

has fully come for the inauguration of such work. The Northfield Summer School of the Bible will accordingly open July 6 and continue to August 24. The Dean will be the Rev. C. I. Scofield, and among the lecturers will be Dr. F. B. Meyer, Professor Howard Osgood, Dr. R. A. Torrey, Dr. G. C. Needham, and others. The only textbook used will be the Bible. The general divisions of the course of study will be: I. The Pentateuch. II. The Person and Work of Christ. III. The Kingdom. IV. Particular Truths. V. Occasional Lectures.

A New Method of Charity Work

There has just been completed and put into operation in Buffalo a novel and effective plan to cope with the want, ignorance, and depravity of that city. It is, in brief, the division of the municipality into districts, and the delegation of the charitable work of each district to some church, without regard to the denomination. Heretofore cities have been districted, but the work in each district has been intrusted to a committee of some charitable organization. Denominations have likewise adopted the district system, but as they were constantly invading each other's territory, there was great dissipation of effort and time. It was to prevent waste and competition in charitable work that Buffalo has been divided into 171 districts, and each district placed in charge of some church. A conference with the authorities of the various churches disclosed dissatisfaction with the ineffective methods that have heretofore been in vogue, and a willingness on the part of all to co-operate in the execution of the new method. Accordingly, seventy churches, including fifteen Baptist, twelve Methodist, twelve Presbyterian, ten Episcopal, and others of every faith, have consented to take assignments. Even the Roman Catholic Church will join in the enterprise. The character of the work which the churches will undertake may be gathered from what has already been done by the Westminster and the First Presbyterian Churches, which selected districts and began operations two years ago. Westminster House, which was established by Westminster Church, was opened September 17, 1894, and Welcome Hall, which was established by the First Presbyterian Church, was opened November 21 of the same year. Both places are the centers of the ameliorating and elevating work and influence in the districts where they are located. Both have free kindergartens and diet kitchens. Both have mothers' clubs, mothers' meetings, sewing classes, cooking classes, singing, drawing, and physical culture classes, boys' clubs, penny savings-banks, free baths, workrooms, circulating libraries, and reading circles. It will not be the aim of any church in any district to carry on a religious propaganda. The only object will be to afford aid to those that need it, to encourage the spirit of self-help, and to stimulate kindness and friendliness. While the charitable work of a particular church is not necessarily confined to the district assigned to it, but may cover the entire city if need be, the church is strictly responsible for the work in that district. The result is complete knowledge of the character and wants of the district, and a concentration of effort that produces the best possible results.

Another Word Concerning Japan

When the American Board's Deputation to Japan had finished their work in that Empire, they gave a report in which the final word was one of recommendation that there might be sent to Japan for occasional visits some of our strong Christian leaders, men of acknowledged power and influence. They believed that the native Christians could be better helped and strengthened in this way than in any other. The last number of the "Missionary Review of the World" contains a letter from the Rev. J. H. Pettee, of Okayama, Japan, a man of undoubted ability and long experience in that field, in which he approves the opinion expressed by the Deputation. He says: "The average foreigner is so handicapped for direct personal work that it seems to me far better, as well as more economical, to commit the work to the Japanese as fast as possible and rely for the foreign contingent on occasional visits of men with an established reputation, whose every word counts, and who, by reason of their brief sojourn in the country, are not expected to conform to Japanese ways of thought and methods of life." Mr. Pettee believes that there is still work in Japan for the foreign missionary, and will be for many years to come, but the work is entering on a new stage, and the probabilities of true success for the ordinary foreigner are too small to justify American churches in planning for a wide extension of their work there. Over two hundred young men in the Empire who are more or less closely associated with Christian movements have been educated abroad. He says it is quality, not quantity, that is needed in the foreign contingency; that it would be better to unite the forces at work and economize; that "denominationalism is a luxury that should not be encouraged in foreign service." Owing to the rapid advance of the work, the foreign missionary has lost his leadership in one field after another; and now "Japanese leaders are springing up

here and there who in point of personal worth and whole-souled devotion to the cause of Christ are worthy to rank beside their foreign brethren. They and their followers must, in the nature of the case, assume the main responsibility for the conversion of Japan. They should be sustained by the prayers and sympathy, gifts and service, of foreign friends, but in steadily diminishing quantities so far as the last two agents are concerned." In concluding his letter Mr. Pettee says: "I love Japan, and hope to give her many more years of the gladdest service; but my conviction is clear and strong that the seed of the Word is securely planted in Japanese soil. The kingdom is coming, here in all the might and glory of Christ's royal presence."

Methodist City Missions

The City Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of New York held its thirtieth annual meeting on Friday, March 27, and its annual published report is now in our hands. From its pages we glean a few facts. The Methodist churches of New York observe October 25 as "City Mission Day." The New York and the New York East Conferences have earnestly requested all the churches to co-operate in this work. The organ of this Society is called "The Christian City." We may add that it is a singularly able and bright paper, one of the best of the kind that we know. From the report we learn that this Society in thirty years has concerned itself with forty-five different enterprises. Of these six were small and unimportant missions or Sunday-schools which have been discontinued. There are now twenty-three enterprises under the Society's care. Five are missions to foreigners; ten are situated amidst dense populations and being developed as rapidly as possible; eight are in newer sections of the city, with prospects of future independence. These twenty-three enterprises represent in realty about \$850,000, mortgaged to one-half of their value. They have in membership, including probationers, 3,300 persons, and in Sunday-schools about 6,000 members. The number of conversions has been exceeded in only two years of the Society's existence. Examination of the various detailed reports shows not only missions as such, but various forms of educational work—kindergartens, boys' clubs, brass bands, kitchen-gardens, and other forms of institutional work. In fact, judging from this report, we should say that the City Mission Society of the Methodist Church is in itself a great institutional church, with twenty-three different branches.

The Growth of Missionary Literature

The growth of missionary literature is one of the wonders of this century. Dr. Arthur T. Pierson has been reading and studying the literature of missions for thirty years, and his observation is that the field is widening. Yale University now has a special missionary library made up of thousands of volumes. Such a library would have been an impossibility a hundred years ago. Page after page is taken up in the "Encyclopedia of Missions" with the titles of missionary books and the names of their authors. This marvelous growth may be traced in different ways. The material for a good missionary literature is now abundant. There is a mine of literary wealth in the life, times, and labors of such men as William Carey, Adoniram Judson, Alexander Duff, David Livingston, Bishop Taylor, Robert Morrison, and John Livingston Nevius. The task of shaping this material into good literary form has inspired the genius of such men as Dr. Arthur T. Pierson and Dr. George Smith, LL.D., to say nothing of scores of other able writers. The style of modern missionary writing is very much improved. The "Missionary Review of the World," for instance, demands a high-grade literary style for all leading articles admitted to its pages. Mere annals, dull and lifeless, are not tolerated. Some of the old missionary books remind one of old tombstones and neglected graveyards—page after page of solid printed matter, with hardly a paragraph to break the monotony. Not so in many recent missionary papers and books. The printer's art, the engraver's art, the map-maker's art, the book-maker's art, and the litterateur's art all combine to make a modern missionary book. Another indication of growth is seen in the fact that the subjects treated now are specific, not so general as formerly. Thus, Dr. B. C. Henry, a missionary to China, does not write of the whole Celestial Empire, but of special work in and around Canton. Dr. J. L. Nevius writes of specific work in the Shantung Province. Dr. John G. Paton gives special attention to the New Hebrides. As a result of these many improvements in missionary literature, Christian people are reading missionary periodicals and books with a pleasing and growing interest. The Cross-Bearers' Missionary Reading Circle, a three years' course of systematic reading and study on missions in all lands, was inaugurated six years ago. The literature of the C. M. R. C. for 1896-7 is as follows: The "Life of John Williams," the "Life of Dr. J. L. Nevius," "Medical Missions," the "Life of Alexander Duff," and "The Missionary Review of the World." Further information may be had from the Rev. Marcus L. Gray, President C. M. R. C., St. Louis, Mo.

The Home Club

Some Ways of Amusing Children While Traveling

By Neda S. Thornton

Nearly every one who has taken a long and tedious journey has been pained at watching the futile attempts of tired and worn-out mothers to amuse their equally tired and worn-out children. We all remember sweet, tactful people who at such times have been able to divert and interest these little ones, to the rest and comfort of the mothers and to the delight of the little ones themselves.

Finding it necessary to take a three days' trip with my own little son, not two years old—and a most active, restless fellow—I fell to thinking how I could make the journey endurable both for him and myself. The results of my effort were so satisfactory that I have ventured to give them to *The Outlook's* readers.

First, on the outside of my traveling-bag were strapped what I knew to be perfectly irresistible to any child, viz., a few new picture-books. In selecting, I got the best—not necessarily the most expensive, however, but such as are approved by the followers of Froebel and Pestalozzi.

Inside my bag, besides pencil and paper for drawing cars, steamboats, and other objects, I put a good-sized bag of animal crackers and a paper of small pins—for in previous moments of meditation on this all-absorbing question it occurred to me that although one animal cracker would not stand alone, two of a kind, placed side by side, with a pin through the bodies, would stand upright. The car window-sill, upon which they were placed, was very soon turned into a Zoo, not only to the delight of my own little son himself, but also to the amusement of several other children who sat near by.

Also, in anticipation of our journey, I had cut from papers and magazines verses, especially of the descriptive kind, telling of cats that "meow" and dogs that "bow wow." These, being read in a dramatic and expressive tone, were fully appreciated.

Along with the picture-books was strapped an illustrated catalogue of a large retail firm in New York. The pictures of the most attractive boys and girls in the catalogue were cut out and pinned to the cushioned back of the seat in front of us. The clocks, chairs, and other articles of furniture were also cut out, with strips of paper left on to serve as "props."

So absorbed was the little fellow in all these diversions that he did not even notice the inevitable candy and popcorn vender who appeared frequently and succeeded in tempting the other little people with cheap and health-destroying sweets.

And so I found that, by a little planning and forethought before the journey, and by the employment of a little tact while on the way, a much-dreaded trip was made an event to look back upon with pleasure.

The Required Foundation

Many graduates of institutions of learning, as well as those who are not graduates, will enter kindergarten training schools this coming autumn. In New York State a law goes into force January 1, 1897, which is very important to all who intend to prepare for special departments of education and to teach under the control of the State or the local educational authorities. Superintendent Skinner has sent notices to all the local authorities of the passage of this law, which provides that no appointments shall be made in any public school unless the applicant shall have graduated from a high school or institution of equal or higher rank having a course equal to that of a high school, and such school must have the approval of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, if in the State of New York. A certificate to teach cannot be granted in the public schools of New York State except to those who meet this standard. The best kindergarten training schools require equal, and some higher, standards from the entering pupils than those stated. The kindergarten associations are raising their standards, and those maintaining kindergartens on a

purely philanthropic basis are, many of them, realizing that the kindergarten is the first step in education. True, there was recently offered by a church in New York City the sum of twenty dollars a month to a trained kindergarten to conduct two sessions a day without an assistant. The pastor's assistant who made this munificent offer said, "It is not worth more than that to amuse children that length of time."

The kindergarten is not the only profession that has suffered because of the gross ignorance of good people. Stenography and typewriting are the victims of misapplied philanthropy. Hundreds of ignorant girls have been encouraged to take lessons in these two fields who had no elementary training. It is positively wicked to give lessons in stenography or typewriting unless the pupil has passed a certain standard examination agreed upon by the managers of the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. Anything that gives a worker a false estimate of his value is fatal to his best interests. The man or woman who in ignorance provides means for education in any field is a menace to progress, for the progress of mankind depends on the standards maintained by expert knowledge.

To a Girl Graduate

The following letter, written to a young girl, has been sent to *The Outlook* with permission to publish. It will doubtless help many other girls who are thinking of the future:

New York, May 27, 1896.

My Dear Niece: Yesterday I purchased and ordered sent to you the goods for your graduating dress. I hope it will please you. I am sorry I do not find myself in circumstances this year to give you your whole outfit, as has always been my desire and intention. However, I must be content to do as my circumstances will allow, which is the case with us all.

I am glad for you that you are almost through—that is, almost through *this* course. I wish you could stay at home a year and be your mother's right-hand man and get the experience of doing home work entirely, and then take a course of some kind in something somewhere out of M——. I know how tired you are, but when the strain is over and you have had your summer vacation, free from thought of school work for next year, I am sure you will find yourself quite rested. Don't you think so?

Do you think of doing anything to earn money hereafter? Or do you and your mother think it better for you to stay at home with her? Or do you think of keeping house for some one else? I thoroughly believe in a girl's learning something by which she could earn money enough to support herself if necessary, even though there may seem no possible need of it now or in the future. I think it not only a proper safeguard for a girl to give herself, but I also think she is so much more a woman of the best type, and that her character is strengthened and ennobled by it.

One thing I want to impress upon you. If you decide to do something outside of your own home to care for yourself, be sure to give the matter careful thought, and do not do the first thing that falls in your way, unless it is to your certain belief just the thing you want to do and can do best. A girl of your age has not usually given the matter much thought, because there has been no time in her life for that. Half the weariness and irritation from the work done in this world is caused by the fact that so many are doing the wrong thing, while if they were doing the thing best adapted to them they would do it easily and happily. Most people stray into the path nearest them, and sometimes that is just the road to success and happiness, and sometimes it is not. Many let false pride hinder them from doing the thing they would really, pride aside, like best to do, and could do best. Scrubbing well done is far better than painting poorly done, and the worker is more honored in the former case than in the latter. Once more, I want to urge you to be sure you are choosing the work you are best fitted for, if you are to do anything outside of home. Do it at great sacrifice at first, if necessary, and in the end the sacrifice you will find not so great.

I do not want you to think, dear, that I am going on the supposition that you are never to marry. Although I have not married, I thoroughly believe in marriage. But I do not believe in it to the extent of marrying just to escape being unmarried. It is the condition of life intended by nature and nature's God, and is the best life for man or woman when it is happy. So do not think I am talking as I am be-

cause I have taken it for granted you are to be, like your auntie, an old maid; it is because I believe that the knowledge that a young woman has that she can earn her own living and be counted in with the world's workers is a great thing for her, that I have said all that I have to you.

There! I did not mean to take advantage of you, when announcing the sending of your gown, to preach a sermon or deliver a lecture while I had your ear. So forgive me; but *don't forget the lecture*.

Give my love to all, and accept much for yourself, with best wishes for all you undertake in these last days at school. AUNTIE.

Health Culture Society

There has been organized in Brooklyn a Health Culture Society. The aim of this society is to interest women to wear skirts that will not touch the sidewalk. It is the intention of the members to devise and wear a rainy-day dress that will be hygienic and not remarkable. A similar attempt was made in Boston a few years ago, but it did not succeed. During the Exposition in Chicago about one hundred women, residents of that city, adopted a suit that was a cross between a bathing suit and a bicycle suit. Many of the bicycle suits would make attractive rainy-day dresses by the addition of a cape or a warm jacket in winter. A tailor-made gown, with the skirt slightly shortened, makes a satisfactory rainy-day gown, as many women have proved to their own satisfaction. Women are dressing more in accord with the rules of health than ever before. The bicycle has accomplished much. Shortened and narrowed skirts pass almost unnoticed. Bicycle dresses are worn to breakfast and lunch as a matter of convenience. They answer for tramping and rowing. So great is the advance in the matter of dressing hygienically that a woman feels like apologizing if she wears for a tramp in the country a gown that requires to be lifted from the ground.

A Text for Bicyclists

In the "British Medical Journal" there has appeared a series of articles entitled "Cycling in Health and Disease." One rule is emphasized: "Keep within your powers." There is no safer rule for guidance in life than this. It is a sentence which many might take as a life motto. It would mean preparation before attempting; it would mean a comprehension of one's fitness for every attempt in life. It does not mean timidity or shrinking. It means knowing what one can do, and doing it consciously that every step taken is a preparation for the next step. These articles condemn putting a child under seven on a wheel, even to be carried. The greatest care is urged as to the size of a wheel used by a growing child, the position of the child, and the movements of its legs. Every precaution should be taken against over-exertion. The opinion of eminent medical authorities is quoted, and the consensus of opinion is in favor of the use of the wheel for sound men and women of all ages.

The Care of Vegetables

The Health Protective Associations are urging the better class of dealers in vegetables not to expose their goods for sale outside of their stores. It is claimed that this exposure to the sun and dust wilts and injures vegetables. The suggestion is made that housekeepers refuse to trade with dealers who do not care for their goods in accordance with the best sanitary principles.

To Cure Mosquito-Bites

The New York "Tribune" says that—

A mixture of glycerine and carbolic acid is said to form a wonderful protection from mosquitoes as well as a cure for the bites. Take about twenty drops of the acid and put it into a bottle containing an ounce of glycerine and half an ounce of rosemary water. If used freely at night, the sting of the bites will be almost miraculously cured and the disfiguring blotches removed by morning.

A Suggestion

Dear Outlook: In reference to moreen skirts, concerning which "J. W." inquires, I can say from experience that there are kinds of black moreen which do not catch dust. I have adopted the plan of fastening samples of various kinds to my skirt, and buying the one which stands the test of wear on dusty streets. M. C. G.