

and gave special importance to the educational interests of the mission. Considerable time was given to the discussion of the establishment of a home missionary society, the fact being that over one-third of all the churches in this field are already wholly self-supporting, and that many of these stronger churches have been for a considerable time carrying on small and independent missions in various places. The closing exercises of the girls' college were held on June 14th, when 6 girls took diplomas, all of whom expect to teach as have the 6 who graduated last year.

A Polyglot Institution. It seems that even yet Western Asia is the seat of Babel, for no less than 5 tongues, English, Armenian, Russian, Turkish, and Persian, are taught in the boys' school at Tabriz, Persia. So no wonder that at least one of the missionaries sometimes sighs "for a one-language field," and recalls the cry of a young Englishwoman in delirium, "Oh, let's go home, where everybody talks English!"

The Bible in Arabia. At the Bahrein station a population of 300,000 is within reach of the Gospel, and there are located Rev. S. M. Zwemer, Mrs. Zwemer, Dr. S. J. Thoms, and Mrs. Thoms, who is also a physician, and Rev. James E. Moerdyk, with their native colporteurs. The distribution of Bibles, Testaments, and other religious books, with personal conversation, is the way as yet in which most good can be done, while the medical work is a large and ever-growing factor in reaching the soul as well as the body by the power to bless given to His servants by the Great Physician. Of Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture, 932 were sold during the past year at Bahrein, 86 per cent. being to Moslems. Mr.

Zwemer remarks in his report: "Looking over all the work at this station, the past year offers much encouragement. Where 7 years ago there was only 1 missionary, and fanaticism forbade him a dwelling, we now count 2 missionary families and 3 native helpers, besides the church in our house. The medical work is full of promise. The colporteurs know how large is the field of their sowing and are eager to go to places which once they feared to do."

Irrigation for India. It is reported that the great Chenab Canal, in the northern provinces, which was recently built by the government for the purpose of irrigating a region specially liable to suffer from drought, has proved a great success, and last year 1,353,000 acres were irrigated, giving excellent crops throughout the district. There are already 429 miles of the main canal, besides a vast number of channels for distribution. The expenditure in construction was 25,000,000 rupees, or over \$8,000,000, but the crops of last year from these lands are valued at twice that amount.

The Rain and the Famine. The recent rains throughout India generally has been fully up to average, and above it in Northeast India, where the fall during the previous fortnight had been deficient. The total amount, however, which has fallen since the beginning of June is still heavily behind in Gujarat, Baluchistan, Northwest India, and parts of the East Coast. There has been a decrease of 13,000 in the number of persons in receipt of famine relief in the Bombay Presidency, and of nearly 3,000 in the Madras, but in the native States there has been a total increase of 3,000. There are now no persons on relief in Madras,

but the numbers in Bombay and in the Central Provinces still amount to 442,000.

Afraid of the Census Man. The census in the Chin Hills was carried out under somewhat difficult conditions. It was wisely decided to perform the work under armed force, as there were indications that the people suspected the census-taking was the forerunner of increased taxation, and the Chins have always been used to resist such demands. The prevailing idea was that each household would be taxed in proportion to the number of inhabitants found in it, so it can not be said that the total number of inhabitants arrived at—namely, 87,101 (of which 85,063 are Chins), is absolutely correct. It is believed, however, not to be very far out, as in many cases the people whose curiosity to compare the number of inhabitants of their villages with those of others overcame their suspicions rendered active aid in the census-taking.

The Basel Mission. According to the *Bombay Guardian*: “Among the successful missions in India in regard to spiritual results, and particularly in regard to the industrial training of their converts, this one must be counted. The missionaries number 79 and the wives 58. The number of single women is surprisingly small, only 4 in the list. The mission has 24 stations in the districts of South Canara, Coorg, Southern Mahratta, Malabar, and the Nilgiris; there are also 112 out-stations. The native church has a membership of 14,696. There were 170 adults baptized during last year, also 291 children; the births among the converts were 536, and the re-admissions 28. The contributions of the church members toward their

church expenses and for the poor are comparatively good, Rs. 11,563 having been received.”

Gossner Mission Among the Khols.

The past year has been greatly blessed in the Gossner Mission to the Khols. About 4,000 heathen have been baptized, and the number of candidates for baptism has increased to 17,087. Three new stations—Kumarkela, Karimatti, and Tamor—are engaged in building. The contributions of friends at home have, fortunately, increased largely. They now amount to £19,586, but there is still a deficit. To follow up the Christian Khols who settle in the tea plantations of Assam, a new chief station has been founded. A missionary and 2 native pastors have been sent there. A third center of work in Assam is in contemplation.

The Locomotive as a Missionary.

The Burma Railways Co., Ltd., builds railways in Burma that it may make money for its shareholders, of course, but it actually does something better—it helps the missionary to do more work, do it faster and easier. Hsipaw, in the Shan States, has been at least two weeks' journey from the Rangoon, and all supplies have had to be taken thither by bullock-cart and pack-train from Mandalay; but the opening of the railway to Hsipaw on June 1 has changed all that. Hsipaw is now only 48 hours from Rangoon, and our Dr. Leeds is greatly rejoiced thereat.

Bassein and Henzada have each been from 24 to 36 hours away from Rangoon by river steamers, and the journeys expensive. The engine of a construction train now “toots” in Bassein, and ere long the trip from Rangoon to Bassein will be an inexpensive one, done all

in daylight, and Henzada will be taken in on the way.—*Indian Witness*.

How they Bury in Burma. A Burmese paper of Mandalay contains a long account of the preparations that are being made for the funeral of a much-revered Buddhist bishop who died, or, as the Burmese express it, "returned," some time ago. It is well known that in such a case the body is kept in the monastery for weeks, months even, until all the funds necessary have been collected, and the preparations for the cremation brought to a close. In Dalla, some time ago, an old hpoongyi was thus kept several months, gilt all over, just like a statue. For the present instance, the elders and other influential persons in Mandalay decided at a recent meeting to have a coffin made, the cost of which is to be above Rs. 3,000. It is to be covered with pure gold and ornamented with silver designs. It will be placed on the representation of a white elephant, made according to the ideal type described in the Buddhist scriptures. There is probably no other nation in the world so lavish of their money on things useless as are the Burmese, and if they could be induced to spend it for humanitarian purposes, Burma would certainly be one of the richest of countries in useful public institutions.—*Idem*.

The Deluge in China. After the devastations of Boxers and foreigners, China has now to suffer from a flood of appalling severity. The Yangtse River has overflowed its banks and laid waste the valley. Ten million persons are reported to be without homes and without provisions for the coming winter, and the floods have not yet subsided. Immediately on hearing of the floods, 2 Chinese

banks advanced a sum of 20,000 taels, and a special delegate was sent up the river to distribute relief. Foreign houses of commerce also contributed. The floods have proved destructive beyond all expectation. It is certain that there will be intense suffering during the coming winter, and it is feared that the distress will lead to civil disorder. A committee of foreigners has been formed to receive subscriptions and conduct relief work in conjunction with a native committee.

How We Seem to Chinamen. According to Rev. W. S. Ament, the Chinese are not wholly destitute of a sense of the fitness of things, or even of a sly humor, for he says: "In China little is made of denominations. The native Christians have denominational names of their own. They call the Methodists the 'hand-shakers'; the Presbyterians the 'won't-let-women-speak-in-meeting society'; the Baptists, 'the bathing society,' and the Congregationalists, the 'one-man-as-good-as-another society.'"

Change in Methods Demanded. Rev. Timothy Richard, of Shanghai, the veteran missionary who is so influential with the Chinese government, writing in the *Examiner*, London, on "Some New Conditions of Pacified Work in China," asserts that mission work must henceforth be carried on "in the face of the ignorance and suspicion of the Chinese, in opposition to the wishes of some of the powers, and in spite of the neutrality and indifference of the British and American governments." But in planning for the new campaign, Dr. Richard has in mind something more than the old village Gospel preaching method. He says that 60 years' experience has convinced the mis-

sionaries that they can do vastly more in shaping the future of China by dealing with the government, the viceroys, the student class, through systematic distribution of literature describing not only the Gospel, but the best fruits of civilization and the discoveries of the Occident; and by using the telegraph and formal letter to bring influence to bear upon Chinese officials, providing the communications are prepared by competent persons.

American Soldiers in China. Prior to the passage of the anti-canteen law by our national legislature, Rev.

Mr. Tewkesbury, missionary of the American Board at Peking, after some months of observation of the troops of the different nationalities in that city, wrote: "The American soldiers are more given to drink than those of any other nation, I think."

Henry Savage Landor, the distinguished traveler and author, was in China's capital during its occupation by the foreign forces, and in his recent book, "China and the Allies," he says: "Were the American soldiers to possess a stronger physique and a more healthy constitution, both of which he does all he can to ruin, he would probably be the best soldier in the field."

John W. Foster's Testimony to Missions. In the *Interior* for June 27th, Mr. Foster, formerly Secretary of State, and more recently filling important diplomatic positions in the far East, says: "I have a high estimate of the Chinese race. As we study their history and recall their achievements in the past four thousand years, we can hardly wonder at their spirit of exclusiveness and conceit. When once the barriers of official conservatism are

removed, and the people are free to receive the Gospel, I have great faith that large success will attend the missions. The accession of the Chinese race, or a considerable portion of it, to Christianity will be a great achievement, and will materially change the history of mankind. 'China for Christ' is destined to be the watchword of that vast body of Christians who believe in the binding obligations of that last command of the Master, 'Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.'"

The Old Japan and the New. Rev. William E. Griffis writes thus optimistically:

"Japanese civilization lacked as its corner-stone the glorious ideas of the personality of God and the individuality of man. These ideas are now—having been introduced, enforced, and illustrated by the Christian missionaries—as steadily as leaven in meal, transforming the Japanese people. All the silly Chauvinism, all the hysterical and false patriotism, all the owls and the bats that thrive in the darkness of insular ignorance and Oriental conceit, can not ultimately hinder the growth of Christian Japan. In the Sunrise Empire we have now the new home, the new family, the new patriot, the new book, the new political and social principles, the new faith based on the idea of God as spirit seeking spiritual worshipers, upon the idea of a loving Father to whom his Japanese children are very dear. As we write, the news of the spiritual revival in the cities and the national capital, bringing hundreds of new-born souls into the Master's kingdom, seems to waft Amen! Banzai! Banzai! (ten thousand generations) to the new state in the new Asia!"

The Buddhists are so impressed with the value of medical mission