

BOARD OF MISSIONS NOTES.

December 6th, 1935.

Japan and Abyssinia.—The Board, through the C.M.S., aids Archdeacon Batchelor in his work among the Ainu of N. Japan, by supporting one Japanese preacher and one teacher; but for many years we have ceased to send missionaries to Japan, though the seed sown by Miss Pasley and Miss Hunter-Brown (Mrs. Rowlands) must be, we trust, growing and bearing fruit. The following extract from the well-known Tientsin newspaper, Da Gung Bao, shows how East and West are meeting—and what opportunities we have missed:

"It is quite new that Japan has spread her economic power to Abyssinia. The Year Book for 1931 says that India took about 57 per cent. of Abyssinian imports, and Japan had only 12 per cent., but to-day 80 per cent. of the cotton imported comes from Japan. We can see what a heavy blow to British trade this is. In the Autumn of 1933, the Minister of Diplomatic Affairs of Abyssinia declared that 400 hectaeres of ground would be leased to the Japanese free of rent for cotton growing. In the treaty between Japan and Abyssinia, Japan obtained the right to rent ground for growing cotton and coffee trees. Four years ago, the Japanese-Abyssinian Company gained the privilege of renting 650,000 hectaeres of ground in Abyssinia, paying only 10 per cent. of the price of the crops grown on this land. In March, 1934, these two countries concluded an emigration treaty and both Governments encouraged mixed marriages between their people. Furthermore, Abyssinia gave the highest favour to Japanese commerce by decreasing the duty on Japanese goods. All these things have greatly distressed Italy and Great Britain. Besides her economic policy, Japan has been aiding Abyssinia a great deal politically in such ways as helping her to organise and train new troops, selling to her recently constructed tanks and aeroplanes, sending their military and engineering experts, and supplying her with ammunitions.

"The Abyssinians have made overtures to the European nations but they were not cordially received because of

race prejudice. Now both the Japanese and the Abyssinians belong to the coloured races, between them friendships rises quickly and intimately.

"For our part, we do not agree with any imperialism, white or yellow. We are certain that the result of competition and force will only be destruction. We feel that to make the whole world one family with the real spirit of peace and altruism ought to be the ideal and purpose of all people. But the tragedy is that this is not in the minds of those who are obsessed with the thought of material advantage and prosperity."

China and England.—"Thirteen hundred years ago Bamburgh was the capital of England, as the seat of Oswald, who was overlord of the Pentarchy. To Bamburgh thirteen hundred years ago came Aidan from Iona with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Thirteen hundred years ago Sian was the capital of China, as the seat of the reigning Tang monarch, Tai Tsun. To Sian thirteen hundred years ago came Alopen from Asia Minor with the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

"To this day in Sian stands the old tablet describing in Chinese and in Syriac the coming and the work of the Nestorians: and engraved above it is a beautiful cross, typical of its Syrian origin."

International Missionary Council, 1935 (By Prebendary Wilson Cash).—It is now seven years since the gatherings at Jerusalem and the Committee of the Council is in session once more, and this time on the famous Massachusetts land, the home of D. L. Moody. These past seven years have been a period of unparalleled changes, and the world situation is like some great kaleidoscope altering from day to day. It is fitting, therefore, that missionary leaders from many lands should meet again to take stock of the situation. Here are Chinese delegates with the story of a land invaded by Japan, by Communists, and crippled by banditry, famine and flood, yet with a vision of China for Christ. After "Jerusalem 1928" these delegates started what is known as "The Five Years' Movement." It was a co-operative evangelistic effort. The report of those five years is before us, and it is an incredible tale of suffering, hardship, and pain, yet one of triumph

and faith—for, in spite of everything, the churches in China have made substantial advances, and have increased in membership as a result of this evangelistic enterprise.

Dr. Carmargo is with us from Mexico, with his story of an all-powerful secularism, which aims at the overthrow of Roman Catholic influence in South America. A few years ago this movement was described as anti-Church. Now it has gone further, and is anti-religious, and seeks to secure the complete secularisation of Mexico.

All-Powerful Militarism.—Japanese delegates have a different tale to tell. It is the story of an all-powerful militarism that seeks to solve Japan's problem of a growing population by territorial expansion in China. Our minds have travelled round the world as we have sought to understand the background of the missionary problems of to-day. If our task were only problems we would be plunged into despair, but through all, there runs a very different story. It is the account of the triumphs of the Gospel in many lands, and here the accumulating evidence of a world revival is startling. In the most impossible situations, in the face of persecution and martyrdom, in China, in the assaults of a neo-paganism in Germany, among the outcaste millions of India, and secular propaganda in Latin America, the Gospel is winning its way, and the young Churches are growing in strength, spiritual power, and witness.

Looking to the future, we had to face the question as to whether we should plan for another full meeting of the Council, corresponding to Jerusalem in 1928. There was nothing that bound us to any particular year and the Council was free to arrange, or not, for such a gathering as it felt best.

After two days of full debate and investigation, it was agreed practically unanimously (one member only abstained from voting) to hold a full meeting of the International Missionary Council in Kowloon, China, in 1938. I shall try and explain the significance of this decision in a further article. A momentous step has been taken, which ought to carry co-operation among missionaries much further than in the past.