

have done in other days and are doing to-day—they are upholding the Protestant tradition, that is, the right of private judgment; and that right logically involves, sooner or later, separation of Church and State. The protest of the English Church Union is not likely to delay but to accelerate disestablishment.



#### The Religious Census

Mr. Merriam, the Director of the Census, having received many letters asking whether the religious statistics of the population are to be taken in the present census, has thought it advisable to publish a statement on the subject. We summarize the statement as follows: The present Census Act divides the inquiries to be made into two groups. The first of these includes those subjects on which information can be obtained through the agency of the census enumerators, while the second includes subjects which can be dealt with without the aid of the enumerators, by correspondence or by the use of special agents. The value of a religious census of the population of the United States is, however, somewhat problematical, thinks the Director. He calls attention to the publication of the last volume in which the statistics of churches are contained. It has exerted, so far as can be judged, no appreciable influence upon the religious thought or life of the Nation. This is not because the work was not well done; probably no census report was ever more thorough or accurate. It is a report on "religious bodies," whether Christian or non-Christian, including the worshippers in Chinese temples. Obviously, therefore, as the Director says, the word "communicants" does not apply to the members of all these bodies. The conditions of membership in the various bodies calling themselves Christian vary so indefinitely that comparisons of denominational strength based upon nominal membership in the several churches cannot be otherwise than misleading.

There are religious denominations in which children born of parents connected with those organizations are birthright members of them, without baptism, confirmation, or any personal profession of religious faith. Admission to other churches is by baptism and confirmation, or by baptism without confirmation, or by confirmation after baptism, or by profession of

personal belief in the doctrines contained in a particular creed and a promise of obedience to the authority vested in the ecclesiastical organization.

In comparing the statistics of membership in one religious body with those in another, therefore, we are comparing things which are so dissimilar as to elude comparison; we agree with the Director of the Census in concluding that we are attempting to reduce to a common denominator figures which have no common denominator. Let us add that no figures of any kind can indicate, even remotely, the real ethical and spiritual effect of a Christian Church, and only by such effect ought it to be measured.



#### The Federation of Churches and Christian Workers

Dr. Walter Laidlaw, Executive Secretary of the

Federation of Churches and Christian Workers in New York City, has just issued an extremely interesting report concerning the Fourteenth Assembly District. This district lies east of Third Avenue, and comprises the blocks between Seventh and Fourteenth Streets. The report is manifestly a handbook designed for reference by the churches of that district in connection with the co-operative parish system adopted by them. In the end, these churches will have a complete directory of families of their faith throughout a section of the metropolis comprising fifty thousand population. Cordial commendation should be given to this co-operation of Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, Baptists, and others in this district. The report of the district in question shows that 44 per cent. of the families reported are Roman Catholics, 39 per cent. Protestants, and 17 per cent. Hebrews. Though the Protestants are divided into sixteen communions, there is not one of these with as many church-going families as have the Hebrews, but the Hebrews of the district are, so far as regularity of worship is concerned, in a pitiful condition. The percentage of Protestants with a church-home in the district is larger than the Roman Catholic percentage. Even more interesting are the sociological conditions of this district, representing 40 per cent. German, 25 per cent. American, 10 per cent. Ital-

ian, and 5 per cent. Hungarian elements in its population. Twenty-five nationalities were noted in all, but the visitors did not find one colored family. The influence of Slavonic emigration on the average size of household is shown in the fact that the Hebrews of this district have 2.54 children to every family, as against 2.08 in Roman Catholic families and 1.85 in Protestant families. The proportion of Hebrew families with nine children is six times as great as among Protestants, and the percentage of Hebrew families with but one child is considerably smaller. Hence, with such conditions the growth of Protestantism in this district through birth-rate seems to have comparatively small probabilities. The district was once self-reliantly prosperous, but Dr. Laidlaw's statistics indicate that now only two per cent. of the families there own their own dwellings. Another striking fact is that the average family occupies only 3.37 rooms, and that only 2.19 of these rooms have windows to the outer air. No less than 95 per cent. of the families lack baths. Such statistics are of great value, not only to religious work, but to such social endeavors as that now being prosecuted by the Tenement House Commission recently appointed by Governor Roosevelt.



**Social Service** We do not know of any organization which has so quickly grown into wide and well-appreciated usefulness as the recently formed "League for Social Service," of which Dr. Josiah Strong is President and Dr. W. H. Tolman Secretary. We can hardly serve many of our readers better than by briefly summarizing the contents of its monthly publication, "Social Service," in the numbers received since its first issue last January. That issue opens with a list of the copious material it has collected for concretely illustrating social and industrial questions by means of lantern-slides, on subjects adapted for the purposes of college professors and young people's societies, public officials and labor unions, women's clubs, labor employers, institutional churches, and others. The plan includes a descriptive text or libretto of the slides for reading lectures. The wealth and variety of this collection are remarkable. The February

number contains an illustrated narrative of what is being done by various employers for industrial betterment by improving and beautifying the wage-earners' environment. It is evident from the correspondence of employers reported here that a new profession is rising, viz., "social engineering." Also that these things pay in dollars and cents, as well as in influences beyond the range of statistics. An employer elsewhere quoted writes that the three per cent. of his annual payroll spent for industrial betterment yields an actual cash profit of from five to ten per cent. In March appeared an illustrated account of the Exhibit of Social Economy at the Paris Exposition, for which our Government has appointed the President and Secretary of the League special agents. The chief feature of the April issue is a historical sketch of the "Get Together Club," the name adopted by the conferences of men and women in this city who are actively interested in practical measures for social betterment. People elsewhere who desire to engage in constructive discussions of such measures will find suggestive material in the programmes of the club here given. The May number presents various subjects. An international clearing-house for the interpretation of the scientific, educational, and sociological results of the Paris Exposition has been organized under a permanent International Association. Holding its first International Assembly at Paris, it appeals to popular sympathy in the cause of culture and human development. Following an account of this is a record of successes in bettering industrial conditions in factories, and the story of "the Lunch Club of Denver." June brings to the front the subject of "The Home and Social Betterment" in an account of what the Federation of Churches is doing to improve the wretched condition of laborers' homes in Pittsburg and Allegheny. We believe that public and general benefits will be diffused as the circulation of this admirable journal of true civilization increases. The treasurer of the Westinghouse Air-Brake Company writes: "I trust that the lessons taught by the practice of the ideas of the League may spread until this country will not only be proud of its great commercial and financial prosperity, but can be proud of the character and quality