

The missionaries at Bahrein are free from the stress of war conditions, but they are living in the midst of another horror. Plague, both bubonic and pneumonic, is raging among the people. It began in January, and will continue until the real hot weather comes.

A NEW CULT IN CHINA

A CURIOUS cult, said to have many thousands of adherents, has arisen during the last thirty years in the province of Kiangsi, spreading thence into northwest Fukien. The name of the cult is "Great Elder Worship"; it is also called "Very First Doctrine" and "Doctrine of Passivity."

Its founder was a farmer, who lived an ascetic life for some years on a mountain top, where he was later joined by two others. These three used to meet on the hill-top to worship space. Night and day they did not lie down to sleep but sat with eyes closed and mouth open, while they meditated in their hearts and let themselves be possessed by space. This process was called "Desire reason and nourish nature." By this means they said sickness could be cured and opium-craving overcome without the use of medicine.

The leaders teach that men must do good works, abstain from gambling, despise riches and the things of the world. Sick people need not abstain from other kinds of worship, but those who "obtain reason," and become teachers must abstain. The original three appear to have been honest men, leading good lives, but their representatives are often far from following their example. Here is but another example of how men

grope after God, if haply they may find Him—still Christians withhold the true light.

A "SCATTER-THE-TRUTH BAND" IN CHINA

THE future evangelists of China must be Chinese. Pastor Ding Li Mei on a visit to Wanhsien, a China Inland Mission station in Szechuan, held some very successful evangelistic meetings, but the most far-reaching results of his work was in his suggestion that the Christians form a "Scatter the Truth Band"—to go out book-selling, preaching and tract distributing. "This," writes Mr. H. W. Funnell, in *China's Millions*, "we continued for several weeks, disposing of 3,000 Gospels. After that we decided upon a week's special evangelistic meetings, ourselves. During the week at least 2,000 gospels were sold, and many heard the Gospel who had never done so before. We now have about seventy or eighty newcomers attending our meetings and classes—we call them "hearers."

The Sunday following this evangelistic week was a day of real thanksgiving, for four men burned their idols publicly at the close of the morning service.

It will interest those who pray to know that Mr. Darlington of this station has asked friends at home to pray for various parts of the work and for people there, and is now able to report thirty-eight answers to definite requests sent to these home friends.

A NEW NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

TWO years ago the Laymen's Missionary Movement conducted a very successful nation-wide campaign

in the interests of Home and Foreign Missions. Some 500 conferences were held in great centers and outlying districts, and many churches and laymen were brought into more vital touch with the work of the Church in all lands. One result was that gifts were increased in many cities 50 per cent., and in some churches 500 per cent.

For the coming year a new nationwide campaign is planned by the Laymen's Movement, with the cooperation of the Home and Foreign Boards. Conventions are to be held in about one hundred leading cities—beginning in October, 1915, and concluding with a National Missionary Congress in Washington, D. C., in April, 1916. Five teams of the best speakers available will be in the field at once, and extension work is planned for the districts around the main centers.

The main objectives in this campaign are:

1. To consider new world conditions and America's enlarged responsibility.
2. To study the missionary progress of recent years.
3. To project plans looking toward the accomplishment of our whole missionary duty.
4. To emphasize the adequacy of the Gospel to meet modern social conditions.
5. To increase the spiritual power and efficiency of the local church.
6. To secure the general use of the best methods of missionary education and finance.
7. To inspire laymen to take their part in the extension of the Kingdom of Christ.

This union movement, led by the laymen for a world-wide conception and more adequate fulfilment of the missionary work of the Church, is one of the hopeful signs of the times in America.

BRITISH LAYMEN'S MOVEMENT

IN the midst of the throes of war, British Christians are preparing for forward missionary advance in the cause of the Prince of Peace. In Chester, England, an important conference of representatives of the Laymen's Missionary Movements in England, Scotland and Ireland, was recently held. The aim of the movement is "to quicken among laymen faith in Christ as the one Savior and Light of the World; to call forth and focus the service, sacrifice and influence of laymen on behalf of the extension of the Kingdom of Christ throughout the world, and as an essential part of this task to insist upon the application of Christian principles to the life not only of individuals, but also of society and nations." Lord Bryce delivered a powerful address on the present world-crisis, in the course of which he said that as the Laymen's Missionary Movement had enlisted their sympathies to think that Christianity was the only remedy for the ills of the world, they should consider it as a part of a greater movement for Christianizing themselves.

RELIGIOUS OPPORTUNITY IN PORTUGAL

BEFORE Portugal became a Republic in 1910, the Roman Catholic Church was in full power, and true liberty of conscience and worship was denied to other faiths. The

law stated that any one leaving the Roman Catholic Church would be banished from the country. The small Protestant congregations in Lisbon, Porto, and a few other centers, existed under difficulties. Bible colporteurs were liable to arrest, and their Bibles were sometimes burned.

With the establishment of the Republic five years ago religious liberty was granted, and the Roman Catholic Church was disestablished. Colporteurs are now free to sell Bibles all over the land, and Protestant evangelistic campaigns can be conducted. In Roman Catholic families, however, the Bible is practically unknown, and Catholic bookshops do not keep copies for sale except at prohibitive prices.

The Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations are conducting work among the 2,000 students of two universities, where there are some Protestants interested in the regeneration of their country. In the third university, with 1,400 students, there has been no Y. M. C. A. work. Last year, Mr. Robert P. Wilder delivered addresses in all three of the universities, Coimbra, Lisbon, and Porto, and was courteously received by large audiences. Many of the students heard for the first time the claims and power of the living Christ presented in a way that they could understand and that appealed to both intellect and conscience.

RELIGIOUS AWAKENING IN NORWAY

IN the neutral countries of Europe, as well as in those on which the war cloud rests, there is a striking movement toward religious interests. Bishop Nuelsen, of the Methodist

Episcopal Church, writes of a great wave of religious interest that is sweeping over Norway. He reports that on a recent trip through that country, he spoke once or twice every day, meeting groups of pastors at various centers, and conferring with committees and Boards. In most towns and cities the Methodist churches were packed to their utmost capacity. At one place, where the Methodist church is small, the Bishop spoke, upon invitation, in a large state church, which was crowded by an attentive congregation.

JEWES TURNING CHRISTWARD

THERE seems to be an unmistakable trend of the Jews away from their ancient faith and toward Christianity. The tone of the Jewish press throughout the world shows the alarm that is felt by Jewish editors, both in Europe and America. The repeated appeals and warnings that are sounded out to the orthodox Jews are indicative of the great crisis that has come to the Jewish nation. The Jewish (Yiddish) *Daily News* published a long article on the subject of Christianity among the Jews. The caption of the article was striking: "Two Hundred and Four Thousand Baptized Jews in the Last Hundred Years. Mournful Figures Published by a Learned Jew at Wien." "The Learned Jew" referred to is Dr. Zaisson, of Vienna, Austria, who admitted that 204,000 Jews left their ancient faith and accepted Christianity in the past hundred years. Of this vast number, 22,000 were in Germany, 28,000 in England, 44,000 in Australia, 84,000 in Russia, and 13,000 in America.



COMING EVENTS



June

- May 31st to June 4th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Los Angeles.
1st to 6th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Oklahoma City, Okla.
3d to 13th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Denton, Texas.
3d, 4th—Inter-Church Activities Conference, Atlantic City, N. J.
4th—The 50th anniversary of the birth of George L. Pilkington, 1865.
6th to 13th—Woman's Congress of Missions, San Francisco, Cal.
8th to 14th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Duluth, Minn.
15th to 20th—China Inland Mission Jubilee Conf., Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.
16th to 22d—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Meriam Park, St. Paul.
23d to 27th—International Missionary Union, Clifton Springs, N. Y.
24th to July 1st—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Winona Lake, Ind.
25th to July 4th—*Missionary Education Mouv. Conf., Blue Ridge, N. C.*
30th—The 600th anniversary of the martyrdom of Raymund Lull, 1315.

July

- 2d to 12th—*Missionary Education Movement Conf., Asilomar, Cal.*
6th—Five-hundredth anniversary of the martyrdom of John Hus.
6th to 13th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Boulder, Col.
7th to 12th—*Fifth World Christian Endeavor Convention, Chicago, Ill.*
8th to 15th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Northfield, Mass.
9th—The 75th anniversary of Martyrdom of Christians in Madagascar.
9th to 18th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Silver Bay, N. Y.
9th to 18th—*Missionary Education Movement Conf., Silver Bay, N. Y.*
9th to 20th—Southern Methodist Missionary Conference, Junaluska, N. C.
12th to 17th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Mt. Hermon, Cal.
14th to 18th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Monteagle, Tenn.
16th to 23d—Woman's Summer School of Home Missions, Northfield, Mass.
16th to 25th—*Missionary Education Movement Conf., Estes Park, Colo.*
18th to 25th—Missionary Conv. of Disciples of Christ, Los Angeles, Cal.
22d to 30th—*Missionary Education Movement Conf., Ocean Park, Me.*
23d—The 100th anniversary of the baptism of Africaner, 1815.
28th to Aug. 2d—Laymen's Miss. Movement Conf., Lake Geneva, Wis.
30th to Aug. 9th—Christian and Miss. Alliance Conv., Old Orchard Beach, Me.
31st to Aug. 7th—Reformed Church in U. S. Missionary Conf., Mt. Gretna, Pa.

August

- 1st to 3d—World's Bible Congress, San Francisco, Cal.
4th to 8th—Presbyterian Home Missions Conference, Montreat, N. C.
6th to 15th—Missionary Education Movement Conf., Lake Geneva, Wis.
10th to 15th—International Convention of Young People's Alliance of the Evangelical Association, Lomira, Wis.
20th—The 80th anniversary of the founding of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of Protestant Episcopal Church.
25th to 29th—Woman's Summer School of Missions, Chautauqua, N. Y.