

years in church and schools, begins to bear fruit. M.

**What the Rhenish Society Reports** The Rhenish Society carries on work in 8 countries, and is able to report native Christians (adherents) to the number of 96,881, an increase of 5,757 over a year ago. Of these, 55,685 are found in Sumatra, 16,316 in Cape Colony, 13,909 in German Southwest Africa, 7,568 in Nias, 1,963 in Borneo, and 1,277 in China. Work has just been begun in New Guinea.

**Dr. Washburn, June 14th marked of Robert College** the close of the work of the Rev. George Washburn, D.D., at Robert College, Constantinople. For thirty-five years he has stood at the helm, and now, at the age of seventy-one, retires and returns to America. His presidency has been an era of the greatest prosperity for the college. After the noble and heroic pioneer work of the late Dr. Cyrus Hamlin, Dr. Washburn took charge of the young institution in 1869, when its very continuance was a matter of grave doubt. From a mere handful of students, it has grown to an institution of over 300, with a large faculty and nine buildings. The influence of the college on the formation of Bulgarian character was so marked as to lead the first Bulgarian *sobranje*, or parliament, to pass a resolution of thanks to Dr. Washburn for what he had done for the Bulgarian people.

The more than 2,400 former students of the college still living look back with grateful memories to the wisdom, the tact, and genuine affection shown them by their beloved president. On the recent commencement day, the alumni, to commemorate their love for him, have founded a free scholarship, to be known as the Washburn Schol-

arship. They have already collected \$1,540 toward this object. Resolutions adopted by the trustees and by the faculty were also read, and also an engrossed memorial address on the part of the British and American colonies of Constantinople, with over 150 signatures.

The influence of Dr. and Mrs. Washburn on the entire Constantinople community has been very marked. For eleven years before assuming the presidency of the college Dr. Washburn was a missionary of the American Board, and his lifelong acquaintance with Eastern affairs has made him the valued counselor and warm personal friend of many American and British diplomatists and statesmen. Mrs. Washburn has also long occupied a warm place in the hearts of all with whom she comes in contact. The charm of her hospitality has made "Kennedy Lodge," the president's house, a center of happiest social reminiscences.

Dr. Washburn's successor, Dr. C. Frank Gates, was formerly President of Euphrates College, Harput. Thus, the three presidents of Robert College have all been missionaries, and the institution, altho from its foundation independent in support, has been strongly Christian in its influence, and thoroughly in sympathy with the missionary work.

C. T. R.

## ASIA

**High Honor to a Veteran** A statue to President Daniel Bliss, the founder of the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, was unveiled May 6, with a large audience present, composed of Christian converts, American residents of the missions throughout Egypt, Turkey, and Persia, with a representation of American travelers. Dr. Bliss went out to Persia 48 years ago, and, in connection

with other missionary work, at once proceeded to collect funds for the establishment of the college. It was successful from the start, and has been enlarged from time to time, the founder being always able to interest his friends in its behalf. Its alumni are widely scattered throughout the East. The exercises at the unveiling were in English and Arabic, and a poem in the latter language was read.

**Cholera Raging in Arabia and Persia** Dr. S. M. Zwemer, of Bahrein, writes, under date of May 26th, that they are having a taste of

what a cholera epidemic is like. The people were dying at the rate of 60 a day. There was panic in the bazaar, burials at night, suspicion of Christians, and the rest. The disease also got among the little band of Christians. Ameen's wife died, and 2 others recovered. The ladies of the mission were out day and night on errands of mercy. Dr. Zwemer adds:

It is pretty hard to see them die like sheep without a shepherd, and to realize how helpless one is in preaching sanitation or salvation. The British agent estimates the death-rate at 500 a week in a population of 20,000. The type of the disease is very virulent, and people die in six hours. It is putting a stop to evangelistic touring even as the plague did last year, but the hospital is proving of great value.

A despatch from Tiflis says that there are 300 deaths daily in Teheran, and that the cholera epidemic is spreading rapidly in Northern Persia. \*

**A New Era for India** Rev. G. Fischer, of Karkal, India, hitherto a very unfruitful field, has lately had much more encouragement, finding himself and his catechist surrounded from morning till night by inquiring crowds. He has talked with some rich Hindus, one being a govern-

ment officer. The latter seems to be a theosophist, but says:

We feel that a new era has now dawned for us and our children. Christianity is winning victory after victory. I tremble; not that I am unwilling to become a Christian if the time comes for such a change. But I foresee what a conflict must needs break out in the bosom of my family, among those who nevertheless love one another greatly. This conflict can not fail to issue in an alienation either temporary or permanent.

And this man told the truth. His personal experience confirmed his words.—*Le Missionarie*. †

**The Religious Decadence Among Parsees** A correspondent in the *Voice of India* has been calling attention to the causes of Parsee religious decadence. He considers that the ignorant priesthood is the chief cause. To the Parsee priest religion consists in meaningless ceremonies, which the modern young Parsee naturally learns to despise. The correspondent suggests serious attempts to create an educated priesthood. He says:

What is wanted is not priests who can officiate at petty ceremonies having no significance, but men who can guide, advise, and instruct. If one such man for every 1,000 Parsees is secured at first, it should suffice. The Parsee population being about 80,000, we want, say, 80 first-class priests, a number that can be gradually recruited from the college. The chief functions of these reverend gentlemen should be to preach rational discourses to Parsee congregations on fixed days, to keep strict supervision over the petty Mobeds in each parish, to superintend and rationalize the ritual at the prayer-house, to look after the spiritual affairs of every family in the parish—in short, to do all that is expected of an enlightened clergyman or chaplain in Christian countries.

It is needless to say that no such scheme will prove effective. A dead man can not be resurrected except by Divine power. \*

**Religious Value of Some Non-religious Work** Not long since in India the religious sentiment of an entire district was changed by the digging of a well. The people had been made to believe that if wells were sunk beyond a certain depth the gods would be offended and would punish them. In a time of severe drought a missionary persuaded some to dig deeper, and a fine spring was found; whereby faith in their divinities was shattered better than could have been done by a thousand sermons.

**Tibetan Theology** The theology of the Tibetan Buddhist is fearfully and wonderfully made. It is contained in a ponderous Bible in 108 volumes of 1,000 pages each, divided into 1,083 books, and weighing half a ton. These are printed from hand-cut wooden type, kept by the lamas, and are of almost priceless worth. In addition to these, there are 225 volumes of commentary.—*Religious Intelligence.* †

#### Protestant Missionaries in China

	Men	Wives	Unmarried Ladies	Total
English.....	602	419	462	1,483
American... 460	347	310		1,117
Continental. 171	102	77		350
Total... 1,233	868	849		2,950

One missionary for every 133,000 inhabitants.

**The London Mission College in China** The opening of the London Mission College in Honkow recently was a great occasion. Its fine building, intended to accommodate both theological and normal schools, is a free gift from Dr. Griffith John, the veteran pioneer of that society in Central China. For 50 years he has preached the Gospel, and during the last 40 he has planted many flourishing churches in the provinces of Hupeh and Hunan. The

college is a legacy to provide preachers, teachers, and pastors for future years.

At the opening service Dr. W. A. P. Martin said:

I hail this event as making a new departure in the policy of the London Missionary Society in China. Leader in the opening of missions, and foremost in the work of evangelization, that noble board has not kept abreast of others in the work of education. Education! Education! is the cry that comes up from all quarters. Sixty schools were opened in Wuchang last week, and 70 near Peking a few weeks ago. For want of competent teachers of their own the Chinese are seeking light from Japan. It is a pale and feeble light in comparison with that shed abroad by our great mission schools. \*

**A Message to Students from China** The Student Volunteer Movements of America, Great Britain, Australasia, Scandinavia, and Germany are now represented in China by over 500 volunteers. A committee appointed by a representative meeting of these volunteers at Kuling last summer prepared a message addressed to the students of all lands, which has since been signed by 343 student volunteers in China. The conviction that the missionary service demands not only men who are strong in faith, but also broadminded and thoroughly trained, constitutes the reason for such a message. The remarkable unity of the Chinese race, the immense possibilities of the people, and their peculiar plasticity at the present moment are made the basis of a special claim on the interest of the student world. Four great convictions of these men and women who make the appeal are deliberately and forcibly presented: (1) That the religious forces at work in China, apart from Christianity, have failed to save her. (2) That Christianity is proving its ability

to meet every one of China's needs. (3) That the present favorable conditions for Christian leadership in China may not last. (4) That the missionary work in China affords full scope for every diversity of talent. The problem of China's evangelization is then summarized in words of profound significance:

But the problem is primarily a spiritual one. We do not aim to produce mere intellectual adhesion to the truths of Christianity, nor admiration of its moral teaching, for these can not save the race. We seek to lead individuals and communities to such an experience of the power of Christ as shall rouse the heart and conscience, and transform the whole life. In order to accomplish this end, the leaders of the Church in China should be men of mental culture, but the essential qualification is faith in God.

**A Missionary Rest-House at Chefoo** Hon. John Fowler, United States Consul at Chefoo, brings news of the inauguration of a project which will gladden the hearts of many missionaries. The climate and conditions of life in China are peculiarly trying to the American constitution. After a few years the energies flag, it becomes almost impossible to work or sleep, and the missionary must pay the heavy expenses of a journey home, or render himself liable to a permanent breakdown. It has, however, been found that there is in Shantung Province an ideal resort, where there is pure air, sea breezes, and revivifying conditions

There are in China about 3,000 Protestant missionaries, and among these there are many to whom the opportunity of a few weeks in bracing air would be an invaluable boon. If a sanatorium were built and equipped, a very moderate charge, within the narrow missionary means, would render it self-supporting. Sufficient money has been received to purchase an eligi-

ble site, and plans have been drawn for a building to cost \$12,000. It is intended to make the institution entirely undenominational, and to put it under the charge of a board in which the various missionary societies are represented. The chairman of the preliminary committee is Dr. Hunter Corbett, of the Presbyterian Mission, and Rev. John A. Stooke, of the China Inland Mission, is secretary. \*

**Bishop Schereschewsky's Plans for Work** Having finished his translation of the Old and New Testaments into the classical Wenli, and thus giving the entire Bible to an empire of more than 300,000,000 people, Bishop Schereschewsky has no thought of rest. When Bishop Graves went to Tokyo a few months ago to consult him concerning his plans for further translations, he found the aged bishop in good health and working as enthusiastically as ever upon the great tasks he has set himself. Summer and winter, almost without break, he does eight hours' work a day, and his vigorous mind outruns the ability of his native scribes to keep up with him. At the request of the American Bible Society, he is now preparing a Chinese reference Bible. This in itself is an undertaking that might well tax the entire energy of a much younger man.—*Spirit of Missions.*

**Strategic Centers in Manchuria** The news items of the daily war-budget throw an unexpected light upon the care and good judgment that is exercised in choosing stations or places of missionary residence in countries selected as fields of labor. When a missionary goes to a foreign land he does not sit down at the first village to which he comes, in order to build his house