

Asiatic Division Outlook

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The Faculty of Our Soonan (Korea) Industrial Training school

"Our educational institutions can do much toward meeting the demand for trained workers for these mission fields. Wise plans should be laid to strengthen the work done in our training-centers. Study should be given to the best methods for fitting consecrated young men and women to bear responsibility and to win souls for Christ. They should be taught how to meet the people, and how to present the third angel's message in an attractive manner."

"God's work in the earth in these last days is to reflect the light that Christ brought into the world. This light is to dissipate the gross darkness of ages. Men and women in heathen darkness are to be reached by those who at one time, were in a similar condition of ignorance, but who have received the knowledge of the truth of God's word. These heathen nations will accept eagerly the instruction given them in a knowledge of God.

"Very precious to God is His work in the earth. Christ and heavenly angels are watching it every moment. As we draw near to the coming of Christ, more and still more of missionary work will engage our efforts. The message of the renewing power of God's grace will be carried to every country and clime, until the truth shall belt the world. Of the number of them, that shall be sealed will be those who have come from every nation and kindred and tongue and people. From every country will be gathered men and women who will stand before the throne of God and before the Lamb, crying, 'Salvation to our God that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.'"—"Counsels to Teachers," pp. 524, 531, 532.

GENERAL ARTICLES

The Rare Things

"O, the rare things which can never be brought
From far-away countries, but still must be sought
Through working and waiting, and anguish of thought!

"The patience that comes to the heart, as it tries
To hear, through all discord and turbulent cries,
The songs of the armies that march to the skies;

"The courage that fails not, nor loses its breath
In stress of the battle, but smilingly saith,
'I'll measure my strength with disaster and death;'

"The love that through doubting and pain will increase;
The longing and restlessness calmed into peace
That is perfect and satisfied, never to cease,—

"These, these are the dear things! No king on his throne
Can buy them away from the poor and unknown
Who make them, through labor or anguish, their own."
—Selected.

Successful Soul-Winning

"He that winneth souls is wise" is a statement with which the Book of Proverbs has made us all familiar. But the remarkable inversion of these words introduced in a later translation and revision of the Bible which reads, "He that is wise winneth souls," does not appear to have equally impressed itself upon the minds of Bible-reading Christians.

Christ came to seek and to save that which was lost, and the work to which we as Christians are called is to co-operate with Christ for the salvation of souls. In making profession of faith in Christ, we pledge ourselves to become all that it is possible for us to be as workers for the Master, and every effort we make in faithful service for Him will react in blessings for ourselves. It is the believer's privilege to co-operate with Christ in revealing His grace to the world, and as we thus pass on to others the blessings He bestows upon us, we shall continually increase in the knowledge of heavenly things; and, moreover, we shall find that as we give ourselves wholly to God to follow His direction in our daily service for Him, He who knows no failure will make Himself responsible for the accomplishment of His purpose in and through His servants.

"He that is wise winneth souls" is therefore a thought that should set us all to examining ourselves to see whether we have truly asked in faith, nothing doubting, for that heavenly wisdom which is especially promised to those who seek it. It should lead us as members of the church to ask ourselves if our practices have been in harmony with our light, with our privileges, and with the opportunities granted to us.

If we were informed by some recognized authority that it was a wise thing to catch fish, and this information came to us in some such words as these, "He that catcheth fish is wise," it would be natural for us to begin to think how fish might be caught. But

if after going on for a time without success the same authority should inform us that if we were really wise we should do what we had so long and ineffectually been trying to do, and thus further information came to us in these words, "He that is wise among you will actually catch fish," we should begin to think that our ill success was no longer the fault of the fish, because they were so suspicious and artful, nor the fault of the sea, because it was either too shallow or too deep, nor even the fault of the weather, but our own fault—our own most grievous fault, through failure to apply for the wisdom necessary to success.

We have reached the time when "every means should be used to get the knowledge of the truth before the thousands who will discern the evidence, who will appreciate the likeness of Christ in His people, if they can have an opportunity to see it. There are those among us who, if they should take time to consider, would regard their do-nothing position as a sinful neglect to use the talents which God has given them. God has given His messengers the truth to proclaim: then the churches are to voice the truth from the lips of the messengers, and use their talents in every way possible to make the ministry a power to communicate truth by their catching the first rays of light and diffusing the same."

"Here is our great sin: We are years behind. The ministers have been seeking the hidden treasure, and opening up the casket, and letting the jewels of truth shine forth; but not one hundredth part has been done or is being done by the members of the church that God requires of them. They will in that great day be self-convicted and self-condemned for their slothfulness. May the Lord lead them to self-penitence and to see themselves and exclaim, Lord I am that fruitless fig tree."—Mrs. Ellen G. White, in "An Appeal," p. 7.

God not only calls upon His church to awake, but He has a definite plan and place in His vineyard for every individual believer; and the first step for us to take in order to accomplish the work and fill the place He has designed that we should fill, is to follow His example of faithful conscientious attention to little things.

"Wherever we may be, Christ bids us take up the duty that presents itself. If this is in the home, take hold willingly and earnestly to make home a pleasant place. If you are a mother, train your children for Christ. This is as verily a work for God as is that of the minister in the pulpit. If your duty is in the kitchen, seek to be a perfect cook. Prepare food that will be healthful and nourishing; and as you employ the best ingredients in preparing food, remember that you are to give your mind the best thoughts. If it is your work to till the soil, or to engage in any

other trade or occupation, make a success of the present duty; put your mind on what you are doing; in all your work represent Christ. Do as He would do in your place.

"However small your talent, God has a place for it. That one talent wisely used will accomplish its appointed work. By faithfulness in little duties we are to work on the plan of addition, and God will work for us on the plan of multiplication. These littles will become the most precious influences in His work." "Christ's Object Lessons," pp. 359, 360.

Thus it is the privilege of the church to sustain the gospel minister in his work; and there is no better way to add weight to the warning message than by the manifestation of practical religion by church members. But practical religion means practical work, and results will be according to the zeal and earnestness we put into our efforts.

J. M. JOHANSON.

The Women of Chosen

In an enlightening article, appearing in the March number of the *Missionary Review of the World*, Dr. William Elliott Griffiths, in an enumeration of some facts of missionary endeavor in Chosen, sets forth the noble response of the Korean woman to the influences of gospel evangelization, and her undoubted ability to stand by the side of her sister of the West in intelligent Christian service. "The growth of the Korean woman," Dr. Griffiths writes, "from dense ignorance into intelligent church membership and spiritual Christianity, reminds one of apostolic days.

"In her response to opportunity, in heeding the call of her Saviour, in sacrifice for His cause, and in upholding the church, the Korean Christian woman is second to none on any other gospel field. Those familiar even with conditions thirty-two years ago, see to-day a transformation almost as great as Ezekiel witnessed, when, in the place of a valley of dry bones, stood an army of animated bodies and living souls.

"Within thousands of households an equally great change has been wrought, but greatest of all is that within the soul of the Korean woman. In faithfulness and devotion, and with a personality in constant increment for good influences she has fully equalled her father, brother, son, and husband. In renouncing selfishness, worldliness, idolatry, and sin, she has made a full surrender to her Saviour. In seeking her life in God, she becomes a new creature for both joy and service. In the many phases of Christian work specified by Jesus Himself as judgment-day tests and measured by 'inasmuch,' the Korean woman has walked step by step with the

redeemed Korean man. Her fluency in prayer and exhortation and depth of spiritual experience excite the wonder of even those familiar with female humanity in Korea. One notable fact in family life is seen in the naming of girls. Instead of the former terms of contempt are those of honor and affection.

"Doing the Doctrine"

In Korea people use some unique phrases. When a Korean decides to become a Christian, he tells his friends that he has made up his mind to "do the doctrine." This is like the Chinese convert who made this quaint confession of faith: "I am now reading the Bible, and behaving it." The Bible is first and foremost a book to be read, but in China and in Korea they understand that it is also a book to obey.—*Missionary Review of the World*, March, 1918.

"No one can fail to glorify God that so much has been accomplished in so brief a period. Without the help of the Korean woman, such results as are witnessed to-day seem incredible or non-existent. All honor and credit to those in high government authority for what has been done; but Christians, moved by the spirit of Jesus, were the founders. Fruit is easy after the seed has been brought, planted, and cultivated. Christianity in Chosen to-day fulfils the test given by the Founder Himself to the disciples of John (Luke 7:22).

"Our faith and conviction, after nearly fifty years of prayer for this peninsular people, is that . . . her people will yet become a mighty spiritual force not only in the empire of Japan but in the world. Not least in both leavening and the propulsive power of godliness will be the Christian woman of Korea."

Religions in Korea

ALL religious faiths enjoy equal opportunity and protection from the government, there being no state religion in Korea. As in Japan proper, Confucian cult is spread more among the higher classes, and Buddhism among the lower. The latter, however, is not so prosperous as in Japan proper. Standing between the two, Christianity has gained a great vogue among all classes. The French Catholic mission was the first to come, it having entered the field as early as 1836. The Protestant mission did not appear earlier than 1884, but already it possesses a good many converts and probationers. The American Presbyterian and Methodist churches are especially influential, followed by the Canadian and Australian Presbyterian and Methodist churches and English church. The foreign missionary force numbers about 300, and Korean converts about 190,000,—*"The Japan Year Book,"* pp. 696, 697.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD

British North Borneo

I WILL relate a few experiences that have been a source of help to me. It may be they can be used somewhere to encourage others, and help advance the kingdom.

The first is from my teacher. I will let him tell his own story: "Last year when the 'Muk 'Su' asked us to do all we could to help raise money, my heart said I wanted to have a share. I did not know how I could do much, because my family is large. My wife and I talked the matter over, and decided we would try one of the plans the pastor told us about. We had some chickens, and decided to give one of them to the service of the Lord. We said that all we got out of the hen should go to help the mission. Since we did that I have never seen anything like it. That hen has kept on laying eggs all the time. We also decided that all the chickens hatched from her eggs should be the Lord's. They have brought more money than the others. We have been nearly able to pay our aim of one cent a day for the Sabbath-school offerings just from this source alone. We have certainly proved what God says in Malachi, chapter 3.

"Another time I was getting very anxious; my money was almost gone, and my school was stopped for the holidays. The pastor told us that we ought to pay our tithes first. I had just enough left to pay my tithes. I did not know what to do. If I paid tithe, I had nothing to buy food. As I was thinking it over the thought came, now is a good time to prove the Lord. I immediately made up my mind to hand my tithe to the pastor. The next day, after I gave it to him, I began to get money from places where I had not expected. Some of my scholars came and paid their money in advance for the new year's tuition. I opened my school at that time.

The first day I was just a bit fearful about results. There were but few boys present. Several said word that they would not come. I know the devil wanted to discourage me, but I held on to the promise written in Malachi. To-day I have nearly fifty boys, and I am thinking of posting notices telling the people not to send their children to my school, because I do not have any more room."

One woman, who is a gardener, was baptized. She wanted to do what was right, but she said that she could not pay tithe, as she did not get enough to buy food. I patiently told her of the promises, and urged her to try the Lord. Finally she made up her mind to do this. At first she paid about a dollar a month. Now she pays a dollar a week. She says it pays to serve the Lord.

A man living over on the west coast told me his experience. He said he thought it was a hard thing that our church required, when we asked for ten per cent of his income. He has seventeen children, so you see it meant more to him than to most others. However, he decided that he would do it because it was a Bible doctrine. Many times, he said, he had no money in the house; but when the food got low, money would come from somewhere. "I have tithed faithfully," he said, "and the Lord has added the blessing of Malachi 3."

For our Sabbath-school offering, we have set our aim at one cent a day for each church member. In January we lacked a little of raising a half cent a day. I drew a picture of a cent on an inclined plane. I drew several people; some were lifting with all their might, some were lifting a little, some were pushing some one else, and several were doing nothing but standing around. A sign-board at the top pointed up and away, and on it, in Chinese, were the words: "This is the way to save the heathen." In the corner, in Chinese characters, were the words: "Some doing their best; some doing a little; some doing nothing; which one are you?" I hung this



GLIMPSES OF THE BINDERY OF OUR SHANGHAI (CHINA) PUBLISHING HOUSE

FOR several weeks the bindery force of our Shanghai publishing house has been working overtime because of the increasing sale of bound books. During the past year nearly 10,000 copies of Dr. Selmon's "Health and Longevity," Mandarin, have been bound up and sent out to the colporteurs. Altogether, five editions of this book have been run, aggregating 20,300 copies. The author has enlarged this volume, and supervised its translation into the easy Wenli, and the type is now being set. The above illustration shows the bindery force at work on Pastor Daniells' "World War," in Wenli, three editions of which have been run during the past eight months, totaling 24,200 copies. At the present time nearly 40,000 copies of the Chinese *Signs of the Times* magazine are being printed monthly in Mandarin and Wenli. The average number of magazines printed each month for the five months of 1918 is 18,260 of the Mandarin edition and 19,475 of the Wenli.

picture up in the chapel, but said never a word about it. Of course each one had a look, and went away. During February, there was an improvement in the offering,—averaging a little more than a half cent. If we hold out for the rest of this month, we will go over our aim of one cent a day. The people say I talk too much about money; so I am trying, with the help of the Lord, to draw something and keep this before them without saying a word. I am proving that the Spirit can use these little things to better advantage than all my talks. Perhaps others who are having difficulty along these lines may be helped by learning just what the believers in this field are doing.

Our school work is growing faster than we expected. We hoped for a total of one hundred and fifty students in our schools this year, but every indication points to more than that.

ROY MERSHON.

East Java Mission

It is with feelings of deep gratitude to God for His loving care and presence, that we submit this brief report for the closing year, 1917. We are sorry to be unable to report baptisms. Nevertheless there are a dozen or more genuinely interested ones whom we expect to see take this step soon. At Djombang, some two hours' ride by rail from Soerabaya, a father, mother, and a son desire to be baptized. They keep the Sabbath and pay their tithes, and we hope will soon be ready to unite with us fully in church fellowship. A Dutch lady, while studying one of our South African *Wachters*, learned of the true Sabbath and commenced keeping it. Mrs. Wood held readings with her weekly. Another, a poor cripple, is carried to the services almost every Sabbath. Besides these, there are a number of Chinese who attend our services, a Javanese woman whose life seems to have been really changed, and others with whom we have held readings in their homes.

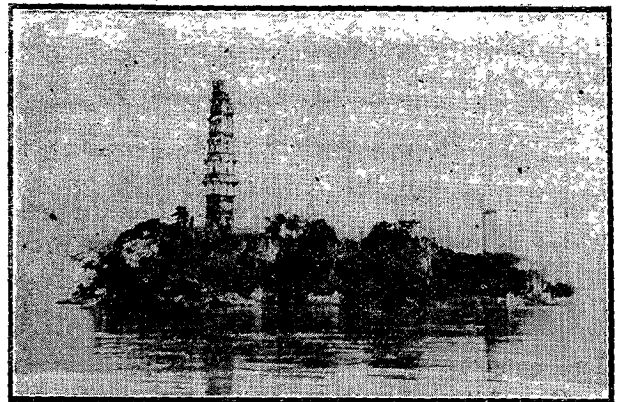
Some 600 or more Malay subscriptions and many Chinese, besides some Dutch and English, have been secured.

The attendance at the Sabbath services is steadily increasing. This has made it necessary to provide more seating accommodation. Last Sabbath almost every chair was occupied, and when opportunity was given almost all rose to their feet to signify that they gave themselves (I trust definitely) to the Lord. A good spirit prevails, and a willingness is shown by many to do something to hasten that glad day when we shall all, if faithful, be gathered home.

A spirit of liberality has been shown by members and friends. As the result of a special effort to make up the deficiency in our Sabbath-school offer-

ings, Guilders 123.21 were donated. At that time, one Chinese woman, not yet of our faith, gave G. 50. The week of prayer offering amounted to G. 145.73. During that special season, many, I believe, were helped to plant their feet on higher ground.

In the Harvest Ingathering campaign, the Lord has truly gone before us. The papers we had ordered for this effort did not arrive, but the brethren at Batavia and Singapore generously sent all they could spare, and G. 988 were gathered in Soerabaya alone. We thank God for the privilege of having some humble part in this great work. G. A. WOOD.



In the harbor of Wenchow, Chekiang Province, China

Among the Women of Chekiang Province

Four days after leaving Shanghai, March 12, we reached Wenchow, Chekiang Province, where we found the people ready for the institute that had been appointed for that place. There were present at this meeting about twenty women who had been keeping the Sabbath from three months to fifteen months. A woman worker, a convert from another mission, with our Bible woman from Shanghai, had been doing excellent work in this place. After studying with these believers for almost three weeks, a company of ten women were baptized.

Leaving Wenchow we visited Lotsing and four other smaller places. No work had been done for the women in any of these places, yet we found an excellent interest among them, and many precious souls eager for the word of truth. But such darkness! Never in any place in the Kiangsu Province have I seen the custom of feet-binding practiced to such an extreme extent as in Chekiang. We could hear the cries of the poor little girls who were the victims of this cruel custom. One of the women who had come to believe the present truth, with her little girl, unbound their feet. The child's toes were almost black from having been so bent, and her sufferings must have been extreme. My heart has been greatly perplexed to know how we can quickly help and enlighten these precious souls.

At one place there was a woman, formerly a devout idol worshiper, who had become totally blind. Her husband heard of this truth, and he called for a brother from another place to come and pray for his wife's healing. For three days they prayed that God would open her eyes. On the third day of prayer, the woman began to see, faintly at first; but each day her sight improved until it was completely restored. For four months now she has had perfect sight.

This woman is now learning to read the Bible. She has four daughters, all of whom have bound feet. She is resolved henceforth to let her light shine to those about her, that she may lead others to the light and liberty of Christ.

In all the places mentioned souls are calling for help. But there is no one to send to them. Especially is there need of medical missionary work being done for the people, that they may know how to care for their bodies, and avoid the many diseases that afflict the peoples of the Orient. I see the prospect for a wonderful harvest in the Chekiang Province; but such a reaping will call for hard labor and travail of soul; for the people are in utter darkness. Yet we know this work must be done, and done quickly; for time is nearly ended.

One of the sad features of mission work in China is the indifference which the Chinese convert usually feels for the conversion of his wife and family. He seems to carry no burden of soul for their salvation. I was deeply impressed while on this trip with the need of making an earnest appeal to our Chinese brethren to work for those within the circle of their own homes. I urged them to hold family worship and to teach their wives two characters of the language each day; for few of them can read. I made my request for home study easy, so that there could be no good reason for excuse. Many promised that they would do this; and if these promises are kept, it will mean a great deal gained for the uplift of the women. With this amount of study faithfully followed, at the end of one year they would be able to read considerable of the Bible.

The women of China are very fond of jewelry. One Sabbath, after our meeting, several of the women asked me why I wore no rings or earrings. I told them my reason. In a few minutes a dear old woman began to take off her hair ornaments and earrings, her rings and bracelets. Three others followed her example. God's good Spirit works in a wonderful manner upon hearts. His closing work in the earth will be done, "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." May God help us so to relate ourselves to Him that He can use us mightily in the finishing of His work for China's millions, is my prayer.

Mrs. B. MILLER.

The Ministerial Class at the Soonan School

THE school at Soonan, Chosen, was established as our Mission Training School, and many of the graduates from this place have been sent out into the work. However, as some of these were young in years, and still younger in experience, it was found that their work did not in all cases produce the results desired. After much deliberation, therefore, it was decided to conduct, in connection with the regular school work, a special class for prospective workers—"the ministerial class." It was planned to have the work of this class cover a period of two years, giving seven months' work in each year. Application for admission was to be made through the conference committee, the committee agreeing to send out on trial all who would satisfactorily finish the course prescribed.

In accepting students for the ministerial course, the committee decided to accept only those who were graduates from the regular school at Soonan, or those of equal ability; and these must be church members in good and regular standing. None under twenty-two years of age would be admitted, and graduates from the Soonan school are required to spend at least one year in the canvassing work before being admitted. Each student accepted must provide for his own expenses.

In July of 1917 the committee met and accepted eleven persons who had applied for admission. When the opening day arrived, September 1, all but three of these were present. Some, however, had come without funds, and the question arose, Should we help these with work or money, or should we stay by our former decision, and give no financial assistance. Believing that the real good of the class was at stake here, we determined to hold to the latter course, and eight students entered the class at their own expense. Another, a young man who had not long been in the truth, was accepted as a listener, but not as a regular student. At the end of four months, one had left the class, and two had failed to do acceptable work. Five, however, had done good work, and these will begin the second year on September 1, 1918.

The first year of the class closed March 20th, when the five students who had completed the work, and one who failed, went into the field to spend the summer months in the canvassing work. From reports received, the majority are doing well, and we trust they will be able to save enough money to meet their expenses during the second term. On the whole, the results obtained for the efforts put forth are very satisfactory. We believe that the experience gained, both in study and in self-support, will be a valuable one to these workers as they later enter the ministry.

Other students will be admitted to the ministerial

DIVISION NOTES

Other students will be admitted to the ministerial class this fall, and these will study with those who entered the class last year. Then in their second year they will take up the studies followed by the present class in its first year. In this way a class will complete its work each year, and there will be a saving of the time of the teachers.

The five men who will this year complete the ministerial course, are greatly needed for the work of giving the message of our soon-coming Lord and Saviour. The preparation they are receiving will give them a great advantage over those who have entered the work in the past, and we look for far greater results from their efforts. To this end we solicit your prayers.

C. L. BUTTERFIELD.

The Soonan Dispensary

TIMES change, and messages travel faster to-day in some parts of Chosen than in former years. Recently we were called by telephone to come fifty-five miles to see a very sick man. On arriving we found this man suffering from trichina, and in addition to his case, twenty-five others were awaiting us. A week later another 'phone message called us to come sixty miles to give medical help. This, however, was over good roads, and with my little "Indian" it took only two and one-half hours to make the trip each way. Thus for the price of a gallon of oil, two days' time was saved.

During the first three months of this year we have attended two thousand and twenty-two patients, of whom two hundred and eighty-four have been outside patients. We have given seventeen hundred treatments. Several among those thus helped have expressed the desire to become Christians. One young man who had never had any interest in religious things, and who was dying with tuberculosis, gave his heart to Christ. Before he died, he asked his mother to sell one of his fields, and with the price received to pay his bills, and give the remainder to the mission.

I am sorry that our medical missionary work has such a small place in the Asiatic Division, when it could do so much if we had the right help. There is scarcely a physician in the field who is not loaded down with several lines of work. The Saviour spent more time in healing the sick than He gave to preaching, and twenty-six of His miracles were miracles of healing. The command to His workers to-day is to heal as well as to teach. Last year at Loma Linda every member of the graduating class told me they would be glad to answer a call to the Orient, and the same willingness to respond for foreign mission work existed, I am told, the preceding year. Should not the present force of workers in the field sound the Macedonian call for medical help?

RILEY RUSSELL, M. D.

PNEUMONIC plague conditions in Nanking and throughout the Yangtse Valley, as well as in Northern China, are not nearly so serious as it was anticipated some weeks ago they might become, and our workers from Nanking have returned to their mission station. The epidemic was quickly stamped out in Nanking, as it had been shortly before in Tsinanfu. Other cities, including Hankow, Kiukiang, Soochow, and Shanghai, have been mercifully spared. Medical men, however, call attention to the fact that while the pneumonic plague will naturally subside with the advent of warm weather, the bubonic plague may soon appear. This will not be an altogether new situation for the workers in China to face, as the bubonic plague has raged in many cities in this land, as well as in India, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Japan. In these perilous times, we cannot reasonably hope for entirely favorable circumstances under which to labor. Just now a terrible smallpox epidemic is raging in Nanking, and hundreds are dying. Let us continue to press our petitions to the throne of grace in behalf of workers who may be exposed to peril from contact with deadly diseases.

PASTOR K. H. WOOD, who returned to Shanghai in mid-April from Wenchow, Chekiang Province, China, has prepared a report of the work in that district for early publication. An article on work among the women of the Chekiang Province appears in this issue from the pen of Sister B. Miller, who has recently spent several weeks in Chekiang. Present prospects indicate the sending of a family from the States to join our present laboring forces in Wenchow during the next few months, it being planned that a second family follow as early as possible in 1919. Meanwhile, the Wenchow work is in charge of tried laborers who are striving to build solidly.

"OUR party arrived safe and sound yesterday morning," writes Pastor C. E. Weeks from Mountain View, Cal., March 24, regarding the delegates who crossed the Pacific on the ss. "Persia Maru" to attend the General Conference session in San Francisco. "I think that nearly every one profited physically by the four weeks spent en route. Some of our party, especially those from India, seemed like new people when they got off the boat here. Some of those folks have been in India a long time, and the tropical sun and heat has told on their physique in a very material way.

"On the wharf to meet us were Brother and Sister Daniels, Brother McElhany, and quite a party of other of the local brethren. It did seem

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Division Notes (Concluded)

good to see Brother and Sister Daniells again. They are looking very well indeed. Most of the people stayed in the city. A few went up to St. Helena, and I passed on to the Pacific Press with Brother Jones."

At great sacrifice to local work, the Manchurian mission has released for service in the Signs Publishing House in Shanghai, Brother J. G. Gjording, who has spent three years or more in Mukden. Pastor B. Petersen, the director of the Manchurian Mission, and Pastor O. B. Grundset, with their companions, are the only foreign workers remaining there at present. Provision is being made to supply them with at least two additional families from the States at an early date, although the uncertainties connected with the sending out of recruits from the home lands makes problematical the exact time help can be rendered. Meanwhile, the workers in Manchuria are bearing very heavy burdens, and are in special need of our prayers for strength to conduct an aggressive campaign during the present season. Their ministerial institute, attended by all our foreign and native workers in Manchuria, closed April 23, and on the 24th the laborers scattered to their respective fields. The sacrifice Manchuria has made in the release of one of their tried workers, will in some way be repaid them many fold, although just now this release is bringing to them many administrative perplexities.

From the Malaysian Union Conference comes the word that the precarious state of Brother A. G. Fletcher's health has necessitated his immediate return to his home in the Australasian Union for an extended furlough. Brother Fletcher has served untiringly for three years or more in Singapore as secretary-treasurer of the Malaysian Union, while at the same time conducting a business of his own. It is to be regretted he is compelled to suffer a breakdown healthwise. The Foreign Mission Board is hastening to send an experienced office assistant to help Pastor F. A. Detamore, president of the Malaysian Union, until a permanent secretary-treasurer

can be sent. It is hoped that the help so greatly needed may be supplied Malaysia by early June.

No workers to serve as secretary-treasurers have as yet arrived to meet urgent needs in Hunan and Honan, Central China, and as mentioned in another note, the Manchurian Mission is also without adequate help. This lack of general office help has brought many trying burdens on executive heads, and it is hoped that all such needs may be met very soon.

Word has been received from the Mission Board that four or five couples, recruits for the Asiatic Division, including probably some returning from furlough, are setting sail from Seattle late in April, and are due in Shanghai May 18. It is probable that among this party are Pastor and Mrs. O. A. Hall, returning to the North China Union; Brothe J. C. Klose, under appointment to Seoul, Korea, as field missionary agent for the Chosen Conference; and Brother and Sister Graham, for work in the Division offices at Shanghai. We rejoice in the promise of substantial help from these workers.

EARLY in April Brother J. J. Strahle, in charge of the distribution of our literature in the Philippines, wrote as follows of the success attending colportage in that field:—

"Our literature work is going by leaps and bounds; the only thing lacking is paper, and we are having a time in getting any. We have cabled twice to America, and the only hope we have is to receive some by next November. This would put us out terribly, so we are trying at different places.

"Our sales for the first three months of 1918 have nearly doubled over the sales of 1917. We are getting a book ready for the Pamanga field, and hope to have it ready by the first of May, if possible. We also expect to have a new book ready for the Panayan field by the time we hold the general meeting there.

"Brother Hay's colporteurs are doing so well that we are planning a new book for him (in the Ilocano dialect), as he will run out before long. . . . There is a great work to be done here in the islands."

THE ss. "Empress of Russia," passing Shanghai April 28, brought the first word from the General Conference session. The spiritual interests of the meeting are being made first, and as a consequence the business proceedings are characterized by unanimity of sentiment. Much time is being given to foreign mission problems. It has been thought best to recommend that the most important mission fields, such as Europe, South America, and Asia, shall henceforth be known as division missions, each headed by a vice-president appointed by the General Conference. India and Australia are henceforth to sustain the same general relationship to the Foreign Mission Board as they did prior to 1915. Practically all the General Conference officials and secretaries of departments were reelected.

C. C. CRISLER