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EDITORIAL NOTES.

As we enter the portals of the new year the joy and sweetness that are usually found in this experience will be saddened and softened by the thought that the whole world is at war. There is a gleam of light, however, in the thought that the world is in the throes of a great revolution, and that when this war is won by the right, as it must be, all nations of the earth will enjoy the sweet blessings of liberty and freedom for which our forefathers fought more than a century ago.

In shaping your resolutions for the New Year do not fail to include a resolution to study the Word of God more systematically and regularly. The daily reading of the Bible and daily communion with God, our Heavenly Father, are just as essential to our spiritual growth as daily food and drink are to our physical growth. Robust spiritual characters cannot be developed without constant communion with God through prayer, and the reverent study of His Holy Word.

It is the privilege of every one of us to make the coming year a year of real blessing and joy and helpfulness to others. There are some people whose very presence brings pleasure. While they may be neither very witty nor very wise, though they may never dazzle others with their intelligence, yet they brighten the lives of others by the very sweetness of their nature, their unselfishness, their cheeriness and their untiring kindness. Will it be your purpose during the coming year to bring greater joy and more of sweetness into the lives of others?

"The New Year comes with silent tread,
New hope, new joy, new light to spread,
It bringeth something new to each,
And lessons old 'twill newly teach.
It cometh, too, to take away
Old griefs and woes which fain would stay!
Oh, speed them, speed them, glad New Year!
Come, cast out bitter doubt and fear,
Speed in with silent, loving tread,
New hope, new joy, new light to spread."

"An Address to the Church," drafted by the "War Work Conference," in Atlanta, December 11, will be found on page 15 of this issue, together with a report of the proceedings of the conference. An urgent appeal is made to the Church at large to appreciate the importance of the work that our Church must do for the men who are in training in the various army camps and cantonments of the Southland. Certain "key men" were appointed in each Synod to look after this work. What is done must be done quickly. It is hoped that by New Year's day the sum of \$100,000 for work among Southern Presbyterian soldiers will be secured. This is a work in which every home is vitally interested, and generous gifts should be made by our people without interfering with their regular gifts for the stated benevolences of the Church.

China is the subject assigned for study and prayer in the missionary societies of our Southern Presbyterian Church during the months of January and February. The work of our Church in China is so large that it has been divided into two missions—one known as the "Mid-China Mission," and the other as

the "North Kiangsu Mission." During the month of January the "Mid-China Mission" will be studied in all the societies and Sunday schools of the Church, while in February the "North Kiangsu Mission" will be the theme of special study and prayer. See pages 5-6.

Statistics of our work in both Missions in China are as follows: Population of our field, estimated, 18,950,000; foreign workers, 146; children of foreign workers, 117; native workers, 196; out stations, places of regular meeting, 164; organized congregations, 42; communicants, 4,247; additions in 1916, 735; Christian constituency, 9,458; Sabbath schools, 121; Sabbath school membership, 6,415; schools, 167; students, 3,798; income from native sources (\$70,156 Mex.) gold, \$35,078.

One of the potent factors in Presbyterian mission work in China is the Hangchow Christian College. This college opened the present term with seventy students in the college department, the largest enrolled in its history. It is the only institution, Christian or non-Christian, attempting to do work in higher education in the entire field. Of the 136 graduates of Hangchow College, forty-seven have entered upon definite Christian work, either as preachers or Y. M. C. A. Secretaries. Fifty-two are teachers, most of them in Christian schools, thirty-seven have gone into various lines of business.

The special foreign mission season for prayer and self-denial will be observed this year January 18-26. This date was fixed by the last General Assembly instead of a season in February which has been the date in other years. The conditions accompanying the world war have seriously affected the work of Foreign Missions in every land. The work of German missionaries has practically come to an end, as Germany has been unable to support its workers in any foreign land. This has thrown a heavy responsibility on other nations, and our Southern Church is facing unparalleled opportunities as we enter the New Year. A brief statement from the Executive Secretary concerning the work will be found on page 11.

The final call is now made for the names of all those who have memorized the "Shorter Catechism" and the "Child's Catechism" during the year 1917. The "Roll of Honor" will be published in the "Christian Observer" early in January. Pastors, teachers and those who have heard the recitation of either of these Catechisms, are urged to send in the names by return mail. Names should reach the "Christian Observer" by the first of January to insure their finding a place in the "Roll of Honor." Please send names promptly.

Announcement has been made by the Presbyterian Committee of Publication of our Church that Professor Edward P. St. John has been secured as one of the contributors to "The Earnest Worker" for the coming year. Dr. St. John delighted audiences at the summer conference on Sunday school work at Montreat last summer and his world-wide reputation as an educator peculiarly fits him for instructing teachers and workers in Sunday schools. The fact that Dr. St. John will

