

sions under the care of other Boards than our own, always having a map of the country in sight of all, the leader drawing the map herself if she can procure one in no other way. Some who are not members of the church have given valuable assistance, and become themselves greatly interested in gaining and giving geographical information, and others are glad to learn and tell of the habits of the people; while always the work for Christ that has been accomplished, or that needs to be done, is made the centre of interest. Young ladies are brought into each meeting to assist in singing, and sometimes a sweet solo, a duet, or an inspiring chorus, enlivens the hour and a half that they spend together. New voices are often heard in prayer in those meetings, and all feel that the blessings they seek for others, come also to them.

As to general conduct of meetings, another writes:—

Many thanks are due for the establishing of the Question Box, thus giving some of us who occupy the back seats at our missionary meetings an opportunity of expressing our minds as we could never do by spoken word. Our meetings usually combine the social and devotional element together, with more or less "study of the work."

One good thing can be said of these meetings: they always begin on the hour and close on the hour, our leader evidently thinking punctuality to be a Christian duty. If we have not the right to waste our own time, we surely ought not to waste that of others. Another good thing, the exercises are interspersed with the frequent singing of one or more verses of some stirring hymn, sung with spirit. This keeps everybody awake and interested. The prayers, also, are not too long, but we are inclined to think they are often too few in number. But it is doubtless very difficult to find any one who is willing to lead in prayer; truly, we cannot.

The "study of the work" has, with us, been mainly by papers prepared upon the given mission. These, in our judgment, are apt to be too long. We think they should not exceed ten minutes in the reading. We often wish we could have more letters read from the missionaries. A few words from the lips of a real live missionary will interest a group of ladies more than the finest paper that can be produced upon the "Geography, Inhabitants and Religion," of any country, though these all have their place, and an important one, in the "study of the work."

You may think we are becoming very bold, but it is quite a relief to be able thus to speak out without having our voices heard. One thing we have long wished to suggest is, that those who read or speak do us the favor to sit or stand where they can be seen, and that they will speak loud enough to be heard. We sometimes think if ladies would lower the tone of voice rather than raise it, as is common, and increase the force of utterance, there would not be so much complaint of failure to hear.

This is the way it appears to us on the back seats.

Another says:—

The methods pursued by the different auxiliaries of our branch in the conduct of their missionary meetings, range from those which seem to be carried on entirely on the faith principle, taking no thought before, but trusting that it shall be given them in that hour what they shall say, and mourning that so few care to come—to those where the ladies, anxious to make the meeting interesting, so multiply maps and machinery that one sometimes wonders, if they forgot that we are told to *pray* to the Lord of the harvest for the prosperity of the work, the gatherings seem so much more for information than for prayer. I believe the most satisfactory meetings of which I know, are those which are simply but thoroughly planned beforehand.

In one of our auxiliaries the secretary, at the beginning of the year, asks as many ladies as there are meetings to be held to be responsible for one meeting, each lady selecting her own subject, and reporting to the secretary. This method requires but little labor from each one, gives variety to the meetings, and interests a large number of persons, for a lady often finds among her friends those who, though not regular attendants at the meeting, will help her on the afternoon when she has the care of the meeting, by short papers, readings, songs, or personal letters from missionary friends. It is quite surprising how many persons may be found, even in a small place, who have especial interest in, or knowledge of, some mission station. But I think we are far from the true idea of a missionary prayer-meeting when it can be said, as I heard a lady recently say, "As the only two ladies in the room who are willing to pray have already prayed, we must close the meeting without prayer."

Selections are made that great care should be taken in selecting the time and place for the meeting. Let the most convenient time be fixed upon, and then, if within the range of possibilities, let the time never be changed nor the meeting be postponed. If the impression goes abroad that it will not be held if the weather is unpropitious, if there are special attractions elsewhere, or any similar reason, the feeling of uncertainty often turns the scale, and no special effort is made to attend. In this connection we may mention the desirability that the meeting should begin and end promptly, as busy women who could plan for one hour, could not risk the contingency of occupying a whole afternoon. The closing of a meeting where there is a desire for more, will often increase the anxiety to go the next time.

A little care to have an attractive place for the meeting, also adds to the success of a meeting. A cozy parlor in a private house tends to draw people nearer together, bringing out the timid ones, and making the exercises less formal. When a larger place is needed, or it is best, for any other reason, to meet in the church parlor, a few additions to the ordinary furniture of the place sometimes do a great deal towards making the place attractive. A few flowers, some vines or green leaves on the lamps or gas-fixtures, a flowering plant, an appropriate photograph, decorations more or less elaborate from the country to be studied, some curiosities, even a bright-colored tablecloth, create a feeling of warmth, since they show that somebody loves the meetings well enough to make an effort for them. There are places "with bare floors, bare hard benches, and bare walls, with a limited amount of fire in a black, air-tight stove," that would chill any gathering.—*Life and Light*

Solemn Questions.

You are earnestly requested to think out the meaning of these words of God, and then to put to your heart, and make your heart answer, the solemn questions that follow:—

"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."—Mark xvi. 15.

For "the whole world lieth in wickedness."—I John v. 19.

"Having no hope, and without God in the world."—Eph. ii. 12.

"Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. How, then, shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they