

The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

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- TREASURER.—Mrs. D. McLeod Vince, Woodstock, N. B.

Waterloo Street, St. John Mission Band.

DEAR FRIENDS,—One of our sisters interested in missionary work not very long ago asked that reports be sent in from the Mission Bands of the churches. I have noticed that during the past months there have been very few in comparison with last year, when the page was almost filled, and have wondered whether the little groups had entirely disbanded, or had simply neglected, as we have, to report our progress.

Our Band was re-organized in the fall, after vacation, with a new election of officers and an encouraging membership. Meetings have been held every Friday afternoon from four to five, with the exception of a few times, when the weather was cold and disagreeable. The children are attending better now, and we are preparing for an entertainment soon, the proceeds of which, and what cash we have on hand, will go through the W. M. S. to India.

We were sorry to hear of the death of our missionaries, and hope that very soon many others may enter as laborers in the vineyard. What are we doing to help along the cause? How many there are who have no regard for the work! Why is it? One chief reason is ignorance of missionary facts. How can one be interested in anything they know nothing of? It certainly is an interesting study, in which there comes a growing desire for knowledge the further we advance. First we want to know for what purpose we are giving our help, to what part of the world it is going, to help what missionaries, what particular work they are carrying on, and then to read their reports that come to us from time to time in the INTELLIGENCER and *Helper*.

It is well to be as well acquainted as we can with the peculiar traits and customs of the people among whom the missionaries have to live from day to day. If our little sphere is so worthy of our study and regard, how much more other parts of the world where other denominations are working on a large scale for the extension of Christ's kingdom?

The question naturally arises, How are the people to be interested in missions? First by teaching the children in the Bands, and also on Sundays set apart in Sunday-school for this study, and by good books on the work in the libraries. Also by Sundays set apart for missionary discourses from pulpit, and missionary hymns sung; and in these and many other ways the subject can be kept before the people.

The chief aim of the Sunday-school is to bring the young to Christ. Must

they not then, to be like him, be trained to bring others, which is the true missionary spirit? Trained thus, when they grow to manhood and womanhood they will be more inclined to have intelligent interest in the work. One of the most important features of the Christian life is to act as a missionary, not only to the heathen, but in our everyday life. I fear we are not as energetic as we should be. Being slow to act, we are, in so much, hindering the progress of the kingdom. We repeat the missionary clause of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come." Do we pray it, or merely repeat it. I fear it is too often glided over without a thought of its great importance.

May our hearts be so filled with love for benighted ones, and for the welfare and needs of beloved missionaries who are struggling so bravely among so many trials, that each prayer may be offered in faith, ascending to the blessed Master for us all, and who hears and answers prayer.

We hope to hear from other Bands very soon. Even though they are small, God is with them, and the thought of his presence, and that we are working for him, should be sufficient to encourage us all. Let each one endeavor to keep this page interesting and well filled. These columns are the first I turn to when the paper arrives.

The restless millions with the light Whose dawning maketh all things new, Christ also waits. But men are slow and late. Have we done all we could? Have I? Have you?

L. W.

NO MONEY FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS.

A missionary writes in the *Missionary Review*: "I lectured before a Ladies' Missionary Society attached to one of the wealthiest churches in B— not long since, and while they were condemning the 'business' part of the meeting, I estimated the worth of the jewelry worn at not less than ten thousand dollars. A plea came from a mission church in the West for some money with which to build a little wooden church. After much deliberation, ten dollars was suggested, and after more talk that was cut down to five dollars! They had asked me to offer a prayer and to close with the Lord's prayer. Each one said 'Amen' at the close. They prayer 'Thy kingdom come,' and subscribed five dollars toward that work, while at the same time they wore jewelry worth ten thousand dollars! Do you think the gospel is preached in that church?"

WOMEN IN INDIA.

Miss Ellen C. Parsons, editor of *Woman's Work for Woman*, has lately returned from a tour of mission-fields, her absence covering a period of eleven months. Speaking of the women of India, Miss Parsons said it was almost impossible without seeing them to realize the dreary life of what she called "the Shut-ins of Asia," not shut in by illness, but by the iron fetters of convention and prejudice. She described the hopeless

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MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

monotony of their daily lives, without education or any incentive to other than an animal existence, and spoke of the horror of the enveloping chudda, without which women dare not appear abroad, and of girls sent to the government schools in India, who could not even go to their fathers' carriages, but must be taken in a government carriage, whose driver deposits them at the school and is held to a strict responsibility for their behaviour and their safety. It was impossible to describe the effect upon the Christian mind of seeing women of fine appearance and apparent intellectual ability actually worshipping and bringing offerings to idols. Miss Parsons paid a high tribute to our women doctors in the field, their command of the languages, their perfect professional skill and readiness. She also touched upon the extreme usefulness of the trained Bible-women as a link between the natives and the missionaries, and of how they commended the Christian religion, not only by their knowledge of the Bible, but by the dignity and propriety of their behavior.

MISSION NEWS AND NOTES.

—The accessions from heathenism to Christianity number about a quarter of a million annually. Competent authorities give the population of the world as 1,544,500,000. Of this great total, 535,000,000 are Christians. Mohammedans number 245,000,000; Confucianists, 300,000,000; Brahmanists, 214,500,000. Jews number nearly 11,000,000.

—Christians are not lacking among the chief men of Japan. In 1900, thirteen or fourteen members of the Parliament were Christians. The president of the lower house, the chief justice, the minister of foreign affairs, the secretary of the prime minister, the captain of the largest vessel in the navy, and three or four members of the faculty of the imperial university were all professing Christians. At the last Christian Endeavor convention, addresses were given by a member and an ex-member of the Japanese parliament.

—When Stanley passed through the African territory from east to west and

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came out by the Congo to the Atlantic ocean, he said that the natives of the Congo basin were more like demons than like human beings. To-day there is a church of 2,000 members at Bana Manteka, and every member of the church is pledged to total abstinence from intoxicants. The population of these regions was, twenty years ago, rapidly declining on account of the vices of the people. To-day, the war drum having given place to the church bell and sexual license to family life, great tracts of arable land under cultivation, and populous villages live in abundance, and schools multiply in peace. The story of Madagascar, one of the miracles of missions, seems to be re-told in a country destined to take the lead in the development of "The Dark Continent."

INDIGESTION CONQUERED BY K. D. C.
IT RESTORES THE STOMACH TO HEALTHY ACTION AND TONE