

Editorial and Contributed.

Editorial Notes.

SOME time ago a difficult and dangerous surgical operation was successfully performed by a lady medical missionary on the person of a Hindu lady at Lucknow. Whereupon a heathen journal remarked: "Miracles still occur. Even to-day Jesus Christ is performing them through the female physicians whom he sends into our zenanas." This explanation is truer to fact than many a so-called Christian journal would have given.

A pathetic comment on the treatment received by the Jews in Russia is afforded by the following incident: A Jewish woman had need of clothing for her little child; the doctor brought her some. "Did Jewish ladies send these," she asked. "No, Christian ladies," said the doctor. "Christian!" said the poor woman, "I did not know that Christians could be kind."

During the past month the Missionary Secretary has been able to visit all the Annual Conferences in Ontario and Quebec, and two in the Maritime Provinces. In every instance close and sympathetic attention was given to the Secretary's report, and the brethren were hearty in the expression of their resolve to stand by the Missionary Society. It is evident that the circulars and tabulated statements relating to Home Missions recently issued have already resulted in good. The real needs of these missions will be more carefully scanned in the future, and the possibility of readjusting the work so as to reduce missionary expenditure will receive careful consideration in some of the Conferences at least.

Within a decade or so, lectureships on missions have been established in several of the leading theological seminaries of the United States, and the published reports constitute a valuable addition to our missionary literature. One of the latest additions consists of six lectures by the Rev. James S. Dennis, D.D., delivered before the faculty and students of Princeton Theological Seminary, and published by the F. H. Revell Company, of New York. The volume is entitled *Foreign Missions after a Century*, and comprises some 368 pages, with index and a bibliography of the most recent missionary literature. This book will be of permanent value to all who are interested in the cause of missions.

A Christian home in the midst of a heathen people is a powerful factor in the work of conversion and civilization. It is, in fact, a perpetual object lesson which even a barbarous people can understand. This fact is recognized by a recent Roman Catholic writer, who speaks of it as one of the "advantages which the Protestant missionaries enjoy in virtue of their mode

of life, of the influence which they create for themselves in remote countries by means of their families," and the writer admits that the Sisters of Charity "find themselves isolated, without direct support, without the maternal authority which the family procures, especially among the Oriental peoples." We have long been of opinion that, other things being equal, married missionaries are the best.

This incident is suggestive: A young English clergyman, prevented from going to the foreign field by a plain Providential call to train men for the ministry, felt that he must "send" if he could not "go." Accordingly he devotes a sufficient portion of his income to maintain a substitute on heathen soil. This is practical Christianity, and we believe a day will come when this man will have many imitators. We do not regret the costly gifts which men of wealth bestow upon colleges and institutes of various kinds, but we sincerely wish that a part of the wealth of such men was utilized in supporting substitutes in the great mission field. Even churches might take a hint from the above example, and resolve that for every dollar spent at home another dollar should go to speed the Gospel abroad.

The Flood in British Columbia.

THE Rev. E. Robson has been appointed by the British Columbia Conference to the Chilliwack Indian Mission, and he, it is expected, will be appointed Moral Governor of the Coqualeetza Institute. He writes as follows under date of June 9th:

"When I arrived in New Westminster on May 31st, en route to Chilliwack, I found that the river was so high, and still rising so rapidly, that it would be difficult to get my wife and household stuff through. Indeed, I had to remove the latter from the wharf warehouse in New Westminster to higher storage, as the river, affected by the spring tides, overflowed the wharves. I remained a week in New Westminster, and then came on alone to 'prospect.' Such a scene of desolation as I witnessed from the Royal City to Chilliwack I never saw before. Almost all the houses abandoned; the farms and orchards under several feet of water; the houses, barns, etc., with an average of three or four feet of water in them—some ten or twelve feet; the people camped on higher locations, or finding shelter with those settlers more fortunately situated. From Chilliwack landing (?) to Coqualeetza the only obstruction to navigation in a canoe was a sidewalk in the village over which we hauled our 'dug out.' Over streets, turnpike roads, wire fences, and swing gates we paddled away until within a few hundred feet of Mr. Tate's house. The farms of Kipp, Reece, and a host of the old well-to-do men are under water. The stern-wheel steamers run right into their barnyards, and up to their front doors to remove people and cattle to higher altitudes. Coqualeetza is the centre of comfort in these times of disaster. Here all is sweet sunshine and joy. The farms all around us are safe and far, and we high and dry above all probabilities of flood.

"Bro. Ladner with his family are sheltered with Bro. Wells, Mr. Reece and family with Bro. Tate, four or five families in the camp ground shacks, etc. It has become a trite saying that affliction should make people religious. The flood has certainly driven quite a number to the camp ground and the Mission-house.

"Mr. Tate and I visited some of the Indians yesterday, and found them industrious, contented and thankful."