

## BOARD OF MISSIONS NOTES.

### FINANCE.

Though the figures to the end of April show that we are approximately £2000 behind last year's figures at this period, there are not wanting signs which give hopes of our obtaining a total at least equal to last year's. For one thing there is a definite turn of the tide at last in regard to prices. Wool, butter, metals, everything show advances. They may be slight, but the fact that the movement is widespread is significant and hopeful. And when once hope permeates the mercantile world the advance will be rapid. Then again no one can fail to see the rising tide of spirituality in the Dominion and, indeed, throughout the Empire. Laymen, as well as clergy, are voicing the heart-hunger for God that exists, and laymen, as well as clergy, are stating that its satisfaction must be found in prayer and an open return to God. All this is to the good, and it will soon manifest itself in fuller churches and greater offerings for the support of the work, both at home and abroad.

The arrival in New Zealand of 12 officers of the Church Army is another hopeful factor. With their emphasis on Conversion, Consecration, and Churchmanship, they are likely to win many into the fold and revivify many already there but giving half-hearted allegiance. The parish missions recently held in various places will have the effect to the same ends. These things inspire us with hope. No doubt we ought to continue to hope and trust even without such signs to aid us; but how much more so when we have their inspiration? To show what can be done for missions, even in a parish hard hit by the depression, we would quote one in the Wellington Diocese. It contains no less than 800 families on "relief" work. It has been asked to raise a quota of £50 and has already sent in to the board £48 10s 5d! With such an example before us we can surely hope that every parish will get its quota. The Board asks for unremitting prayer and effort to secure such a result.

### PRESENT STATE OF THE CO-ORDINATED MISSIONS.

This is precarious in the extreme. Melanesia has been heavily reduced

in staff, trainees and scholars. Bishop Baddeley is endeavouring to obtain recruits to bring the staff up to its former strength—not in any way to increase or advance—but just to "hold the fort" in its minimum requirements for the maintenance of the work in those lonely islands, and he is looking with confidence to New Zealand to supply our share of his minimum needs. Our doing so depends entirely on our reaching this year's quota. Hence the precariousness of the position. We are so many hundreds "down" at the moment of writing that the Bishop's trust—indeed his peace of mind—is, as it were, trembling in the balance.

It is so with the S.P.G. work in North China and with the C.M.S. work in various countries. Both societies have recently had emergency calls made upon them to which they have had to turn a deaf ear, not knowing whether the end of the year (June 30th) will see them in a position even to pay their present workers. "It all depends," they say, "on the Board of Missions." The same may be said of Polynesia and the Jerusalem and the East Mission. All their eyes are on the Board at this time, and they will remain so until the end of the year, each wondering what its fate will be. Can we let them down?

### A MESSAGE FROM BISHOP BADDELEY.

"Joy in the Lord"—that, I am coming to believe, is the keynote of the work of the Church here. You find it everywhere—among the white priests and men and women workers; among the native clergy, teachers and people; in the schools. "Joyful through hope"—you must pray that this grace may continue to be ours, both white and native. We do need your prayers, real prayer; not a prayer for missions just said. For, remember, we are wrestling here with principalities and powers—the forces of evil are all about us, about our young teachers in their villages, about our boys and girls. And they have the right to expect your help in this way. For they are our brothers and sisters. The boys and girls here are just like those in Leeds, in South Bank—just the same, full of fun and friendship. But the battle for them is a sterner one, and (God forgive us) they have

by no means the same opportunities of Grace.

Miss Florence Smith (N.Z.C.M.S.) writes from South India:

Miss Sowry and I have just returned from a month of steady teaching in the villages of the Nidarnapuram pastorate. At N—— we met with an agreeable surprise when we were there last year. Though more than 100 had been enrolled as inquirers, they seemed to be utterly careless and indifferent, and we were horrified a few months later to hear that a large number had been baptised and fifteen confirmed. This year we found that an almost unbelievable change had taken place. Every morning I had a class of 30 women, spotlessly neat and clean, with shining hair and radiant faces, and all most responsive and ready for all the teaching I could give them. At night I had the whole congregation, usually about 140, equally encouraging. As the only place large enough to hold such a number was a new cowshed, the children were on "magic lantern" nights packed into the manger, a long earthen trough running the whole length of the building.

### THE LATEST FROM THE BISHOP OF DORNAKAL.

#### CONVERTS FROM 14 CASTES.

The harvest festival this year was a time of great rejoicing. There was, to begin with, a much larger number of villagers than ever before, the estimate being over 700. This number was made up of converts from fourteen castes—all but five being entirely from new groups. This was quite a novel feature and illustrative of the new movement in some parts of the diocese from caste people. It was delightful to see all these groups sitting together in church, joining in the singing competition, and taking part in sports and games. In spite of the fact that the total attendance at services must have been near a thousand, the reverence of the congregation at the services was remarkable; they certainly had learned to be quiet in Church. The services—except the services of Holy Communion—were held within the walls of the rising Cathedral, covered with a grass roof pandal.