

THE FIELD
IS
THE WORLD

Missionary Department

"Pray, Study, Give."

THE SEED
IS
THE WORD

March Missionary Meeting

BY THE EDITOR.

TOPIC: Chengtu, Our Missionary Centre.
LESSON: Matt. Chapter 28.

HYMNS FOR SELECTION: "Epworth
Praises," 180, 179, 170, 161, 142, 141,
111, 66, 62, 61.

(Do brighten up your meetings with in-
spiring music.)

We have reached the fourth chapter of "Our Share in China," and an earnest effort should be made to acquaint our young people with the facts enumerated by Mr. Bond on pages 49-56 of his book. The medical work has been apportioned to July, and the educational work to June. Do not, therefore, attempt to include the whole of chapter four in the programme of one evening.

Also remember that "Our Share in China" is sold by Dr. Stephenson. Do not order it from the editor, but write Dr. Stephenson, and send 50 cents for a cloth bound copy, or 35 cents for one in paper.

ABOUT YOUR TOPIC TREATMENT.

At least a dozen persons should take part in the analysis and description of the subject.

The leader, of course, must be familiar with the contents of the prescribed study, but if he lectures on the topic, much that is said will be lost.

By dividing the various paragraphs of the book among as many members for restatement in their own words, much will be remembered and so retained.

Those participating should not read out of the book, but having mastered the statements, should talk about them, thus gaining some training in expression.

The members might profitably be supplied with note-books and pencil, and jot down the facts given as each speaker slowly progresses.

These lists of facts might be read and compared after the speakers are through, and the member having the most complete list be presented with a copy of the book, or "The Heart of Sz-Chuan," which by the way, will be found very helpful as a book of reference. Pages 19 and 20 of it are particularly suggestive on and over again during the week, in the present topic.

SUGGESTED PARAPHRASE TREATMENT.

1. Should locate Chengtu on the map, tell something about Marco Polo's visit, and describe the city's wall and gates.
2. Should give some statistics of the population, the characteristics of the people, their homes and temples, and show the importance of the city as a political centre.
3. The modern improvements of Chengtu, the method of civic government, and the commercial importance of the city, are to be stated.
4. This speaker should describe the great plain that reaches out for many miles from and around the city, its fertility, cultivation, products, and such like, give abundant material for a few minutes' interesting talk.
5. The next speaker may give some account of the great importance of Chengtu as a literary centre, and tell

something about the Government schools and system of education, 6. Should tell why Dr. Hart advised, and our General Bond chose this as a field of most promising Missionary toil.

7. The historical facts regarding the founding of our Mission, given on page 52, should be restated slowly and with emphasis until they are known by all.

8. Tell of the first Mission buildings we had, and the fate that befell them in 1895.

9. Give some facts about the history of the Mission in 1896 and 1897 as found on pages 53 and 54.

10. Describe the beginning of native financial support of the work, and the organization of Sunday schools.

11. Should give some idea of the inauguration of the press work in the Mission, and how the work has grown. (Pages 77-83 should be consulted and the facts there stated in this connection.)

12. The present standing of the Church, its needs, and prospects, as given on page 55, should be given in order.

13. This last speaker might give an account of the Outstation work of the Mission as contained in the last paragraph on page 56 of the text-book.

From the above you will see the necessity of having and using the book itself, for it is impossible to quote from it here; indeed, such is not the purpose of these columns, our aim being simply to guide you in your presentation of the case in your meeting.

If you have formed the weakening habit of following a set formal programme, get out of it. Arrange your own order, be a little bit original. We can only suggest hymns for you to sing, methods for you to follow, but the final manner of conducting your meeting in detail must and should rest with you, not with us.

Our Main Responsibility

In a recent letter from Chengtu, rev. E. J. Carson writes:

The people's main responsibility is with the people God has given us already—our church members. Their only hope of an education and of thereby fitting themselves for positions of usefulness and responsibility is either in renouncing Christianity or in being educated in mission schools. Is not this a great opportunity to throw around these boys and girls the moulding influence of daily Christian example and precept during the formation period of their life? We in West China feel that it is up to the churches to rise to the opportunity and see that the coming generation of Christians shall be so educated that their character and abilities they develop must demand for them a leading place in the life of this people. This much we must do or prove the reason for our call to build up the Church of Christ.

But there are, hundreds of other boys and girls not yet members of our churches who are glad to come to us still in spite of the feeling in some circles against mission schools, and submit to the regulations of Christian schools in order that they may get the honest thorough education that the Missions Schools in our union are providing.

Large numbers of boys seek entrance to our schools because they prefer to risk their stigma connected with the name of a Mission School rather than spend their years in schools where teaching methods are poor and what is taught is unreliable. "Believing that education in the highest sense cannot exist apart from Christianity," should we not also encourage this class of students to come and get their education up to university graduation under Christian auspices? If we can look at the spread of the Master's Kingdom not only from the standpoint of adding individuals' names to the church roll, but also from the standpoint of putting in motion those great spiritual, social and intellectual forces that work by centuries for the welfare of man, then it is well worth while receiving and enlightening these outside the church as well.

Playing Cards in the League

Did you ever? What? Play cards in your League meetings. We have enjoyed a good game many a time. Are you shocked? We give you need not be. And after our remarks last month about card playing, you need not be afraid that we are advising you to do anything even questionable. But really, if you want a good time with lots of entertainment and profit, prepare your own cards and use them. We give a sample you want to have say a Missionary review. Your subject is "Our Share in China." Many facts are contained in this book. They are hard to remember. Many of your members do not really study the book. Let the Missionary V. P. prepare twenty, fifty, or even a hundred cards. Start with the lesser number and add some from time to time. Suppose it is about Chengtu you want to teach. Here is a card:

CHENG TU

Our Missionary centre in West China.

"The Perfect Capital" of Szechwan.

Has half a million population.

Missionary work began there by our Church in 1891.

The Pioneer Party of nine persons reached there in May, 1892.

The first foreign house was built there by Mr. Hartwell, in 1895.

In 1907 the new hospital was begun, under Dr. Ewan.

Is the headquarters of our press work in China.

Any such facts may, of course, be employed. The eight we have given are the ones that first occurred to us in preparing the sample. You will notice that the simplest facts are given first on the card. Having the set of cards prepared and ready for use, the leader divides the meeting, preferably after the old style method of appointing captains and choosing sides. Then with all the cards in hand, the leader commences reading from each card from the bottom up. Thus the simplest facts which everybody should know are reserved for the last. Each member is listening, and as soon as someone identifies the card, the hand goes up and if the answer is correct, the card passes from the leader to the one who has first answered correctly. The one side having the largest number of cards at the end, wins, and the person having the most, is of course, the winner of the contest.

It can be seen that this method necessitates review; and that the very repetition of the statements on the cards means an increase of knowledge to those who

"The Christian who feels no interest in fallen men soon falls himself."