

WORLD DOMINION

The World Dominion Movement advocates Informed Continuous Co-ordinated Evangelism to reach everyone at home and abroad. Its basis is belief in the Deity and Atoning Death of the Lord Jesus Christ, the World's Only Saviour, and in the Final Authority of Holy Scripture.

Editor: THOMAS COCHRANE.

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PIONEERING IN CHINA

Whatever the special form of activity adopted in the city, results are slow compared with the work among the simpler country folk, yet in several of these towns we now have pastors supported by the Christian congregations.

At the end of twelve happy years spent in evangelism, I baptized a hundred men and women in a central village where the Christians, with a little private help, had already built a church and school well above the flood level, and now in the parish where there were less than a dozen feeble Christians when I began work, there is a growing church which supports two pastors and has several schools financed by itself.

Pioneer work will not cease till all China is evangelized. It is exacting and involves long absences from home and rough travel and poor quarters, but it is rich in human interest and is invaluable in bringing the missionary into close touch with the common people and so helping him to understand their lives and their struggles. And it leaves one with a profound respect and admiration for the sturdy qualities of the peasant farmer, who, in the midst of civil war and bandit raids, and with the constant fear of famine at the door, pursues his humble tasks and, by the sweat of his brow, wrings a scanty living from the soil.

Andrew Weir of Manchuria

By MARGARET WEIR

(James Clarke and Co., London, 5/-)

When that earnest evangelist, William Burns, moved up the coast of China to Peking, preaching everywhere the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he reached at length Newchwang, the newly opened port of the now great province of Manchukuo, only to lie down and die. That was in 1868. From his deathbed he appealed to the Irish Presbyterian Church to send missionaries to a land that had never heard the Gospel.

It was for this work that Andrew Weir arrived in Manchuria in the autumn of 1899, and for more than thirty years laboured indefatigably. Not, perhaps, as a preacher or evangelist did he show surpassing power, but as a missionary statesman. Throughout the years, behind every important movement, his wise counsel and advice were of incalculable help. In times of perplexing difficulty his judgement could be relied upon.

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No one excelled him in self-denying labour. It has been said that 'he was the architect of the Church in Manchuria.' He would have made no claim like that for himself, for he was the humblest of men.

This book will be of interest to some because it gives a full account of the life and work of one great and good man. Those looking for nice missionary stories may be disappointed, but those interested in the evolution of a living church will here find what they want. It is a historical sketch of the Irish and Scottish Missions (united in 1891 for all practical purposes) during the last forty years, together with a story of the political and social life of Manchuria during this period. The writer knows of no book which gives so full and accurate a picture of the life of the people. Readers get a glimpse into their homes, see their daily life and occupations, and learn something of their way of thinking. Only one who has lived among them for many years could give such a picture. Under the new political régime the future of the Church in Manchukuo will have a bearing upon Christian progress in all Eastern Asia.

News From Chingleput Leprosarium

Dr. Robert Cochrane, writing in September, said :

'A development has taken place which I think will interest our friends. There are many problems needing to be solved before we approach the key to the riddle of leprosy. One of the most pressing is that of childhood leprosy. In 1935, for the King's Jubilee, the Provinces collected a large amount of money, and the Madras Presidency, like many other Provinces in India, decided that this should be used to relieve suffering. A certain amount, which was divided among the districts, was allocated to leprosy work. I was placed on the committee which decided how this money should be used, and suggested that what would help most would be a clinic for the study of childhood leprosy. Six thousand rupees were given, and with this sum we hope to be able to build and equip the clinic. At this clinic every child with any suspicions of leprosy will be seen, and every contact will be followed up and observed. In this way we hope to be able to learn much about the development and spread of leprosy in children. It is believed that, if leprosy could be controlled among children, we should have found the key to the whole problem.

'The work has been started, and I have examined some 600 children. There are still about 1,400 children to be examined in the area where we propose to place the clinic. So far, the startling discovery has been made that, of the school children already examined, ten per cent either have definite signs indicative of early leprosy, or the spots are suspicious enough to be kept under observation.