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present day good-tempered controversy is essential to the preservation of truth ; and such lectures might well be delivered in every part of the kingdom, both town and country.

The latest numbers of the S.P.C.K. wonderful penny Pocket Library Series are those old favourites "The Borderers," by Fenimore Cooper, and "Poor Jack," by Captain Marryat. The Society in these publications is admirably furthering the movement for purer literature for our young folks.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (May) magazines :

The Religious Review of Reviews, The Review of the Churches, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The Evangelical Churchman, The Church Sunday-School Magazine, Blackwood, The Cornhill, Sunday Magazine, The Fireside, The Quiver, Cassell's Family Magazine, Good Words, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, South American Missionary Magazine, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, Parish Magazine, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Cottager and Artisan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, The Child's Pictorial, Our Little Dots, The Child's Companion, Boy's and Girl's Companion, The Children's World, On Service, Church and People, Dawn of Day, Day of Days, Home Words, and Hand and Heart.

The Month.

ANNUAL MEETINGS.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

THE ninety-seventh annual meeting of the C.M.S. was held in Exeter Hall, under the presidency of Sir John Kennaway, M.P. There were eight meetings during the day, the total attendance being estimated at over 10,000. The Rev. H. E. Fox (honorary secretary) read the general review of the year, in which were noted three marked events : (1) the Ku-Cheng massacre, (2) the development of the Uganda Mission, (3) the commencement of the three years' enterprise. The receipts for the year were as follows : General, £230,696, of which £159,126 was from associations, £35,934 from legacies, and £27,519 from benefactions ; appropriated, £30,457, of which £8,868 was from associations ; total, £261,153 :

The year began with a deficit of	...	...	...	...	£1,422
The expenditure of the year was	...	...	...	...	279,732
					<hr/>
Making a total to be met of	...	...	...	...	£281,154
The funds applicable to this expenditure have been :					
(a) General contributions	...	...	...	£230,696	
(b) Appropriated contributions (including part balances of previous years) applicable to this year's expenditure	...	...	...	33,139	
(c) Drawn from contingency fund	...	...	...	250	
					<hr/>
					264,085
Leaving a deficit on March 31, 1896, of ..					£17,069

The Chairman said that the report told them of help given and progress made. It was certain that the majority in the Church did not take an interest in missionary work ; it was the few who supported it. With regard to the deficit, it might be said they had gone to meet it. They had their orders eight years ago that no candidate who offered himself, and was well fitted, should be rejected. He was not in distress as to this deficit ; he was sure it would be provided without diminishing the ordinary income. On two former occasions large sums had been asked for ; at one, Bishop Tucker asked £15,000 to save Uganda. It was forthcoming. Two years ago there was a deficit of £12,000, and an appeal was put forth that it might be wiped out before the annual meeting ; on the morning of the meeting £12,900 had been given. It might be said that this had swept the country, but, as a matter of fact, £11,500 had been given by eleven persons, so that very few had taken part in the effort, and there was plenty of room for a new one. Already some £800 had been promised. It was sometimes said there was no money in the country, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement showed that the country was never richer.

BISHOP OF LONDON'S FUND.

The annual conference of clergy and churchwardens in promotion of the objects of the Bishop of London's Fund was held in Sion College, Thames Embankment, the Bishop presiding. After prayers by the secretary (the Rev. H. Kirk), the Bishop said that last year they received £22,243, the year before £24,541, a diminution to the amount of £2,298. This diminution did not arise from a diminution of their regular income, but they had not had so many legacies. The amount received by legacies was only £655, whereas in the year before it was £5,136. This was always a very fluctuating source of income. But at the same time he was obliged to reiterate what he had said on many previous occasions—what he supposed he was to go on saying year after year—that he did not think that London was sufficiently sensible of the duty that properly fell upon it of providing for the spiritual needs of the enormous population, which went on growing in this most extraordinary rate. He did not know to what this was to be ascribed, but for a considerable number of years, as they were aware, they had just kept up to something like the same figure year after year ; they could not get beyond it.

WAIFS AND STRAYS.

The annual report of the Waifs and Strays Society for 1895 shows that the total receipts, including value of freehold premises given for special purposes, amounted last year to £64,390, as against £58,692 in the previous year. The total value of the freehold premises and land and invested funds was £54,279, after deducting mortgages, as against £43,618 in 1894. The larger portion of these are held in trust for specific purposes, and cannot therefore be considered as available assets. The number of children under the society's care has increased during 1895 from 2,128 to 2,253. There are sixty-three homes belonging to the society in various parts of England and Wales, besides two in Canada.

POOR CLERGY RELIEF CORPORATION.

The annual service in aid of the Poor Clergy Relief Corporation was held at St. Edmund's Church, Lombard Street, and was attended in state by the Lord Mayor, who was accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and Mr. Sheriff Cooper. The sermon was preached by the Bishop of Lincoln, who strongly urged the claims of the poor clergy to support

in view of the unexpected and undeserved distress which had fallen on many of them. In the past year, he stated, 1,238 applications for assistance were made to the corporation, and 976 cases were relieved with money grants, while 38 were helped with gifts of clothing. The corporation, of which Dr. R. T. Pigott is secretary, gives immediate assistance in money and clothing to the poorer clergy of England, Wales, Ireland, and the colonies, their widows and orphans, in times of sickness, bereavement, or other temporary distress. Since its establishment in 1856 the corporation has given aid in about 16,000 cases of clerical distress. The income for 1895 was £17,651.

FRIEND OF THE CLERGY CORPORATION.

The anniversary festival of the Friend of the Clergy Corporation was held at the Grand Hotel, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, M.P., in the chair. The chairman, in proposing the toast of the evening, said the Friend of the Clergy Corporation was an old and successful charity, and during forty-seven years had done a vast amount of good. Its objects were twofold—it granted permanent annuities in the shape of pensions to the widows and orphan unmarried daughters of clergymen, and afforded temporary assistance to necessitous clergymen and their families in England and Wales. In cases of illness and transference from one benefice to another, this temporary assistance was often of the greatest value. Speaking roughly, there were upwards of 20,000 clergymen of the Church of England, and of these 500 received less than £50 per annum, 4,000 received less than £150, and half that number under £200. The depreciation in tithes and stipends showed a very serious state of things; and one that required amelioration. He looked upon it with amazement, admiration, and respect, that such an enormous body of men should give their services almost gratuitously to fostering what they considered to be the best for the nation. And yet there were men who talked in the House of Commons and said the Church of England ought to be done away with, although the clergy were spending their own substance on their people. It was a recognised fact that the country was made great by the virtue and moral character of its citizens, and this was largely due to the teaching of the clergy. The homes of the clergy were homes of thrift and sobriety, of purity, truth, and honour. Some sixty candidates came up every half-year at the elections to pensions, and on the last occasion the average income of the sixty candidates was only £15 per annum. At the present time there were 176 pensioners on the books of the society, and to meet this expenditure, added to the grants for temporary assistance to clergymen, their income was only about £7,000 a year. He earnestly appealed for increased support. The secretary (the Rev. H. Jona) announced a list of subscriptions and donations amounting to upwards of £900, including fifty guineas from the chairman and £5 from Lady Dixon-Hartland.

CHURCH ARMY.

The annual meeting of the Church Army was held at St. James's Hall, the Archbishop of Armagh presiding. Mr. Edward Clifford stated that the revenue for 1895 had been £71,000, against £54,000 in 1894.

COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Colonial and Continental Church Society was held in Sion College. Mr. F. A. Bevan presided. Canon Hurst presented the report, which showed a home income of £20,876, or £2,000 less than last year, but legacies alone were £7,000 less. Adding the sums raised and spent in the Colonies and on the Continent, the income was

£42,276. The debt had been reduced to £2,000. The chairman moved the adoption of the report. The Bishop of Ballarat, in seconding the motion, said he would be ashamed to take a penny of the society's money if his diocese were as rich as it was said to be. The Bishop of Algoma expressed his deep gratitude for the aid rendered to his missionary diocese. The motion having been agreed to, the Bishop of Quebec said that in parts of Quebec, where the Protestant minority was not large enough to claim the establishment of a dissentient School Board, the society's grants made a Protestant school possible. The resolution was seconded by Bishop Hellmuth, supported by the Bishop of Honduras, and carried.

INCORPORATED CHURCH BUILDING SOCIETY.

The annual general court of the Incorporated Society for Promoting the Enlargement, Building, and Repairing of Churches and Chapels was held at the Church House. The Bishop of Salisbury presided. The report, which was adopted, showed that the income had risen from £4,481 in 1894 to £9,760 in 1895. Legacies alone increased from £506 to £5,886. The society was the trustee of 363 church-repair funds, amounting to £103,798.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of the Church of England Sunday-school Institute was held in Exeter Hall. The Bishop of Bath and Wells presided, and the Bishop of Stepney gave an address insisting on the need of preparation in Sunday-school teaching. Mr. John Palmer, the secretary, presented the annual report, which showed that 2,862,061 scholars were now attending the Church of England Sunday-schools and Bible classes, the year's increase being £56,856; and the teachers numbered 206,598. The entries for the teachers' examination last year numbered 619, and 24 came from Canada. There were now 396 associations in union with the institute. Of these 39 were in London, 338 in other parts of Great Britain and Ireland, and 19 in India and the Colonies.

ESTABLISHED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND.

The statement of collections and contributions to the schemes of the Church of Scotland for the year ended December 31, 1895, has just been issued. It appears that the total sum raised for all the schemes of the General Assembly from parishes and chapels amounted to £54,918 18s. 5d., as compared with £57,597 6s. in 1894. Of this sum £14,676 was contributed in aid of foreign missions, £6,994 towards home missions, £3,496 towards colonial missions, £3,408 towards Jewish missions, £7,062 towards the endowment fund, £3,719 towards small livings, £2,468 towards the aged and infirm ministers' fund, £1,960 towards Church interests, and £6,902 was raised by the Women's Foreign Missions Association.

UNITED PRESBYTERIANS.

The papers of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland have been issued. They report 577 congregations, with a membership of 191,881, and a total income of £410,848, being an increase of £19,241 as compared with 1894, and larger than the income of any of the ten preceding years.