

RELIGIOUS ITEMS

Japan Emperor Honors Methodist Sanitorium

The tuberculosis sanitorium at South Mountain, Haiju, Korea, the first such sanitorium in all Korea, has recently received favor from the emperor of Japan, in the form of a certificate of merit and a grant of money from the imperial household. Dr. Sherwood Hall is superintendent of the sanitorium, which is maintained by the Methodist Church.—Christian Century.

Prefers Teaching to Bishopric

Rev. Dr. Howard Chandler Robbins, who was lately elected Bishop-Coadjutor of the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and on whom strong pressure was brought to bear to accept the election, has finally declined it. On November 19, he announced that in spite of his deep appreciation of the honor, he felt he should remain at his present post of teaching pastoral theology in the General Theological Seminary, New York.—F. C. Service.

At San Quentin

There are in San Quentin, California's state prison, near San Francisco, 4,000 men of whom 1,100 are between the ages of twenty-one and twenty-five years and 1,300 between twenty-five and twenty-nine years. Many of San Quentin's prisoners work in the jute mill. Here, according to a report recently made by the Quakers of Los Angeles, conditions are intolerable, "the air is continually filled with lint, dust and other particles from the jute, making the air so unfit for human use that it hastens lung, throat, and other diseases and shortens the lives of the convicts." Considering this situation to be a "blot upon the good name of our state" the Friends appealed to Gov. C. C. Young and the members of the California legislature to remedy it.—Christian Herald.

Ancient Moslem University Adjusts Itself to New Influences

The visitors to Cairo, who never fail to see El Azhar, the famous citadel of Mohammedan orthodoxy, reputed to be the oldest university in the world, can no longer be told that its curriculum has not changed during its existence of nearly a thousand years.

During all the centuries the curriculum of this Moslem seat of learning has been based entirely on the Koran. At last, a change has come. The revival of intellectual life in the Moslem world, due in large measure to the influence of Christian education from the West—as effectively represented, for example, in the American University at Cairo, has made itself felt even in the rigid El Azhar. To the traditional courses in Arabic and Moslem law and theology, courses in modern languages and science are now being added.—F. C. Service.

China's War Continues

Uneasy rests the head that wears a crown—or, in China, the hand that holds the Presidential seal. It is more than two years now since General Chiang Kai Shek—young com-

mander of the victorious Nationalist troops—ousted the Communists from party control, became President, moved the capital to Nanking, and, with the aid of many good advisers, set about it to govern China, in peace. But there has been no peace. Just now—in Central China near the industrial city of Hankow—rebellious troops, instigated, some say, by Communist propaganda, are at war with Nanking. To the north Gen. Feng Yu-Hsiang 'Christian General' is moving to join the rebels. The fight seems to be going hard with Chiang and the Nanking authorities. Should he be defeated China will, once again, be at the mercy of ambitious warlords and the masses, perhaps will be the prey of malicious Red propaganda.—Christian Herald.

Seeks Prevention of Leprosy

A little charcoal fire glowed in the backyard of Anbiah, the medical evangelist of Kavandanpatti, India. On the fire, kept alive by a leper working crude bellows, bubbled a dish of water. While Anbiah sterilized his needles in the boiling water, six other lepers, two of them women, waited for their weekly injection of oil. Anbiah began giving these treatments when he found that the number of lepers was increasing so rapidly that it was impossible for the institutions now existing to care for them.

While visiting the robber-caste country, Raymond Dudley of Triumangalam, India, found a great increase in leprosy. In an attempt to help offset this increase he is planning to make lantern slides to be shown in villages and to publish some articles on the prevention and treatment of this terrible disease for the three hundred teachers in this area in the hope that they will be able to minister to the bodies as well as to the minds of these people.—Witness.

Amazon Indians

Mr. J. P. Ribeiro of the Heart of Amazonia Mission writes of the accessibility of the Indian population of the interior as contrasted with the indifference and hardness of the Brazilian city populations. "The people in the towns and cities are already rejecters of the grace of God. They have been widely evangelized but are hardened, given over to spiritism, theosophy, low pleasures, and Romanism. With the Indians it is different. Here the evangelist is "quickly surrounded by people who cannot themselves read, asking all sorts of questions and forcing him to sing a hymn until they know it by heart. Many times the writer has been constrained to remain with them singing and giving the sense of the Word under the glittering stars till the cockcrowing announced that it was past midnight."

Mr. Ribeiro tells us that colporteurs are of no use among these people since they cannot read. What is needed is teachers—preferably single women—to gather round them morning and afternoons enthusiastic groups of Indian young people. In any part of the Amazon Valley one is perfectly safe. The people will not steal from a white man and are ever ready to do favors for those who are friendly and respectful to their women folk. Through the children the parents can be won to Christ. "We have had pupils that in six months' time were able to read the New Testament tolerably well, who have brought into the faith their parents and relatives. Boys and girls come from long distances to

school in rain and heat. They have a perfect passion for learning. I do insist upon this as the most urgent need of the Inland Amazon Valley—the enabling of these Indian young people to read Scripture. And I feel led to commend the field here as an ideal one for unmarried missionaries."—S. S. Times.

Dressmakers and Free Speech

A rather unique incident in the struggle of the dressmakers in New York to organize to better their conditions drew first-page attention in the press. After the police had arrested representatives of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union and some sympathetic students from Union Theological Seminary for distributing pamphlets and notices of a meeting of the union, to be held in the Central Y. W. C. A. on November 13, the gathering had as one of its speakers Miss Charlotte Tuttle, daughter of the United States District Attorney of New York. Miss Tuttle is a Vassar student whose sympathies with women in industry were aroused by experiences last summer when she herself worked in a factory. She accepted the invitation to tell the meeting of her conviction of the need for the American principle of collective bargaining. When the meeting opened, District Attorney Tuttle was among those present and sat in a front row. "I had a long-standing engagement for this evening," he said before the meeting, "but I am getting off long enough to hear my daughter and be on hand in case anyone attempts to interfere with the right of free speech."—F. C. Service.

Unique Plan for Religious Co-operation

Radburn, a new community in northern New Jersey, is to have something unusual in its religious life, according to announcement by the Federal Council, New York. The "Council of Religion for Radburn, N. J." has been organized by the Protestant Churches to plan for the development of the church life even before the building of the city has been completed, and to provide a co-operative ministry for the community. One pastor will represent all the Protestant group, and in co-operation with the Radburn Council of Religion will direct the Protestant religious life of the city. The Radburn Council has called to this important position, Rev. Deane Edwards of the Reformed Church of Bronxville, N. Y. He has accepted the call and has recently begun his duties. The Bronxville Church, of which Mr. Edwards has been the pastor for the past ten years, has been a leading example in the metropolitan area of the community spirit in religious work, numbering members of eighteen different denominations on its communicant roll. The Radburn plan does not contemplate the immediate erection of church buildings. The present and prospective citizens are to decide what churches, and of what type, are needed in order to minister to the community most adequately and without competition.—Christian Century.

Brief Items

The two books of Dr. E. Stanley Jones, well-known missionary to India, entitled "Christ at the Round Table" and "Christ of the Indian Road," have been translated into Dutch, German, Swedish, Japanese, Arabic, Norwegian and several other languages.