

their advantage. His problem is how to find trustworthy men to run his government machinery. He and I are close friends and, talking over this problem with me one day recently, this is what he said: "What can I do? If I got to the men educated in the old school, their heads are full of thoughts of how to enrich themselves by peculating the public money; if, on the other hand, I turn to the young men of the new school, their heads are full of nothing but Marxism!" In his case—although he does not profess to believe in Christ—he tries to solve this problem by turning up the Church for his officials, and wherever possible he puts in Christians, or failing these, at any rate young men and women trained by the Church Schools; because, as he said to me, he finds in practice that they are the ones likely to be the most trustworthy. There again the best antidote to Communism is Christian teaching.

—(Archdeacon Dornithorne).

#### **Missionary Strung Up By Reds.**

Mr R. Bosshardt, the captive Anglo-Swiss missionary, who has been in the hands of the Communists under Ho Lung for more than a year, was seen at Chihkiang, in south-west Hunan, on December 31, according to reports reaching here. The Communists were then making their forced march into Kweichow, which resulted in the recent threat to Kweichow, the provincial capital, following severe fighting with Government troops on the Kweichow-Hunan border.

Mr Bosshardt was in a very tired condition, his feet being extremely sore and bound with old pieces of cloth. His hands were tied behind his back. On the following day, when the Reds continued their march towards Pienshui, he was unable to walk any longer, so he was slung by his hands and feet on a bamboo pole. During the journey he fell into a river and, after being rescued by his captors, was compelled to continue in wet clothes despite the bitterly cold weather.

—(North China Herald.)

#### **Nurse Grace Young's Sphere—China.**

The Government's adoption of the stringent measure of execution for opium traffickers and addicts is driving large numbers of the latter volun-

tarily to seek escape by overcoming the habit. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel reports that St. Agatha's hospital at Ping-yin (Shangtung) and St. Andrew's at Hokien (Hopei) have had a great increase in patients of this type.

#### **Ethiopia.**

A citizen of Tyre, Meropius by name, setting out for India with two relations of his who were Christians and brothers, landed at a certain port on the Red Sea, where they were attacked by the inhabitants and only the two brothers, Aedesius and Frumentius were saved alive. The two being sent to the king of the country, Aedesius was appointed cup-bearer and Frumentius the keeper of the archives. They both gained the royal favour and on the king's death were appointed regents during the minority of the heir to the throne. This gave Frumentius the chance of ascertaining the number of Christians in the country and of building places of worship for them and instructing others for baptism. On the young king's attaining his majority they both left the country, and while Aedesius returned to Tyre to acquaint their parents with their safety, Frumentius went to Alexandria to beg St. Athanasius to send a bishop to look after the infant Church. St. Athanasius thereupon consecrated Frumentius Bishop of Aksum, and he returned to Ethiopia and by his labours and personal sanctity made many converts to the Christian Faith. It was from Aedesius, who was afterwards ordained at Tyre, that Rufinus of Aquileia obtained this account which he gives in his Ecclesiastical History.

—(Canon H. H. Rees.)

#### **Tibet.**

During the year, the village of Yerkalo, in which were a number of Roman Catholics, passed from the jurisdiction of the Yunnan Government to that of Tibet. The Government of Lhasa has instructed the local officials to allow them their Christian privileges. So there is at last a Christian community in Tibet, recognised by the Government.

#### **Tanganyika.**

The new work of the Church Missionary Society in the Western area is developing rapidly and has called out new missionary zeal among the Christians in the older work; tried

teachers have offered and been sent to help in the West. In September a week of evangelism was held throughout the whole mission of the Church Missionary Society, organised bands of Christians being sent to outlying districts to witness for Christ. Great spiritual help came to those who spoke as well as to those who heard.

#### **Afghanistan.**

Afghanistan is still a "closed land" in missionary parlance but is becoming remarkably open to the world through the completion of telephone system which links Kabul to every province, and still more by the installation now in progress of five wireless stations, of which the most powerful, at Kabul is capable of communication with Tokyo, Melbourne, London and Rio de Janeiro. We read, too, of a volley-ball team setting out by motor lorry from Kabul to Tashkent, in Russian Turkestan, on the invitation of the Soviet authorities, an event which appeals to the imagination. How long can Afghanistan now remain "Closed" to Christianity?

#### **Church Union.**

The scheme for church union in South India has received a check. The thirteenth session of the Joint Committee on Church Union was held from February 26th to March 2nd; substantial agreement on the things that matter most to all the negotiating churches appeared to have been met, outstanding questions being of detail rather than principle, and the prospect of actual achievement of union seemed definitely nearer. But when the fifteenth General Assembly of the South India United Church met from September 26th to October 1st of its eight constituent councils three were found to have approved the scheme in general, two were unfavourable to it, one had proposed far-reaching amendments and two had not reported. The Assembly consequently decided that some years more are required for discussion.

#### **The Financial Position.**

Budget receipts to the end of February were £3762 as against £3889 at this time last year.

We know that a number of parishes are working well to obtain their full quotas. One writes us that success