

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 in 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. Colportage is also accomplished through such agencies as the Christian Vernacular Education Society. Several important translations are undergoing careful revision, and a beginning has been made of providing the Scriptures for the first time in such languages as Brahui, Pahari, and Koi. The largest Auxiliary is that in Madras. Its sales were 15,000 last year, or 3,300 more than in the year before, 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 depots in China, 223,543 volumes having been sent out from Shanghai alone, as against 146,012 in the year before. The actual *sales* have in many cases not been reported, but they must have been large, though considerably less than the total issues. During the year 233,586 books have been received from the press, and many thousands more were in process of printing at its close.

A large number of native 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 begun 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, landed in Yokohama on March 4, 1881. He 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. The circulation, which in 1879 was 1,718, and in 1880, 4,706 copies, has in 1881 been 7,909 copies. 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