

The brothers DR. W. B. and the REV. CECIL JOHNSTON (of St. Mary's Hospital and Bristol University respectively) have recently left for service with the B.C.M.S. in Upper Burma.

REV. K. C. PHILLIPS (Cambridge-China) is now in the language school at Hwain-ing, Anhwei.

DR. IVOR BEAUCHAMP (Cambridge-China) is now working at Lanchow, Kansu. He and his wife were trying to get into Sinkiang, but at present the way is barred for all missionaries.

MR. T. W. G. COLLINS (Cambridge-Kenya) has been studying the Suk language, and writes of several who have come to the Lord. He looks forward to going out on Safari work with native Christians.

DR. A. B. COOK (London-Nigeria) writes of encouraging answers to prayer in the opening of a new out-station some miles from Zaria.

DR. N. J. EVERARD (Edinburgh-India) is returning to his hospital at Kachwa in January.

DR. E. L. FARROW (Edinburgh-Egypt) recently returned to his hospital. He writes suggesting that groups should undertake to pray for the occupants of certain beds, and speaks of the great results where this has been done.

REV. and MRS. M. H. GARNER (Cambridge and London-West Nile district) have been studying the language at Arua. They write of various encouragements as they have been able to take some part in the services and village tours.

DR. MAX GRAY (London-China) recently wrote of the difficulties of his work. His "consulting-room" was under a noisy school; then the military occupied their buildings, and finally an opium society rented rooms formerly used as a dispensary.

DR. G. L. L. GURNEY (Bristol-Abyssinia) is doing a hospital house job for about six months, in Aden, preparatory to going to Addis Ababa.

MR. R. EVAN HOPKINS and REV. W. D. KERR (Cambridge-Africa) are forming two of the party going to start work in the Nuba Mountains.

DR. LILY O'HANLON (London-India) is now working at Patna. She recently wrote about a journey on the borders of Nepal which she hopes, in time, to enter. She writes about meeting a Nepali policeman and of his searching questions about their ways. "Closed! But the Enemy of souls cannot keep prayers from going in and changing things."

DR. A. P. PARKE (Belfast-China) has been designated to Szechwan.

REV. MARTIN PARSONS (Cambridge-Poland) is going to Warsaw in January to work amongst Jews.

## The British Universities

### "CHRIST AND THE COLLEGES"

A. S. ALDIS, B.Sc., Hon. Prayer Secretary.

**I** PURPOSE to give the reports from the Universities for last term in the form of a further chapter to the I.V.F. History which has recently been published under the title appearing at the head of this article. The book tells an unfinished story; and this chapter will give you some of its continuation during recent days and weeks.

I have before me as I write a copy of an old fixture card of the London Inter-Faculty Christian Union, and on it I find the aims of the Union set forth as follows:

- (i) To unite students in the University of London who desire to witness for Christ.
- (ii) To deepen the spiritual life of all members of the Union, especially by means of prayer and Bible Study.

(iii) To uphold the truths of Christianity.

(iv) To bring students in the University to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ.

I have found it most interesting and illuminating to read the letters received from the various Universities in the light of these aims, and to discover how they are being carried out during these days. The Unions will speak for themselves on each of the four points.

That the members of a Christian Union should find their closest unity and fellowship in service is not surprising, for a common service has always provided one of the surest bonds of union. A letter from the Cambridge Women's Inter-Collegiate Christian Union contains the following sentences in connection with the recent Mission in Cambridge: "We offer very real praise to God for all that He has taught us through the Mission. To many it has meant much, and as a body we have been drawn into closer fellowship." The following words from Dublin surely give us the secret of all true Christian unity and fellowship: "Praise God for a real working of His Holy Spirit among the members this term. Dr. Priddy, in his visit, brought before us the necessity of the Unity of the Spirit if our prayers were to accomplish anything, and his messages were used to bring about a deeper consecration in several lives."

Several Universities remark on the number of keen freshers who have come up this term and who have joined up with the Evangelical Unions. Thus from Reading comes the news which is surely an answer to our prayers: "By half term our membership had increased from 8 to 19, including two known converts"; while Leeds writes to say: "Praise God for keen men and women freshers; this is a real answer to prayer which was requested in last term's Magazine." A letter from Glasgow mentions the same thing as a feature of this term. Thus the first aim of the Unions is being fulfilled; but, in the midst of its fulfilment, let us not forget to pray for the places where local unity, or rather the lack of it, is still a pressing problem. A sentence from Trinity College, Dublin, will serve to remind us of the need. "Michaelmas term was not as great a time of blessing as we had prayed and hoped for. This was caused by breaches in the Fellowship which hampered our evangelistic witness." Not only are new members thus being added to our Unions, but we are able to praise God for the formation of a new Union this term at Nottingham, and several new branches in London.

It is very striking, in reading through the letters received, to note how very closely the second aim is being followed and carried out. Thus a letter from Durham reports: "The daily prayer meetings are a source of great power and are the heart of the Fellowship"; while the following sentence is taken from a letter from Edinburgh: "In view of our coming campaign, November 4th-11th, from the very beginning of term the burden of prayer was laid upon us all. We had wonderful times in our prayer meetings twice daily." Reading write to say: "The I.V.F. week of prayer was a great help in increasing the devotional life of the Union, and the prayer meetings have been well attended throughout the term." Leeds and London also write telling of good times of prayer; the following extract is taken from the London letter: "Your prayers and ours have been amazingly answered, so praise the Lord for many who have given the Holy Spirit full access to their lives, and for the week-end Conference at Digswell Park, when over a hundred students prayed and planned and were brought face to face with the cost involved in being all out for Christ."

Once again, lest we should think that these extracts represent the experience of all the Unions, a sentence from Hull will remind us of the need of prayer: "The weekly prayer meeting has not been well attended, and we should value your prayers for guidance in choosing a time which will suit everyone."

This term has seen the launching of at least one new I.V.F. venture, the Bible

Study Scheme. This has given a distinct stimulus to Bible Study throughout the Unions, as is clearly evidenced by the letters received. Many of the Unions mention as a subject for praise the great help derived from the visit of Mr. Guillebaud, a sentence from the Reading letter being typical of several : "The Rev. Guillebaud's visit proved very helpful, and every member has started the Bible Study Course." Birmingham sends us the news that, owing to their increased membership, they have been able to start a separate Bible Reading in the Edgbaston branch, and Dundee mentions the weekly Bible Study Group as a subject for praise. So the second aim is being fulfilled, and students are being built up in the Christian life by prayer and Bible study.

In these days of uncertainty and doubt about spiritual things and of unsettled moral values, the Christian Unions have an important part to play in upholding the Truths of Christianity and of pointing people to the solid ground of the Christian verities. It is therefore particularly striking to read this sentence from the Bristol letter : "Praise God for the interest aroused by, and the blessing resulting from, the meetings on the I.V.F. Basis held during the term," or this testimony from Southampton : "As a result of interest in the Union displayed by a number of students, a tea-meeting was held and run by members, when the aims and basis were explained and discussed. As a direct result two more students joined the Union, and at least one more is really interested."

However, all this is but one side of the work of the Unions, for if the Spirit of God is really at work it will surely result in an evangelistic zeal. The Winter term always abounds with special opportunities for evangelism, for it marks the opening of a new University year, and brings with it a new generation of students. Many Universities speak of wonderful times in the Freshers' Squashes. The following quotations taken from letters from Leeds, Newcastle and Edinburgh are typical. Leeds : "Praise God for several conversions at the Freshers' Squash led by Mr. Norman Grubb." Newcastle : "We praise God for a very encouraging Freshers' Squash, when nearly a hundred Freshers turned up, and many of them seemed really interested." Edinburgh : "Our first Fellowship meeting of the term was marked by a large increase in the number of freshers, and this was more noticeable still at the Freshers' Social, which was the largest in the history of the Union." A sentence from a letter from Manchester will serve to remind us, however, that numbers and interest alone are not enough. "Well over a hundred people came along to the Freshers' Squash addressed by Capt. McCormack, but very few appeared at the follow-up meeting held a week later"; while Sheffield brings us face to face with a real challenge to pray : "The Freshers' Tea was only attended by a few, although numerous invitations were sent out. Following the series of Freshers' meetings, we sent out the Freshers' letter, but we are finding it very difficult to battle against the apathy in the University, and we feel that this can only be overcome by real believing prayer."

At least two Unions, Cambridge and Edinburgh, have held special missions during the past term which formed the central theme for the I.V.F. week of prayer. No doubt many have already read the full report of the Cambridge Mission which has been circulated, so I will quote from the Edinburgh letter. "Praise God for a glorious Campaign led by the Rev. T. Douglas Adam, D.D. The power of the Holy Spirit was manifest each evening. Not a night passed without a number of souls surrendering for the first time to the Lord Jesus, until at the end of the week some 45 students had confessed their faith in Christ."

The ordinary work of the Unions has been fruitful in conversions too, as is shown by these words from London : "Praise God for conversions in various colleges and hospitals; five people were converted at one meeting at Bart's," and the following extract from a letter from Londonderry : "We praise God that right from the beginning of the Session there has been a real and deepening interest in spiritual

things among the students. Many have been really facing up to the call of Christ. At a Squash led by Mr. T. B. Rees, the Holy Spirit was wonderfully present, and about a dozen students testified to having surrendered their lives fully to Christ." Let us pray that these experiences may be multiplied in all our Unions.

Unions to which God has given such a fire of evangelistic zeal must needs be missionary-hearted. Although the first duty of the Unions lies in the University, yet we do praise God that the vision of many members extends to "the uttermost part of the earth."

Londonderry writes to say : "We held an I.V.F. service in one of the leading Derry churches. The Rev. James Dunlop, of Belfast, gave the address, and we believe that the service was a blessing to many, and a means of arousing wider interest in our Evangelical Union"; and from Manchester comes a request for prayer for a student service in St. Ann's Church on Sunday, March 10th. It is hoped to make this a "broadcast service." Trefecca College asks for our co-operation by prayer in a Missionary tour from the college to the surrounding parts, that many may be brought to Christ. We do praise God for every evidence of the steadily-growing Missionary interest in our Unions, and that the spiritual horizon of many is being extended in ever-widening circles to enclose within its bounds "the uttermost part of the earth." International Student Teas have been held in several Universities, and many of the Unions have sent out copies of the Scriptures to Overseas Students. There were several conversions at the International Students' Tea held in London, and we praise God for this active piece of Missionary work.

The membership of the I.V.M.F. is also steadily growing, but we would conclude this further chapter in the history of the I.V.F. with a challenge to prayer, persistent and believing. The Missionary enthusiasm is all too weak in many of the Unions, and we do ask that you will pray very especially for Dr. Wilder's visit to the British Universities next term, that he may be used of God to stir into flame the smouldering missionary enthusiasm in so many of the Unions and to call out an army of student volunteers who shall "evangelise to a finish to bring back the King."

## Overseas Universities

### FRANCE

Miss Tilney writes : "The need for the summer course students has in a microscopic manner been met by distribution of Gospels and Testaments . . . and the little meeting has been made known, on Tuesdays, at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 4. p.m. for tea, hymn-singing, and talk. . . . Each meeting almost has seen some fresh faces and some fresh nationality."

Miss Tilney asks prayer for several students with whom much personal work has been done. It was a joy to welcome some members of Evangelical Unions in the British universities. The meetings were held through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Warren, in the North Africa Mission House.

During the coming sessions it is hoped to circulate portions of the Word of God among the 45,000 students of Paris, of whom some 3,000 are foreign students. The Scripture Gift Mission has kindly promised all the help in their power. *Please give this effort your prayer help.*

Will all those who know of students coming over to Paris from their universities this year, and especially after Easter, let Miss Stoneham have their names and addresses *as soon as possible; this is most important* if we are to get into definite contact with them. Write Miss Stoneham, c/o Inter-Varsity Fellowship, 43 Russell Square, W.C.1.