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## Interdenominational Conference of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions in U. S. and Canada.



THE Fifth Interdenominational Conference of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions in U. S. and Canada was held in the Metropolitan Church, Toronto, on Feb. 25th and 26th, Mrs. J. B. Willmot, of the Methodist Board, Toronto, being in the chair.

Delegates were present from twenty American Boards (representing almost as many denominations), and six Canadian. Three sessions were held; the main theme of the first was "How to

Develop the Mission Spirit in the Home Church," by means (a) of United Study, (b) Missionary Literature, (c) Deputation and Devotional Work. The first paper was by Mrs. J. T. Gracey (Meth. Pitt.), of Rochester, on "United Study." As proof of the efficiency of this means she cited the following facts:

1. United Study is taking greater hold of the women than anything before.
2. Ten missionary magazines publish the outlines of the study.
3. Secular as well as religious papers praise it.
4. The *Via Christi* (the text book), sells like a popular novel.

The second paper on "Missionary Literature," was by Mrs. Williamson (Ch. of Eng.), Toronto. She emphasized the need of constant, up-to-date information, one of the best means of acquiring such, being Missionary Literature. It rested with the Boards to circulate such literature, so as to reach the largest number possible.

The third paper, by Mrs. McQuesten (Pres.), of Hamilton, dealt with "Deputation and Devotional Work." She dwelt on the danger of expecting and

exactng too much from returned missionaries, for speaking, etc., and depending too little on ourselves.

On Wednesday morning a very full and interesting "Report of Conference on Young People and Missions" (held Dec., 1901), was read by Miss F. M. Smith (Bap.), of New York. She said that the churches were awaking now to the fact, that the children should be interested in Missions. Early impressions were always lasting, and they would retain the interest, aroused in their youth, in maturer years. She also dealt with the difficulties of successfully conducting Mission Bands and young Peoples' Societies. Her report is to be printed for circulation.

A paper on "Work among the Lepers and the Blind, in its Relation to the General Work," was given by Mrs. C. A. R. Jaudier (Pres.). In the discussion that followed, the general feeling seemed to be that it would be a pity to have this a separate mission. All missionaries do some work among the lepers. It was also mentioned that though there was as yet no mission hospital in Central India for lepers, the funds were now almost collected for one, and it would soon be in operation.

The last subject for this session, "Higher Education for Girls," was presented by Miss Fensham, who has been for years at the head of the Congregational Girls' College in Constantinople. Her talk was extremely interesting. Girlhood, she said, was a product of civilization and education. There was none in heathen countries. The Eastern girl is not inferior to her more fortunate sisters in intellectual power, and in her college they do splendid work. The religious training is the greatest problem. It is necessary to do away with all forms and ceremonies, as much as possible. They have a thorough course of Bible study, and a Missionary Society which meets once a month. She answered the question, "Do they go back and sink when they leave the college?" by a strong negative. On the contrary, the strongest characteristic of the girls,