

Society meetings generally are not so well attended as they used to be some years ago. There are several causes for this ; but two passages in the Parent Society's last report are so pertinent and practically suggestive, we cannot refrain from quoting them. In one place it says : "The undenominational character of the Society seems to make many of its meetings more scantily attended than they would otherwise be, instead of attracting to it the united sympathy and presence of all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity." In another place it says : "To make meetings welcome, beneficial to the Society and productive of larger meetings the year following, it is not necessary that the deputation (called Agent in Canada) should be a Cicero or a Demosthenes ; but it is essential that he should aim to give his hearers some real information about the work that is being done and not rest content with those general statements which have often done duty before. It is also necessary that other speakers should be neither so numerous, nor so diffuse, as to leave the deputation only scant time at a late hour in the evening to unfold his subject, when he has carefully prepared it. Some attention to these points might soon increase the number of friends, whose aid at meetings would constantly increase in value, and at the same time diminish the number of places which have no meeting at all, or one very thinly attended."

It was intended that a number of special meetings for children should be held during the year, and this work was assigned to the Rev. Mr. Botterill, who had been so successful in it ; but owing to his being delayed in England longer than he expected, and some other circumstances, he has only been able to have three such meetings, viz : at Newmarket, East Williams, and Orangeville. He has, however, had opportunities of addressing the children in several of the Sunday-schools in Toronto, and a number of the larger branches have had their attention drawn to the importance of getting the young interested in the work of our Society.

The Directors regret to have to report the death of Mr. A. McPherson, of Emerson, who had been the Society's Agent for the southern part of Manitoba, who had shown a constant zeal for the Bible cause during the whole time of his residence in that Province, and who continued to show an anxious care for the interests of the Society to the day of his death. The new arrangements made for carrying on the Society's work in Manitoba have already been referred to, and do not need repetition here.

The Rev. Mr. Jamieson has continued to look after the interests of the Society in British Columbia with good results, and the Society is much indebted to him for his gratuitous services. A handsome free contribution of \$151 has been received from New Westminster, a small contribution from Burrard Inlet, and \$250 on purchase account from Victoria. As opportunity offers, Mr. Jamieson employs a colporteur to work for the Society. In the past year the colporteur worked only for one month—seventeen days on one occasion, and fourteen days on another—but it is interesting to note that he sold 26 Chinese Testaments, and 4 Italian Bibles, and it shows the importance of having an agent of the Society on the look out for such opportunities among the motley population of that part of its field.

COLPORTEAGE.

The colportage of the Society has been much hindered during the year by the very heavy snow, by several attacks of illness suffered by three of the colporteurs, and by the resignation of another. Mr. Badger, who has for a number of years done two or three months excellent work for the Society each winter in Muskoka and the Parry Sound District, has been unable from ill-health to do anything in the past year.