

mas season from our Young Women. Several comfort boxes for Home Mission Pastors and also a number of parcels were sent to India and Bolivia.

While our financial report is discouraging, I feel sure this branch of our Convention will go forward during the coming year.

Respectfully submitted
Mrs. H. F. Veals, Secretary.

BETHLEHEM'S HOLY NIGHT

By Blanche Gertrude Robbins

(Exercise for six girls, wearing white gowns. Esther and Elizabeth are seated when Ruth enters, Elizabeth is studying the scripture and holding in her hands the scroll).

Ruth—"Greetings Cousin Esther, and art thou rested from the journey?"

Esther—"Yea, Cousin Ruth, I rejoice that my father did bring me with him to thy fair Bethlehem. The hospitality of thy father's inn and the glories of the wondrous night maketh me to marvel.

Ruth—"Strangers are thronging Bethlehem. My father's inn is crowded. We have but turned away two travellers, wearied and faint; but there was no room in the inn. Dost thou understand why the people of all the land shouldst return to Bethlehem this night?"

Esther—"Yea, my father has said that Caesar Augustus hath sent forth a decree, that all the world should be taxed every man in his own city. Thus each has come to the city of his forefathers. As we journeyed, one—Joseph of Nazareth and his espoused wife Mary also came hither. Mary had fainted by the wayside from weariness; but I did share with her the contents of my waterpot. Wherefore shouldst our people suffer such oppression?"

Ruth—"Of a surety, there shall be raised up a leader, who will deliver the people. What sayest thou, Elizabeth? Thou art well versed in the scripture."

Elizabeth—"Rememberest thou not the words of the prophet, 'And there shall come forth a root out of the stock of Jesse. And a branch out of his roots shall bear fruit; And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding; the spir-

it of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge, and the fear of the Lord. And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither decide after the hearing of his ears, but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and decide the equity for the meek of the earth; And he shall smite the oppressor with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked."

Esther—"When thinkest thou this Messiah cometh? We have waited long."

Elizabeth—"The Lord reigneth, he is clothed with majesty, the Lord is clothed with strength; Thy throne is established of old; thou art from everlasting. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth. He hath remembered his covenant forever, the word which he commanded to a thousand generations. Canst thou doubt then the fulfillment of the promise though the time of waiting be long?"

Enter Rebecca—"Maidens, greetings, hast thou not seen the wondrous light radiating the heavens? The shepherds David and Nahum and Jacob, were on the plains watching their flocks. They had fallen asleep from weariness when the glory of God shone around them, awakening and making them to fear. They watched Bethlehem gleam white in the radiance. Then an angel appeared saying, 'fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people; For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.'"

Ruth—"A Saviour, dost thou mean that the long looked for Messiah has indeed come?"

Rebecca—"Hearken ye to the song of the shepherds, watching their flocks—"

A male Quartette in another room sing the carol "While Shepherds watched their flocks by night."

"While Shepherds watched their flocks by night

All seated on the ground,
The angel of the Lord came down
And glory shone around.