

then a civilisation and literature not much different from what it was a few years ago.

China, with its four and a half million square miles (one twelfth the habitable globe), and 433½ millions of people, presents problems almost appalling in their immensity.

Ancestor worship is practised by nearly all the Chinese, amongst whom also the faiths of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Mohammedanism hold sway. Materialism, corruption in every form, superstition, and ignorance are everywhere apparent, and with the growth of railways and commerce intercourse with the foreigner is nearly everywhere practicable; the Chinese are seeking teachers, and doctors, and are in that malleable, plastic state whereby the whole future of that great nation and even of the whole Orient, may be moulded aright if reinforcements adequate in number, quality, and in regard to support could only be sent out.

It is worthy of note here that Medical Missions have been in this country of inestimable service to the people as well as in the interests of Christianity, and have profoundly moved the people in perhaps a way that nothing else would.

Many consider that the present force of missionaries should be quadrupled, and should be more equally distributed throughout the Empire. The Commission point out that women should share largely in this work.

Perhaps the greatest responsibility of Britain is with regard to India. Think of its population of nearly 300 million inhabitants, covering an area as large as Europe—excluding Russia—and divided up into nations differing in race, language, creed, and customs. The greater number (200 millions) are Hindus, and bound by the social order—caste—which grips them like iron, and is the greatest obstacle to the spread of Christianity. Mohammedanism, too, has a strong hold in India, embracing 64 millions of people, whilst the remainder are mere primitive hill tribes and peoples, who are promising material on which to work.

The multiplicity of languages (147 being in use) affords great difficulties for the distribution of literature and provision of the same.

At the present time the dominant movement in India is the awakening to, and realisation of, national life and spirit, and whilst unwisely guided and developed, the movement may lead to untold dangers, it is so far a potent force in the discarding of caste, and a preparing of India for response to Christianity.

The Rev. W. E. S. Holland well urges that "It cannot but demand our sympathy; we must frankly share the Indian's ambition for

his own people. In God's hands it may be our mightiest leverage to lift India to Jesus Christ."

At present the political spirit has developed an anti-Christian phase. Attempts are made to prevent parents allowing their children to enter mission schools, Christian literature is boycotted, even school books containing any Christian thought or tendency are condemned.

On the other hand, there have been mass movements towards Christianity in the Punjab, Assam, and Khasia Hills.

The Bishop of Madras, speaking of the lower classes of India, says that at the present time there are 50 millions of people in India, ready to receive the Gospel message, that if a prompt, aggressive, and adequate campaign were carried out, it would be quite possible to gather something like 30 millions of them into the Christian church, and furnish to the whole people of India a most powerful witness for the truth and power of the Christian faith. Though undoubtedly in cities like Calcutta, there appear to be many missions and missionaries, even then there are large classes of the population untouched by the existing organisations. In the larger districts the reports show that the mission staffs are everywhere inadequate; "there is not a single mission in any district of Bengal," said the Rev. H. Anderson, in 1902, "which is not absolutely under-manned, and the process goes on every year of killing or invaliding missionaries on account of overwork." There is no doubt that Medical Missions have been in India, of the greatest possible service, a practical exposition of Christianity, overcoming suspicion or fanaticism.

Especially is this true of Zenana work, where women alone find entrance.

The present time is one of boundless opportunity; and the whole future of India may depend on the faithfulness of the Christian Church to rise to its great task.

The growth of national sentiment and spirit is apparent and effective in Turkey more than perhaps any other country during recent years.

The centre of Islamism presents now opportunities for evangelisation and Christian activity never before presented; the work both there and in the Levant has been trying, difficult beyond all question, but with a larger development of medical missions, qualified medical men, and nurses, and dissemination of education, great progress under the blessing of God should take place. The great obstacle is lack of suitable and well qualified men and women for the stations.

Here is another of the many spheres where woman's work as a nurse is abundantly repaid,

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