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of the Young Men's Christian Associations

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The field is the world. (Matth. 13: 38)

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COMMUNICATIONS TO
CH. FERMAUD, Case Stand, GENEVA (Switzerland)

Sent free on demand.

Let your light shine before men.

Do not let Satan persuade you that, because you cannot do great things, you can do nothing at all.

I was once told of a man who, while on the sea, suffered much from seasickness. If ever there be a time when one feels incapable of working for the Lord, it is certainly when he is seasick — at least, that is my opinion.

While the passenger was suffering terribly, he heard the cry of « Help! Help! ». A man had fallen overboard. He immediately began wondering what he could do to help those rescuing. He bethought himself of the idea of taking his lamp and holding it before the porthole. The man was thus saved.

When the passenger recovered from his seasickness and came on deck, the man who had fallen overboard related to him how he had sunk twice already. He felt himself sinking for the third time, and probably never to raise again, when on throwing his arms about with despair, a light appeared at one of the portholes, a sailor saw his hand, snatched at it and pulled him on deck, thus saving him from the watery grave.

A small thing was it not, just holding a lamp? Yet this small act saved a man's life.

If you cannot do great things, you can at any rate hold, in a firm unflinching hand, the light of the Gospel, so that its blessed light may enlighten some poor sinner and lead him again to Christ.

D. L. MOODY.

Central International Committee.

As announced in our last issue, the *third Summer School* of students of Romand Switzerland took place at Ste-Croix. One hundred participants made it a good success : the detailed account is given lower down. We wish all success to our students who are making efforts for the winter.

The Students' Conference was followed by the *Annual Meeting of General and Travelling Secretaries* of Switzerland, at which Mr. Favre gave us the pleasure of his presence and which succeeded well.

We are at this moment in full swing with our *Training Course for french speaking Secretaries*, in which 13 friends are taking part : 3 from France and 10 from different parts of Switzerland.

The *Tour of Mr. Phildius* is meeting with success : our friend continues to be greatly encouraged and we believe that his presence and the meetings that he has been able to hold, will have encouraging results for the Swedish Associations so dear to us. We have been especially attached to these Y. M. C. A's for many years and we cannot forget the excellent relations which have always attached us to them. Our friend has borne to them our warmest greetings and wishes.

Mr. Ernest Favre represented us at the *British Conference of Y. M. C. A's at Glasgow*. His trip succeeded well and our brother has returned much pleased with what he saw and heard. Further on, may be seen the account of this Conference which, from all reports, was one of the best which has taken place on the British Isles.

Bible Reading Union. — The Committee had the pleasure to receive a visit from Dr. H. Wilson, secretary of this Union.

After mature deliberation and after getting advice from their correspondents the C. I. C. recognizing the good which can be brought about in the Associations by a regular and systematic reading of the Bible, invites the different National Committees to look into the system proposed by Dr. Wilson of Birmingham, which has already been adopted by several countries. It can be utilised in adapting it to the needs of each country. In this manner Dr. Wilson could add to the title of his organisation, the word « international. »

The reading and study of the Bible are factors which are too essential, too vital in all our work, to miss a single opportunity of recommending them, specially to our Y. M. C. A's.

The C.I.C. has never imagined an Association without a Bible-class and Prayer-meeting from its foundation. It has been remarked for a long time that the number present at one or the other, was a sort of thermometer for the real life of the

Association. All that can be done then to develop, in the midst of our Y. M. C. A's, the love and the need of reading the Word of God, will have our entire approbation.

Smyrna Y. M. C. A. — The Smyrna Association, having accepted the Paris Basis is admitted into the Alliance. We welcome our dear brethren, to whom we are delighted to open our portals and whom we recommend to the prayers of the Y. M. C. A's.

The Basle Conference. — Although we have officially asked each of our representatives to furnish us with subjects for the next Conference at Basle and have also received replies from some National Committees still we think that many of our co-operators and readers may have some subject at heart and we beg them to send their ideas to their National Committee, so that they may be transmitted to us in time. We ask that all the Y. M. C. A's may remember, in their prayers, the Basle Conference : this meeting can be made a powerful means for developing our work, and it will be so on condition that we ask with faith and perseverance.

Our General Secretaries.

The **Young Men's Christian Association Training School, at Springfield, Mass.**, opened on Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 8th, with the largest number of students ever enrolled. Sixty young men are now engaged in pursuing a course of study in preparation for the various lines of work in the Young Men's Christian Association.

One of the most important advances in the work of the institution has been the recent development in the course of Bible study. This course covers a study of the entire body of the Scriptures in English. One hour a day, through two years, is devoted to a study of the Old and New Testaments. A thorough course, covering three years, is given in Training Class work, both in the study of how to deal with inquirers and in the preparation of gospel addresses, Bible readings, and Bible lessons. For the carrying out of this course of instruction, Rev. W. G. Ballantine, D.D., L. L. D., who has recently resigned as president of Oberlin College, has been called to the work of instruction in the English Bible. Dr. Ballantine has had a unique preparation for this important task. He fitted himself for work in the New Testament, and was called as assistant professor in New Testament Greek to the Seminary of Oberlin in 1878. Later he was called to the chair of Old Testament Literature, and afterwards, when he became president of Oberlin College, he gave instruction in the English Bible in the college department. He is a broad scholar with thorough evangelical sympathies, for many years a friend and supporter of the Young Men's Christian Association. He comes to this work with deep enthusiasm for the winning of men, and will add greatly to the development of Bible study in the Young Men's Christian Associations of America.

Our Students.

Scandinavian Students Summer School in Herlufsholm.

Where is Herlufsholm? most of our readers will probably ask. It is in the southern part of Zealand, the biggest of the danish islands, which is known for its fertile soil, rich cultivation and beautiful shady beech forests. Herlufsholm is a boys school at about two miles distance from the small town of Næstved. This school was founded 1565 by a danish nobleman called Herluf Trolle, who had enbibed the spirit of the Reformation during his studies in Wittenberg. He and his wife left their enormous country property as a legacy for the school, which is in consequence enabled to offer its 100 pupils the best teaching and general accommodation. The buildings : church, large hall, class-rooms, dormitories, &c., which were thrown open for the conference, remind one, in some respects, of the english university colleges.

The number of attendants at the Conference was 235, two thirds of whom were students still at the University. The 36 lady students had their rooms in a building by themselves, the hostess being Miss Thyra Möller, cand. mag., who won their undivided gratitude and affection. The same can be said of Pastor

Steinthal, who was the successful leader and organiser of the whole. There is a special reason for remembering these two in prayer and sympathy, for they are engaged to be married and hope to go out as missionaries to Santalistan this autumn.

There were others who also had received the call to mission work. At one of the daily prayer meetings for missions there turned out to be 15 volunteers present, two of these said that they had received their call at the previous conference in Vadstena two years ago. While there was every reason to thank God for that Conference, and call it, as some did, a spirit-filled meeting, there was yet more reason to do so in regard to the Herlufsholm Conference. It will, no doubt, greatly influence the several universities of Scandinavia. The delegations numbered from Denmark 136 (among these 11 ladies), Norway 42 (10 ladies), Sweden 34 (3 ladies), Finland 21 (11 ladies). Besides these, Mr. Robert P. Wilder and a swiss student attended part of the Conference. There were 36 medical men present, — more than twice as many as at the previous meeting in Vadstena.

The considerable increase of lady students — there were only three at the previous conference — is mainly due to the work of Miss C. R. Rouse, travelling secretary of the British S. V. M. U. Many of them testified to having received life in Christ during her visit last spring to the Scandinavian universities. During the course of the Conference, which lasted from 17—22 July, the working of God's spirit became more and more manifest. There was throughout the many discussions not one bitter word of criticism or misunderstanding either on political, dogmatic or church questions. This, of course, does not imply that all held the same views on every subject, but there was a unity regarding the one thing needful and a mutual love and regard, which grows up only where Jesus is the centre. He was so in reality. One hymn above others was the favorite one, where the leading thought was « Live for Jesus, win souls for Him. »

It was sung many times, but never with more power and determination than at the close of the communion service, in which nearly all partook. For many of the delegates, the last days had been days of earnest heartsearching and decision for Christ. God's spirit had spoken powerfully through the many good addresses and the many personal testimonies delivered both in public and in private talks. Amongst the leading addresses, one by Professor Westergaard was specially worth remembering. It was delivered first, and struck the right keynote of personal religion, being at the same time a testimony of his own conversion from outspoken infidelity. « Doubt and Faith » was the subject fittingly chosen for discussion at the evening meeting of the same day. « The bright and dark sides of student life » was another subject stirring up the energy of Christian students to work among their brethren. « Christ our life and our light » was the subject of three short addresses the same evening, amongst which that of Professor Waage will be long remembered for its striking illustrations from his own field of study, chemistry and physics. The forenoon subject of the last day was « The claims of Missions on students », and the evening subject « Consecration ». Mr. R. P. Wilder, who had just arrived from the W. S. C. F. General Committee meeting in Williamstown, Mass., was to have given a report on the Federation, but by overstrain during his journey, he was laid up with a bad attack of fever. The report was instead given by myself. The business meeting afforded a pleasing proof of how deep the feeling has grown of the duties imposed by the Connection with the World's Federation. The following series of thoughts was presented : « As we belong to the World's Federation, it is our duty to act in accordance with its principals. Its principal is extending the Christian movements to all universities in the world. There is one Scandinavian university as yet entirely untouched, namely Reykjavik in Iceland. A christian student from this island, who will shortly finish his studies in Copenhagen, has been appointed to work for Young Men's Christian Associations and Sunday Schools in Iceland, on his return there. Should we not support him and if possible give him a fellow-worker for a mission to the students in Reykjavik? It is calculated that 500 kronor will be needed for this purpose. Should we not try to raise this sum as a thankoffering for the blessings we have received during these days? » In three minutes 619 kronor were collected. It is to be hoped that this united effort will tend to strengthen the bond of brotherhood between the Christian students of Scandinavian universities. Another means to this end is the monthly paper *Excelsior*, which was started by the Norwegian Committee in the beginning of 1896 and now became recognized as the official organ of the Scandinavian Students Christian Movement. Committees were appointed to prepare the next

conference which will take place in 1899 in Norway. Pastor Eckhoff and myself were elected the representatives for Scandinavia in the World's Federation Committee. Sectional meetings were held for the different delegations separately, for lady students, for medical students, for law students, for members of the Student Missionary Associations, for Y. M. C. A. secretaries, etc.

Karl FRIES, Ph. D.

Students Summer School in the United States took place at Northfield, from June 25 to July 4, in concert with the first general Conference of the World's Students Federation. More than 600 young men from 130 colleges and universities, met together. Religious meetings were held night and morning in turn with Bible-classes and discussions on different subjects in connection with the work of the Y. M. C. A. in the universities. The necessity for extending the work to the professional schools was recognised; it was also stated how that the influence of Christian students has diminished the unfair dealings in work and examinations. The missionary character of the Federation was dwelt upon and different means of action, both spiritual and material, were discussed and adopted. On the 4th July the members congress made a manifestation concerning the annual fête of independance of the United States.

The customary meeting on the historic « Round Top » succeeded admirably, in its picturesque position.

Twenty seven nationalities were represented at the Conference, whose password seemed to be « The world for Christ ».

The annual conference of the British College Christian Union and Student's Volunteer Missionary Union was held this year from 24th July till 2nd August, at Curber, Derbyshire. Representatives were present from all the universities and colleges of Great Britain. Two hundred men were under canvas, and 150 women were billeted at Cliff College and in homes in the village. The gathering was a unique one, many of the representatives being the best students in the great universities, and all of them had surrendered themselves as followers of Jesus Christ.

Mr. J. Rutter Williamson, of Edinburgh University, was the president of the conference, and Mr. J. H. Oldham (who goes to Lahore to represent Scottish Associations) was the Secretary. The arrangements were most complete, and a deep spiritual tone pervaded all the meetings. Last year the conference was held at Keswick and all the money necessary for the carrying on of the following year's work was raised at a public meeting held during the sittings of the Conference. This year the students had not the benefit of rich men and women who could give largely of their means to carry on the work. During one of the diets of conference a statement was made by Mr. Oldham of the financial need, and after a season of silent prayer slips were circulated to the delegates and the sum of £. 580 was subscribed on the spot. The giving of this money must have necessitated much sacrifice on the part of the students. Several gold chains and other valuable pieces of jewellery were handed in as thankofferings.

The conference was highly privileged in having Mr. J. R. Mott, international travelling secretary for the colleges of the world. Mr. Mott's addresses produced a profound impression upon most of the students.

Swiss Students Summer School, Ste-Croix 1897. — The religious movement in the universities, which has so greatly developed in Anglo-Saxon countries and has spread to countries in the East, is now seizing our lands, thank God, and has given rise this year to the first Conference of French Students at Versailles, and to that of German Swiss Students at Aarau, as well as to the third Conference of Students of French Swiss Universities, which once more took place in the hospitable village of Ste-Croix, Sept. 20-23. It was organised by the Central International Committee, and presided over by one of their members, Mr. Ernest Favre, who took the place of Professor Barde, this latter friend being detained at Geneva by family affairs. The severity of the military service deprived us also of the presence of Mr. Ch. Fermaud. The absence of these two dear friends was much regretted.

Out of the 77 participants, 19 came from Geneva, 20 from Lausanne, 21 from Neuchâtel, 8 from German Switzerland, 7 from France, 1 from England and 1 from Armenia. The different faculties were represented as follows: theology, by 41 students; science 14; arts 9; medicine 9; law 4. There were, besides, 26 professors and guests.

« Unity in diversity » seems to have been the characteristic of those meet-

ings, in which different points of view were expressed with great freedom; but all discussions, conversations and speeches were of a deep serious turn of mind and with an ardent desire to accomplish in one's own sphere the will of God.

The opening service of Monday evening and the prayer-meeting of each morning gave the keynote, and prepared the hearts and consciences for the splendid Bible lessons of Professor Ch. Porret and Pastor Tophel on «The struggle against sin» and «the principle of a lasting victory». The necessity of defending the sanctuary itself, of one moral life against the enemy who works at its dissolution and destruction, was clearly shown, and the possibility of a living union with Christ, who alone can sanctify, was set forth with great clearness.

The instructive addresses of Professors Frommel of Geneva, Combe of Lausanne, and G. Godet of Neuchâtel, on «Evolution in its connection with the realisation of the moral instinct of man», on «The illusions of university students» and on «Evolution and revelation» being of such actual value, monopolised the conversations during the hours which were given up after dinner to walks in the life-giving air of the mountains, impregnated with the smell of the firs.

At half past four the speeches recommenced, and were directed more to the work of christian students, when either Pastor Frank Thomas or Mr. D. Lenoir gave an account of their visit to American students, or the delegates of the different universities showed what had been done or left undone during the past year. The reports were not brilliant. Our friends the students were humbled at them and resolved to be more business-like in the future.

One step forward was made by the decision arrived at, to ask admission of the Association of Swiss Students into the World's Federation and to grant, in the future, greater responsibility and more initiative to Student's Committees in organizing subsequent conferences.

Twice, the Ste-Croix Church was filled with sympathetic hearers, brought together to listen to Professor Duperrut, Pastors Eug. Choisy and F. Thomas speak of youth, its rôle in church and state, and of the christian movement in the universities of different countries. From the commencement to the finish of these days, and that progressively, the presence of the Lord was felt; many a hearer will all his life recollect the blessed time passed in the Council Chamber of Ste-Croix, and which was brought to an end worthily, by the celebration of the Lord's Supper, presided over by Professor Ernest Martin. After hearing so many voices it was blessed to be with Jesus alone, taking in communion with our brethren the symbols of His body, broken for us and His blood shed for us and hearing him say to us: «I gave my life for thee; what wilt thou do for me?» With this impression we came down again into the plain. V., pastor.

Our Soldiers.

Young Men's Christian Association Soldier Mission at Copenhagen, Denmark. — About contemporary with the period that Y. M. C. A. got their own home, in Dec. 1889, the work among the soldiers at Copenhagen was begun, as a small circle of soldiers (about 15-20), who used to meet on the Sunday afternoons for Bible-readings got their locality there and besides, free admission was offered to the soldiers to the reading and writing-rooms at the home.

When the great calling out of the recruits approached in the ensuing spring, the Association offered through *De Unges Blad* (the Newspaper of the Young) members of the brother association, assistance and advice immediately on their arrival at the metropolis as also room at the home of the Association for the trunks, the money and other private property, which they brought with them, by which means they might avoid becoming a prey to enterprising men of business, who only speculate in gaining money and who, at the same time, entice the young men to the path of vice. The host of the Association, for the time being, who during his leisure hours had acted as missionary among the soldiers and had acquired a great love for them and was sensible of their dangerous position, was in the summer 1891 requested to leave his situation as typographer, in order that he might exclusively devote himself to work among the soldiers. — From this period the missionary work among the soldiers was wonderfully blessed by the Lord.

The attention was now not only directed on the preservation of the believing young men, who attended the home, but the words of the Lord: «Go out and

make them enter » were taken up, and by the kind cooperation on the part of the military authorities and the chaplains, admission was given the soldier-missionary to the barracks and the hospital of the garrison. — Evening after evening the soldiers are collecting, during the summer-time, about the gospel, to hear it expounded in the yard of the barracks, and visits are paid almost daily to many hundreds of sick soldiers, to whom Testaments and Christian tracts are distributed, comforting words are spoken to the afflicted, and the calling word of the Lord is trying to gather the stray sheep back into the fold.

Let us attend the missionary a summer-evening into one of the large barracks, where up to 2000 men are living and let us witness such a meeting.

It is 7 o'clock and the drilling is over, some of the soldiers are busy eating, other polish their uniforms or guns, others again are in full-dress and are just going out in town. As soon as we have got inside the barrack-gate, we distribute small tracts and invite to the meeting; most of the soldiers give an excuse and rush out or continue their work. Here and there we meet with a well-known face brightening up at the visit of the missionary; he immediately runs up to his room in order to invite his comrades. As yet only very few are collected, but experience has taught us that shortly after having begun the meeting, more soldiers will appear. We commence by singing a well-known psalm, a lot of children join in the chorus and the soldiers come quite slowly, at first somewhat bashful but getting gradually more frank as the crowd increases. Now a word of the Bible is taken, to which is joined a short rousing and fervent sermon with small traits from the life of the soldiers, reminiscences about home, about father and mother; the temptations of the life in the metropolis and the military life are revealed and there is pointed out what an ally to wickedness is found in the hearts of the young, while Jesus, under the many beautiful allegories, in which he meets us in Holy Writ is the sole Saviour to those who wish to be saved from perdition. The soldiers have quietly listened to the sermon, a single scornful voice is hushed down by the comrades and here and there a soldier may be seen struggling to repress a tear, which will force its way out. Now another song, which is known by all the soldiers, is chanted with great life. After a short prayer and the confession of our faith follows an affectionate invitation to come to the Y. M. C. A. home. Still a little conversation with the few who come to shake hands with us, and we go on to the next barracks. Similar meetings are held on the guardships of the Royal Navy, and it is not seldom, that several hundred soldiers attend such meetings.

In the winter this kind of work becomes more difficult, as there only are some particular barracks where localities for meetings may be had a fixed evening in the week, but where such is to be obtained, the soldiers also in winter collect in the barracks about the Word of God. Several believing officers and town-missionaries often take part in the meetings and a young clergyman at the « Garnisons Kirke » has meetings together with the soldier-missionary, both at the hospital-church and at the barracks; very often however the missionary has to go alone and wants greatly a regular fellow-worker. That this activity outwardly has had a salutary re-acting influence on the working and the visit at the home is not difficult to understand. The soldiers have hitherto shared the home with Y. M. C. A. and their own parlour and reading-room has not by far been sufficient to them, but they have been obliged also to make use of the other rooms, especially on the Sundays.

The Bible-meetings which in 1890 collected about 20, now collect as many as the home can hold (100 to 120 soldiers) and we look forward with longing to the time when « Y. M. C. A. » can make its entrance into that property, the area of which shortly ago has been acquired, and a great work of agitation is now being done in order to procure the necessary means. 5 to 600 soldiers of all services have during the past year had their private property kept in the « Y. M. C. A. » soldier-home. Thousands of letters, to which the necessary stationery has been provided free of cost, have been written. Several hundred soldiers have during the past year had about 10,000 Kroner deposited and have drawn this amount in small items by degrees as they were wanted besides their very scanty military pay. Many have frequented the home during their leisure hours and have here met with believing comrades, strengthening for their life in God when they sought him in private or when they were collected together to mutual prayer and praise and have found compensation for those homes, which they want sadly during their life in the barracks. The soldier-mission has formed strong links between Y. M. C. A.'s work in the metropolis and the rest of the country and is daily brought before the throne of grace through the intercession of many bre-

thren. This connection is formed partly through home-returning soldiers, who have told what importance the soldier-mission got for them during their time of military service, and partly through the journey of the soldier-missionary out in the country in winter, where he not only speaks with the parents, but also gets occasion to speak with the young before they meet later. When the calling out of the soldiers for the military service is approaching, letters are pouring in from all parts of the country, in which the soldier states his arrival and which ensures him to be received by friends who receive him and guide him to the home of Y. M. C. A.

If this short view of the soldier-mission at Copenhagen might urge brethren in Y. M. C. A. in other countries to start a similar work among our military brethren, it would add very considerably to the joy of

One of the soldiers friends in Denmark.

England. — The Soldiers' Christian Association, which is connected officially with the English Y. M. C. A.'s, numbers 193 branches with 2300 members.

Germany. — A meeting for soldiers took place 23rd May at Ludwigsburg (Wurtemberg) at which one hundred were present.

After a prayer and a Bible study on 1 Peter 2, 11-17, an interesting discussion on the duties of christian soldiers followed; many of those present, sub-officers and soldiers stated their own experiences.

The principal occasions where a christian soldier can show practical sympathy for his comrades are : — to lend assistance in the petty difficulties and needs of the service, to do his duty conscientiously even when not observed ; to keep at least serious in the presence of coarse or swearing messmates, and to exhort them modestly and affectionately in private ; to shield especially the recruits who for the most part suffer from home-sickness, never to maltreat or jeer at them ; to turn messmates from bad society or habits in a brotherly way, and invite them into Christian circles.

Y. M. C. A. life while on military service or a battalion Y. M. C. A. — During the manœuvres, a good number of members are called to the service as reserves and come into the lines with soldiers already under the colours. The establishment of military lists, doubtlessly permits them to find each other ; but besides this, what is required is an active and energetic man, in every tactic, who takes upon himself to group and organise them. That is what was done in a battalion of Swiss Fusiliers at the last military service, under the name of « Y. M. C. A. of 1st Battalion ».

« What ! a new association ? another organisation ? » you will say. Certainly ! To group the members and abstainers to form a living association with their committee programme and meetings, such was our aim, and such was, to a certain extent, the result obtained during the last military service of the 1st Battalion.

To call together the members enrolled on the military list, to name a committee of five members, a president and four delegates (one per company), to ask each one to remain faithful to the spirit of the Association, to fix meetings and the programme for those meetings, such was, in few words, the work accomplished at our first meeting. Experiments of former years had not had more than very poor results. Why ? One cause seemed to me to be the lack of organisation among the soldier members ; there was no cohesion among them. A second cause I find in the reply made to me by a comrade : « I went to supper and then it was too late. » Now, supper for a soldier is very important, all who have been through the military service know it is so. We have suppressed the first reason by nominating a committee, and, as to the second reason, it was evident we should sup together, a thing which we did till the end of the drill.

Each member can bring with him two comrades ; this is a good means of doing service and at the same time making the work known. These comrades are in this manner kept away from cafés and the drink ; they are placed under an influence which one must strive to make both good and pleasant. The evening terminating by prayer and divine service, these happy moments of brotherly contact in the very presence of God leave a lasting impression. We were able to continue our daily meetings in spite of the manœuvres, and we were glad of it. Soon the battalion left its quarters and engaged in the Jorat, to go into cantonments at Fey. There is no Y. M. C. A. in this village. After many turns and in spite of two hours evening service from 6 to 8, we met at 8 o'clock sharp, some eight or ten soldiers in addition to some eight or ten friends of the locality. At this meeting, we showed our joy in the Master's service and spoke of the faithfulness of our Lord ; after being encouraged and fortified by reading His word,

rejoiced by hymns, restored both in body and soul, we returned to cantonments, pleased and satisfied with this good and splendid evening.

At the next village, on the morrow, everything was made clear, thanks to our arrangement with the Y. M. C. A. president at Isle. It was arranged we should meet before the College at the time of disbursing. We had said we should be twelve and twelve we were; it seems that this fact alone had a great value for those who had the care of organising the *soirée*.

Again, at Morges, a good *soirée* was held in the Temperance Café opposite the Barracks..., and so on from place to place.

Y. M. C. A. soldiers or abstainers, form yourselves into « Y. M. C. A. Battalions, » « Batteries, » « Squads » or « Ambulance », have good regulations, let each one strive to be faithful in the place he occupies and you will have your rewards!

German Switzerland. — The 2nd army corps manœuvres took place in September in North Switzerland. Nearly 30,000 men took part in these manœuvres. As in preceding years, the Y. M. C. A's did their utmost for the soldiers, they nominated an Acting Committee whose business it was to come to terms with the military authorities, both civil and ecclesiastical, in view of establishing Reading and Correspondance Rooms where the troops were to go into cantonments. The men have very little time, but short though the free moments be, we must seize them.

The rooms opened by the Associations are very much appreciated, provided with different papers, writing paper and envelopes in abundance, packing material; they prove for the soldier a comfortable shelter, where, during free hours, he can write home, forward his packets, or simply enjoy a quiet read, without having to look in the cafés for the necessary materials at the price of dangerous temptations. He is also invited to take part in the Prayer-meetings and Bible-classes of the Associations.

The arrangement of such places is not in itself difficult; some generous donations in kind, the Y. M. C. A. subscriptions, daily papers sent free by the press, have furnished the necessary. Town authorities or private persons have lent the rooms.

The commander of the 2nd army corps (colonel Keller, chief of the general staff) had given his approval to the project. One important thing, for the manœuvres did not last long, was that at the desired time, *everything was ready for use*, and that the troops heard of the preparation of the rooms in good time. We think we may here state the *modus operandi* of the Acting Committee, which was presided over by Mr. Schmuziger-Stäheli, of Aarau.

From the 30th June, a *prefatory circular* was sent, asking help and advice towards organising the rooms.

Soon after, a *second circular* was sent to persons capable of helping in the arrangement and supervision of the premises.

Special arrangements were made in some communes or places where the pastors could not lend their help.

The organising of 127 rooms being in this manner ensured, it only remained to make known to the soldiers their existence and aim.

This was the object of a *third circular*, sent out the 20th August to all the troop officers. In the circular was set forth the aim of these rooms, opened gratuitously to soldiers; at the same time they were placed under the kind protection of the officers, who were asked to recommend them to the men as the occasion presented itself.

Mr. Aellen was, at this occasion, presented as official agent of the Acting Committee; he was furnished with a card thus authorising him, signed by the Commandant.

As in preceding years, the rooms were very much appreciated by officers, petty officers and men, all the more so as a terribly rainy season set in during the whole manœuvres: this was evidenced by the members visiting the rooms.

Numerous letters have borne witness to gratitude both of superior officers and their subordinates.

In spite of the bad weather, the meetings did not lack in heartiness and we feel right in rejoicing at the thought that the hours of healthy leisure passed in our rooms contributed to keep up a cheerful spirit among the troops.

The Y. M. C. A's did a truly useful work; may God grant his blessing!

Our Portraits.



Mr. R. C. MORSE

Representing America in the C. I. C.



Prof. Raoul ALLIER

Representing France in the C. I. C.

An Opinion about our work.

The Bishop of Hereford, presiding over a public meeting held on Thursday, September 23rd, to mark the removal of the Leominster Association into its new premises, Grafton House, Burgess Street, said in the course of an admirable address : • I should like to say what pleasure it gives me always to support the cause of the Y. M. C. A. Two particular reasons have led me to do any little I can to assist so excellent an institution ; and the first is that it has for many years been doing a good work while other people have been very much asleep. It has been acting in advance of public opinion ; it has been educating public opinion ; and it has opened the eyes of all Christians to a great social duty. It has been the pioneer of social Christian work, and deserves the hearty gratitude and the active support of all who believe in the religion of Christ. Another reason is, that the institution specially invites laymen to engage in active Christian work, and young laymen too. It is one of the great needs of England, and of the Church to which I belong, that there should be more active Christian work on the part of laymen.... This Association has stimulated that work a good deal, and is still setting a good example all over the kingdom. »

(Y. M. C. A. Notes).

Letters and News.

Germany

Eastern Alliance. — We see in the Year Book of this Alliance for 1897 that the number of Y. M. C. A.'s affiliated has risen to 237 (20 more than last year). In all Germany, among the 8 sections, there are 1250 associations. The number of members in the Eastern Alliance is 13,831 and has not increased in the same proportion as last year, which is not to be wondered at considering the abnormal growth of the work to 1890. The work of strengthening and rooting must of necessity lead to the natural weeding out of those only artificially attached to the association, and who seek only exterior advantages. Of the 13,831 members already mentioned, Berlin counts 3,231 and the rest of Brandenburg 3,998.

The *Employment Office* of the Alliance (Sophienstrasse 19) performs wonderful service. The *Bundes Bote* relates the following story, showing the conciliatory spirit which has sway in this establishment, the very feeling calculated to calm certain misunderstandings between master and men : — « A young painter and decorator came into the bureau, one day, in a great state of excitement, asking to be set free from the unjust dealings of his employer. » « I did every bit of my work, said he, and yet money has been deducted wrongly; to add to this I have been dismissed without notice. » On being advised to keep calmer and state his wrongs more clearly, he was questioned as to salary, work, hours, etc. The conclusion was that the employer was found to be strictly in the right and the young painter convinced of it by degrees. He gave up complaining and all bitterness left him.

Saxon Alliance. — A meeting of past and present friends of the White Cross work took place at Dresden. The number of members in Germany is 10,500. It was there stated that great encouragement is derived from the prayer-meetings and the reading of the Association journal entitled *Das weisse Kreuz* (The white Cross). Two pastors took upon themselves the care of composing a tract on the work, a tract for the people and one which can be spread broad cast. The way to deal with young men who have gone back into ways of sin was seriously discussed.

Western Alliance. — This Alliance celebrated their Annual Fête 31st July at Elberfeld. Many reports, on all branches of the Y. M. C. A. work, the Soldier's Mission, the Mutual Help Society (till now 100,000 marks have been distributed to young men in need, to 471 sick persons for 6280 day's illness). The Boy's Branches and the Associations publications have wonderfully developed.

Great Britain.

British National Conference at Glasgow. — The National Conference of Y. M. C. A.'s of Great Britain and Ireland met at Glasgow the 7th September. About 800 delegates came together by invitation of the Central Y. M. C. A. of this town. The meetings took place in a splendid building, the Christian Institute, headquarters of the Y. M. C. A., which has just been enlarged by two monumental aisles, the « Bible Training Institute » and the « Y. M. C. A.'s Club ». These together form an imposing mass. The Club includes, besides many other rooms, 192 bedrooms for young men.

The building was inaugurated at the opening of the Conference, and the same evening an official reception, offered by the Lord Provost and the magistrates, took place in the town reception-hall. It was interesting to hear the leading Glasgow magistrates testify to the good work of the Y. M. C. A. which, in that same town, has so greatly developed.

On the morrow, the Conference work commenced with devotional meetings, full of meditation and enthusiasm. The prayer meetings did not lack life, nor did the reports lack christian pith. Just in proportion as the Associations develop, so they feel to a greater degree the dangers which surround them; the only means of avoiding these snares is to have all their interior and exterior work always full of the spirit of the Gospel. Everything which was said in that direction was strongly upheld by the sympathy of those assembled. In the same spirit the following subjects were dealt with : — The future work of the Y. M. C. A.'s: 1) spiritual, 2) social, 3) physical. — How the Associations may best train their members for distinctive work among young men? — The dangers of the Y. M. C. A.'s, and how to remedy them! — The needs and claims of Y. M. C. A.

work in the British Colonies and dependencies, and in foreign countries. — How to influence classes of young men at present unreached by the Y. M. C. A.? — Concerning this last subject, a striking report of Miss Sandes was read; it dealt with her work among the soldiers and an excellent message from Mr. Oldham, the new Secretary of Scottish Associations for the mission among students in Indian.

If the christian side was very much dwelt upon and the central thought : « The young men for Christ, Christ for the young men » was often reverted to, as being the very « *raison d'être* » of the Y. M. C. A.'s, the missionary side was by no means lost sight of. Many meetings were given up to this.

The British Associations gave proof during these conferences, that they realise the responsibility which this great empire imposes upon them.

To complete the account of these well-filled days, let us mention a large and very animated meeting at St-Andrews Hall, the chair being taken by Lord Overtoun, when Sir G. Williams, Lord Kinnaird, Mr. Ernest Favre, the delegate of the Central International Committee, Commander Piovanelli (Rome), Rev. Mac Neill and others pleaded the cause of the Y. M. C. A. The inauguration of a new building in a suburb, and the splendid reception given by Lord Overtoun, at his Dumbarton residence, closed this imposing Conference, which is the largest, and probably one of the best, which has taken place on British soil.

It is only right to mention Lord Overtoun's name among those who have had an important part in the success of this Conference, and to join to it the name of the indefatigable and excellent Secretary of the Glasgow Y. M. C. A., Mr. Oatts.

The C. I. C. delegate had a most cordial reception and has returned deeply grateful for the token of affection given to our Committee on this occasion. He has returned very much encouraged too, to see proofs of interest in the work being done on the continent.

Our friends in Great Britain promise us a numerous representation at the next International Conference at Basle. They will be right welcome!

ERN. FAVRE.

Scotland.

Aberdeen. — For a considerable time a desire for a through scheme of alterations in connection with the Y. M. C. A. buildings has been manifested. The rooms are less attractive than might be, the large hall is especially cheerless and ill-arranged, and the accomodation generally is inadequate and behind the age. The association has, we understand, now resolved to go on with the heightening of the present buildings and the reconstruction of the interior. The basement will be fitted up as a restaurant, the reading and class rooms and halls will be improved, and the large hall enlarged to hold 1000; fully 200 more than its present capacity. Three bedrooms will be available for boarders. The estimated cost is £ 2000.

Edinburgh. — The Edinburgh Association has issued their annual report as a tastefully bound booklet. The membership at the end of the year notwithstanding the admission of 71 new members was 407, a decrease of 26 on the previous year. The Bible Class has 90 on the roll, and the sabbath afternoon open air and fellowship meeting has successful sessions. The lodging-house work, song services, and gospel meetings were much blessed. Deputation work is a useful department and over 200 meetings were addressed in the east and south of Scotland. The Scotsman Christian Fellowship has by request of its members been affiliated with the Y. M. C. A. The work among juniors has been specially successful. In addition to the religious meetings there are harriers and rambling clubs. The foreign mission and tract distribution section continue their important work. The cricket club had an enjoyable season. The total revenue was £ 698 and the expenditure £ 672.

Egypt and Palestine.

On Thursday afternoon, the Colonial and Foreign Committee of the English National Council held a meeting at which it was provisionally arranged to send a worker to Egypt and Palestine in the early months of 1898, to promote work in behalf of young men in various important cities in those countries. Subsequently a conference was held between members of the English National Council and the Committee of the British College Christian Union, with the object of rendering possible the fuller cooperation of the two organizations.

America

North American Indians. — Do our readers know there is a Y. M. C. A. among the red skins? We think not, for these associations have until quite recently lived a part without being helped or visited. In 1897, there are 46 Indian Y. M. C. A.'s, and the fact that they have greatly increased without outside help shows their vitality. Of course their work was only rudimentary: they had only one meeting for worship every week and simple christian brotherhood brought them together without having any organising body, lists, etc. But young Indians long for a deeper instruction, and thanks to the devoted efforts of Dr. Eastmann, secretary of the International Committee for the Mission among Indians, steps have been taken. A Young Sioux, named Arthur Tibbets, is already studying at Springfield to become secretary of the Associations in his tribe. Dr. Eastmann has also made great efforts in favour of Y. M. C. A.'s among the Crows of Montana and the Nez-Percés.

The summer schools for Y. M. C. A. members are very much appreciated by the Indians. This kind of conference was held for the second time at Big Stone Sea, Dakota, in the corner of a splendid land where the tents were placed on ground which, 48 years previously, had served for the war dances. Among those present were some of the finest specimens of former warriors. At dusk on the first evening the hymn "Jesus, Saviour of my soul" was sung and the neighbouring hills re-echoed the peaceful sound in the grave and harmonious tone of Dakota.

These meetings took place 16—24 June with 84 participants of Indian race (twice as many as in 1896). They were directed by seven white men who were secretaries of Associations and gave biblical instruction, spoke of the general and physical work, etc. Many young Indians testified simply and touchingly of their faith in their Saviour and of their gratitude towards friends who had come from Him to teach them. It is a noble task for the Y. M. C. A. to enlighten with the eternal light of the Gospel the end of these old races so long tracked and decimated by the whites, and who seem destined soon to disappear altogether.

Sandwich Islands. — At **Honolulu** the Y. M. C. A. was commenced in 1869; it has had its own building since 1882. This great Association of American style is visited especially by white colonists and inhabitants.

The *Chinese* have also the same kind of Y. M. C. A. except that they give no attention to physical development. There are 375 members, the Chinese population of the Hawaiian Islands being considerable. There is no Y. M. C. A., properly speaking, either for the natives or Japanese although there are Young Men's Societies among them which we hope, will assume a most Christian character. Mr. Mott's tour has promoted the foundation of Y. M. C. A.'s in three colleges one of which being entirely composed of natives.

In **Molokai Island** a Y. M. C. A. of young lepers exists; we believe there is no other instance of this. Their house cost £ 1000, and a young secretary presides over it.

Africa

Cape Town. — Southern Africa has become so important and the colonisation has developed to such an extent, that the metropolis of the Cape becomes more and more cosmopolitan. The members of Y. M. C. A.'s of all countries will rejoice to know that the Cape Town Y. M. C. A. is very successful especially so since Mr. Sprigg has been at the head. Mr. Sprigg, after having taken upon himself the secretaryship at Melbourne states that he found rich spiritual blessings to his own soul, in the work. A short time back Mr. Sprigg paid a visit to the English and American Y. M. C. A.'s. On being asked his idea on the English Y. M. C. A.'s, he gave it as his opinion that apart from the religious character of the work, the intellectual, physical, and social aspects were not dealt with sufficiently. Mr. Sprigg severely condemns the system of sending into the colonies, in order to give a fresh start to them, young men who in their native land have run into debt or have committed some indelicacy. The temptations with which they are confronted immediately on their arrival in the colonies are greater instead of less than in Europe, and moreover it will be impossible for them to find lucrative employment without sufficient certificates and recommendations.

Madagascar. — Mr. Rakotonirainy of Madagascar, student in the Felix Neff School in Montpellier, gave the following details of his country, at the occasion of the anniversary of the Nimes Association, 2 May 1897.

At Antananarivo there are many temples. Each one possesses a Y. M. C. A. in connection with it. There are some 30 in the town. So it was thought that some details on so important a work among our youths might interest you.

The Associations were founded at Antananarivo in 1892 and they rapidly spread through all Emyrna. I cannot give you the exact number, but I know they are numerous. When Messrs. Lauga and Krüger about a year ago arranged conferences for young men, the Association members of Antananarivo and round about met in a grand temple. We were in all about 2000 young men.

The Y. M. C. A. to which we belong and of which I had the honour of being secretary numbered about 100 members when we left Madagascar.

A president, two secretaries and two treasurers have the management; special committees take charge of different branches of the work. For instance one visits sick members while another gives his time to the extension of the Association.

We have a members' meeting every week, like your Bible-Classes in France. One of the members takes the chair and introduces the subject. Each one is then free to read some verses in connection with that subject or to say some words. All members are bound to attend these meetings and the Committee is very severe on this point. There are special registers in which are noted down the names of those present. When a member has been absent the secretary writes to him; if absent a second time the Committee pay him a visit, if he do not give his excuse to the secretary by letter, or verbally by means of another member, he is struck off the Association list after a fourth absence not explained.

We have besides, once a month, a meeting at which members give an account of their own activity during the month; the secretary read the monthly report, and each one relates in few words what he has seen, the advance he has been able to make, the blessing which he has received. Then, afterwards, the Secretary reads aloud the articles of engagement which are always posted up in the Y. M. C. A. quarters.

These articles are repeated aloud by all members present.

Here are the articles of engagement :

1. I promise voluntarily to be a servant of Jesus-Christ and I ask the Holy Spirit to direct me in all things.
2. I promise voluntarily to pray to God every day and to read the Bible often.
3. I promise to attend worship and every meeting unless unavoidably hindered, and in such case, to state so by letter or word of mouth to the secretary or other member of the Association.
4. I promise to do all in my power to help forward the Y. M. C. A.
5. I promise to work for the conversion of the people and to draw the greatest possible number of young men to Jesus Christ.

The Committees have the work of visiting, every five or six months, each of the Y. M. C. A. members and to worship with the family.

These are some details which we are happy to give you. We have been blessed by God in this important work and we expect still greater blessings, for God is Almighty and He will hear our prayers for it.

Australasia.

Adelaide. — The Y. M. C. A. here have published their 18th report, from which it is seen that their influence is spread indirectly with their work throughout all South Australia.

Sydney. — Mr. W. H. Sallmon, M. A., late General Secretary of the Yale Association and a successful Y. M. C. A. officer of considerable experience, has recently arrived in Sydney to take up the work of Travelling Secretary for Australasia of the Students' Christian Union. Mr. Sallmon has done most valuable work in America as a Bible teacher.

Hobart Town. — We have just received the 15th report from this town (1896). It contains interesting account on the spiritual and social work of the Association. We should add a four days' missionary tour to New Norfolk and one to Belterive, in which a good number of members took part; the sailor's home, the Temperance, the monthly invitations to the house of the president, etc.

India.

Bombay. — The Bombay Y. M. C. A. takes care of soldiers and sailors, who commence to frequent the Association freely, and on Sunday evenings they are meetings, to suit them, in one of the Association rooms.

West Indies.

Barbados. — Mr. Malby Trimmingham, Hon. Secretary of the Barbados Association, writes: "A revival is much needed and, more especially, an exposition from outsiders of the true nature, aim, and work of a Y. M. C. A. Is it not possible for a Travelling Secretary to pay us a visit and stir up interest?" This Association owns its building, and while this year's record show a slight decrease in the membership, there are now signs of improvement.

Port Antonia. — Report by Mr. W. H. Plant:

"Another year has brought us to our seventh. The past year has been one of specially hard times, but, thank God, we have lived on. Our membership has not increased during the past year. We have had several additions, but, for many reasons, quite as many have left us. The distinctly Christian character of the Association is the only thing that has kept it in the midst of a growing wordliness among our young men. We have had the usual religious and secular meetings during the year, to which we have added a Debating Society. The Sunday evening Bible Class is very much better attended, and we often obtain the services of Christian tourists to address our Sunday afternoon services, which are always well attended. To God our Father, who has kept us in the past, we still look in faith for better things."

Island of Cayman Brae. — A Missionary, writing from the above island, says: I am forming a Y. M. C. A. amongst our young men, and wish for information and rules that will guide us. When at home (Southampton) I was a member of the Y. M. C. A. and was brought to the Lord through its Secretary. I remember its great influence in forming my character, and trust ours may have a like influence upon our young men. *(English Year Book).*

China.

The following is an extract from the letter of a young Swiss established at Tien-Tsin, dated 20 June 1897 :—

"For many years there existed a group of young indigenous Christians uniting together under the direction of missionaries; and when Rev. Lyon, the delegate of American Y. M. C. A's, arrived at Tien-Tsin to commence work, he found a nucleus of young men ready to second him.

It was thus in the Spring of 1896 that the Tien-Tsin Y. M. C. A. was founded in connection with the American Associations, which now numbers 70 members, young Chinese of rich families, nearly all students in the educational establishments, both civil and military, founded here by the famous viceroy Li-Hung-Chang.

Soon afterwards, a rich Christian American lady, who was visiting the missionary stations in the north of China, wished to leave a lasting souvenir of her stay in Tien-Tsin, and presented the young Association with a sum of 10,000 taels (about £ 1600) to be devoted to the erection of a Y. M. C. A. building, which we had the joy of inaugurating last week.

The Paris Basis, which were read at the inaugural ceremony, are inscribed at the head of the rules; the Association will lose all right to the building if they lose their evangelical standing; this is the sole condition laid down by the giver. Like all the protestant establishments, the building is situated outside the limits of the European concession, — this as a means of economy and to render the missions more independent of the interference of consuls.

On the day of inauguration, the great hall of the building, decorated with green and mottoes, in Chinese and English, was occupied by 100 young natives and 30 foreigners, nearly all missionaries, among whom were many ladies.

What pleased me most were the speeches of two Chinese students, in the name of their respective establishments, spoken with such warmth and conviction that they brought forth storms of applause.

To bring the meeting to a close, the hymn of Luther "God is our refuge" was sung.

I am powerless to describe the emotion which laid hold of me on hearing in

this place, thousands of miles away from home, this hymn whose melody recalls so many memories.

The president of the Association is the president or mayor of the British colony in Tien-Tsin, another proof of that tolerance of which the English so often give us an example; the other members of the Committee, except the General Secretary, are natives. The fee is one piastre (1/8), which after all is only a form, for the generous donor has provided for the expenses of the Association for many years.

Just as one of the speakers said, this inauguration is a memorable date not only for Tien-Tsin, but for the whole of China, for it signalises the entry of another combatant into the lists, viz. the young Christian Chinese. It is a new stone added to the building which is being constructed by those who wish to civilise China not by the cannon, but by the might of Christian brotherhood alone, and by the love we are bound to manifest to our yellow fellowbeings, whatever may be their defect.

In the colossal work to be performed in China, a great part falls to the lot of the Y. M. C. A's. The work commenced a year ago, will spread to all open ports in which there already exist strong bands of young Chinese only awaiting an opportunity to form themselves into Associations. I already picture to myself a strong federation of Y. M. C. A's, some years hence, having ramifications in all provinces of the Celestial Empire, taking part in the struggles as also in the successes of the work of regenerating China.

Among the young men who, the other day, heard their compatriots and strangers whom they knew to be their sincere friends, there were some who may, one day, wear the orange blossom of the mandarin, or even the celebrated peacock's feather. Let them then, remember what they have heard at the Y. M. C. A., that they be not only just and upright magistrates, but also faithful Christians!

Japan.

A letter from Mr. John T. Swift, American Secretary for Japan, states that the past year has witnessed the most remarkable progress of Association work in that land. Mr. Mott's tour, says Mr. Swift, «was one mighty demonstration of spiritual power. The Y. M. C. A. College work has quite tripled, and the work in Tokyo has come on to a stranger and more effective evangelistic basis than ever.»

Latest News

Rome, 23 October 1897.

«One of our active members, Count Solone di Campello, nephew of the celebrated Count Enrico, the initiator of the reform movement in the Roman Church, known by the name of "Reform of the Old Catholics", set sail the 15th inst for Springfield (Mass.) where he will take his three years' course in the Training School for General Secretaries. He was at Rome in the magistracy and well known in high society.»

A. PIRAZZINI, Gen. Sec.

Gifts received for the "Messenger". — J.-P. C., Lausanne 4/-; Johanna and Dagmar (Tjustrup Presbetry) 4/6; A. L., Bale, 9 1/2 d; C. W., Cassel, 10/-; H. H. Zurich, 1/6; H. C., Zurich, 3/2; L. S. Dieulefit, 4/-; A. T., Lausanne, 1/6; J. C., Morges, 5 d.; F. T., Lausanne, 1/11; O. M., Rolle, 11 d.; A.-R. G., 4/-. Total : £ 1, 16, 9. — Hearty thanks to all.

This life has a value only when it serves to the religious education of our heart.

Madame de Staël.

It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth.

Lam. 3, 27.

For divers reasons (direction of the Course for Secretaries, especially), M. Fermaud has been hindered from finishing the account of his tour in Denmark; this is to be continued in the next number.