*

Faraday, with the intellect of twenty men, was asked on his dying bed, "What are your speculations?" "Speculations? I have none. I am resting on certainties. I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed to Him."—*The Missionary Monthly.*

JAPAN.

A peculiar feature of the work of Missions in Japan is, that it has been largely among the upper classes, while the coolie or peasant classes have been as yet but little touched. It is on this account that the influence of forty years of Christian effort in the empire is so felt in the laws, customs, thought and life of the country.

Thus while there are only 120,000 members of Christian churches, including Roman Catholics, in that country, yet out of 300 members of the National Diet last year the speaker and thirteen other members were Christian, among whom are found some of the most able and efficient men in that body. One of the three members of the Executive Committee of the great Liberal Party is a Christian, and there are 155 Christian officers in the army and about an equal proportion in the navy. In the government universities and colleges the number of Christian teachers and professors is noticeably large, while in the new literary life of Japan, as editors and leading writers in the secular press, Christian men hold many prominent positions. Christians take the lead in the organization and conduct of charitable institutions, such as orphan asylums, homes for released prisoners, schools for wayward children, etc. This large proportion of Christian men in leading positions in Japan is due to the fact that the better classes there are accepting Christianity, and that the impulse of their new faith leads them to the front in all good measures for the education, elevation and salvation of their country.

PROGRESS IN JAPAN.

In 1868, the first building for Christian uses was erected in Tokyo; now there are ninety-two such in that city. In 1873, the calendar of Christian nations displaced the pagan. By the treaties which came into force in July last year, all the country is now open for missionary residence and work. Japanese Christians have sent, and will support, five missionaries to their own countrymen in the Hawaiian Islands. There are two battleships of the first class in the Japanese navy, and both are commanded by Christian captains. These are both Presbyterians, as is also the President of the Lower House of Parliament. There are three Christian professors, and upwards of sixty members of the Christian Association in the Imperial University of Tokyo. Sixty students were baptised last year who had been brought to the acceptance of Christianity, chiefly through the influence of the Young Men's Christian Association.—*Free Church Monthly.*

"I think it will be admitted by all that lack of interest in foreign missions is due largely to lack of knowledge. If we would cultivate the interest we