

Items as to Temperance Work in Bulgaria.

One of the early missionaries, Mrs Locke, organized the first Young Men's Temperance Society in Bulgaria, and in 1890 founded the Women's Christian Temperance Union, now with 8 or 10 auxiliary societies. The Temperance Union for a time published a paper that was very useful to the cause. Mrs Locke also aided in preparing the first Bulgarian Temperance Literature. To her we are indebted for many of our best Temperance Songs, for the Temperance Catechism, and for some tracts. She is held in grateful remembrance by temperance workers to this day.

Between 1890 and 1892 fourteen contests were held among the young men and women in the Mission Schools in Samokov for the Demorest Temperance Medals. At the last of these contests, the eight students who had previously won silver medals competed for a gold medal. In all 74 declamations were translated and spoken in different places, and 1000 copies of 10 of these and 2000 copies of Rules for Declamations were printed, making a total of 28,000 pages, at a cost of 265 francs.

From 1896 to 1900 there were printed of supplements, tracts, and circular letters 78,000 copies, with a total of 484,000 pages, at a cost of 1067 francs.

From 1907 to 1909 there were printed 191,000 copies, with a total of 2,288,400 pages, at a cost of 1936.82 francs, of which 1082.75 francs were contributed.

There are now being printed, as above, and circulated 159,200 copies, with a total of 2,133,800 pages, at a probable cost of 1600 francs, of which 824 francs have been contributed.

It is expected that these will reach all the schools in Bulgaria and Macedonia by the end of June. For the balance of the cost the writer is now responsible.

Sofia: 12-th June, 1910.

To follow page 7, line 11 in Reports, with Bulgaria

Later. Instead of printing 20,000 copies each of the above two tracts, the remaining funds allowed of the printing of 31,000 of each, making a total of 189,000 tracts, etc., and a total number of pages 2,365,000. Over 9000 of these tracts have already been sent to Macedonia, to the four chief circulating centres, where interested persons are ready to distribute them; while 2260 were prepared in 60 packages of different sizes ready to be sent by mail to all Bulgarian schools and other institutions in Constantinople, Adrianople, and vicinity supported or aided by the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry. An envelope enclosing the four tracts, etc., of the last issue for each one of the 186 members of the National Assembly chosen at the first election was made ready for the mail, and 261 similar envelopes for all the Bulgarian papers and other periodicals published in Bulgaria, Macedonia, and elsewhere. All the above were mailed at the beginning of October, 1909. All of the rest of the edition were put up in separate packets of 25 each; and 10 of these packets (250 tracts) were gathered into bundles and given to the Ministry of Education (which asked for 1500 more), and were sent by the Ministry to their twelve inspectors, who will distribute them to the 3000 or more schools in Bulgaria. All were so carefully put up as to facilitate a wise distribution by those of them who will not feel a live interest in the work.

Many little and large hands helped in the above work. Mr. Kolaroff, a sign-painter, especially was ready to give whole evenings to aid whenever needful.

There is need for earnest prayer for success in this enterprise.

A stroke of apoplexy on the 17-th October completely prostrated the writer for months; but with the aid of the two Kindergarten teachers a double sized supplement with 13 articles was completed. A contract was made for printing 6200 supplements to two periodicals, with a daily forfeit for delay. Of these, 1700 have already gone to the subscribers; and 150,000 tracts with 3000 personal letters are to be delivered before the 4-th June, at the rate of 1500 tracts a day.

I The stroke confined me to the bed 2 weeks.

+ He has twice visited me on account of my sickness, & spoke of coming again.

Still later. The tracts are all now printed, and 17,000 have been sent to Macedonia through lists of schools and of bishops' sees furnished by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. This Ministry has also written to the Exarch in Constantinople, who controls all Bulgarian schools and bishoprics in places outside of this kingdom, to ask his aid in a wide circulation among the population as well as in the schools. About 60,000 copies have been delivered to the Ministry of Education, which has consented to circulate 100,000 in the schools of all grades in Bulgaria. Mrs Marsh will try to circulate 10,000, outside of those sent to the schools, among the population about Philippopolis; and 3000 copies are at present being carefully distributed amongst the inhabitants of Sofia. Queen Eleonora is interested in the work. God seems to be prospering it. In addition to a Supplement to over 3000 subscribers to two papers, a special circular on "Slavery in Bulgaria" (slavery to its 17,000 saloons) was sent in February to all of the 200 members of the National Assembly and to the more than 150 papers in the country, as also the last issue of the supplements and tracts in a personal letter.

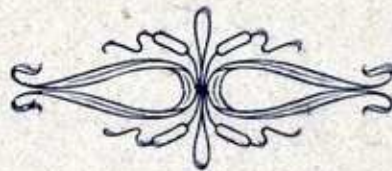
25-th June, 1910. The cordial coöperation of three Ministries, of the Bulgarian Agents in Monastir and Salonica, and of the Director of the Girls' Gymnasium in the latter place, and the influence of the Bulgarian Exarch of Constantinople—now in Sofia—give reason to expect a thorough distribution of the present issue of tracts wherever the Bulgarian language is used. All the 100,000 copies of temperance tracts promised to the Ministry of Education, and accepted with the promise to send them to the schools of Bulgaria have been transferred to them; and 10,000 for circulation in the district of Philippopolis outside of the schools have been sent to Mrs Marsh. A Sofia paper published for priests has just requested 1200 copies of the three new tracts that it may send them with its regular issues. Several thousands have also been ordered for Rustchuk, and by the Chicago Tract Society for Bulgarians in the region of that city.

Samples have also been sent to those who can translate them into Albanian and Montenegrin.

Some months ago Prof. Forel of Switzerland vividly showed the evils of the use of alcohol to those who understood French; and he formed a Society of Good Templars, which many of the members of the former Temperance Society joined. But the meetings have not flourished since his departure, though they may develop more vitality in the coming fall.

As yet but few of the women of Bulgaria have entered into the campaign against alcohol; but there are some who have excluded the saloons from their villages. In some mountain hamlets, where the villagers have freed themselves from the saloons, the owners of them are claiming payment from the government for their loss of business. Before the next session of the National Assembly it is hoped that much will be done towards popularising the ideas of local option, and also that at least the first steps will be taken by the women and others to introduce temperance education into the schools.

Pray.



Evangelical School Press,
Samokov, 1910.
