

THE WOMAN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Woman's Missionary Society is unique in this respect, that it has its income all in hand before it spends a dollar. Indeed, during the last year it received in bank interest \$819. The General Society, on the other hand, has to pay out a very large sum in bank discounts in order to pay the claims of the missionaries. A large proportion of this could be saved if subscribers would only pay their money before Christmas, instead of many months later. What more appropriate Christmas offering could one make than to bring our gifts of gold, with the incense of frankincense and myrrh, the prayers of faith, to the feet of the world's Redeemer?

The past year has been the most successful in the history of the Woman's Missionary Society. Its total income from all sources was \$50,972.58; an increase on the previous year of \$8,410.30. Nearly \$4,000 of this increase was from the special Twentieth Century Fund offering. What a marvelous growth from the small beginnings of this Society only twenty years ago.

The W. M. S. has shared the benefits of the revival in Japan. Almost all the 255 Japanese scholars in the schools have expressed their strong purpose to become Christians, and 61 have been baptized. Over 7,000 missionary visits have been paid, and access has been obtained to 117 new homes.

Four faithful women agents of the Society are now in Chentu, Western China, taking up the work which they were so reluctantly compelled to resign during the Boxer rebellion. We note with special satisfaction that a deaconess has been appointed to work among the French population in Montreal. In that city there are hundreds of Sisters of Charity of the Roman Catholic Church, who devote their lives to teaching, nursing, ministering to the sick and poor. Methodism will now be represented by what we believe is a much better type of woman ministrant. We believe their work will be found so helpful that the number will be soon increased, and the Methodist deaconesses become a factor of much importance in aggressive work of our Church in that great commercial metropolis.

The address of Dr. Maud Killam touched all hearts. Speaking of the need of China, she said New York

has for its two and a half millions of population four thousand physicians, while for the same number of people in China there is only one. In no way can the hearts of the natives be reached with such a spell of power as by Christly ministering to their bodies, as well as to their souls, in their hours of sickness and sorrow.

While the Society exhibits marked progress, still it expresses regret that there are many thousands of women in Canadian Methodism who are yet unidentified with its beneficent work, and that there are so few candidates applying for work in the the foreign fields. The missionary zeal of any Church is no unmeet criterion of its religious prosperity. The practical methods for diffusing missionary information of the W. M. S., the prayerful spirit of its gatherings, the zeal in their grand commission of its members, is one of the most helpful signs for the future of Canadian Methodism. Again, as in the times of the Psalmist, it is true, "The Lord giveth the Word; the women that publish the tidings are a great host."

THE WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION.

The Provincial W. C. T. U. has also held its convention in the town of Stratford. It is carrying on its noble work of moulding opinion, maintaining the standard of civic righteousness and social reform, and watching with Argus eye the infringement of the law by an unscrupulous and aggressive liquor traffic. The story of the heroism of Mr. Leek and Miss Sproule, the agents of the Union, in visiting the six hundred lumber camps, employing probably 40,000 lumbermen, throughout New Ontario, and in promoting among them the interest of temperance and morality, stirs the souls of all who heard or read the report.

OUR COLLEGES.

Our colleges have again opened their halls to the great company of young people who are seeking better equipment for the battle of life. Never were these institutions so well fitted for their great work as they are to-day. The impulse received from the Twentieth Century Fund will long be felt.