

God has set us the best example of all. He set the solitary in "families." Has the Church really improved on this? We fear not. God established the interdependent relationship of parents and children, the old and the young; and the home where this relationship is the most sacredly maintained is the type of heaven. The "young people's meetings" compel "old people's meetings," with results familiar to all. How much better the plan of God! The family, old and young, the one the complement of the other. What is the Church doing for the family to-day? Certainly dividing it, though not intentionally so. "Where are your young folk to-night," we said, shaking hands with a father and mother at the close of prayer-meeting. "You know the young people's meeting was last night, and they can't take two nights for meeting from their studies." But when the "evangelist" comes round all other meetings are withdrawn, and parents and children turn out, the prayer-room is crowded, the voices of young and old ring in lively chorus, the hearts of all are stirred, faith is quickened, parents and children, pastor and people, all catch the inspiration of the warm, live meeting, and say, "It is good to be here! What a crowded meeting! What life! What spirit! What power!" etc. The family in the prayer-meeting; and just so we of the W.M.S. may at least pause and consider the advisability of adapting our meetings to win the interest, attendance and valuable aid of our young women with us in our Auxiliaries.

The meetings this month are the "annual meetings." The books close on the fifteenth, when all funds should be in the hands of the Treasurer. Every member should be familiar with the workings of the Society. Do not complain about the same people running everything, if you absolutely refuse to take a share of responsibility yourself, or if you help to elect the same people simply because you "don't like not to." Be ready to do work as unto God, in your Auxiliary. Business methods are imperative in an Auxiliary. The ballot for all elections is the correct mode. It may take more time, but we are there to do the business in the very best and most satisfactory way, not to save the time. The plan adopted by our Conferences and other deliberative bodies is in every sense satisfactory, and for the help of new officers we may state that the names on the ballot papers should be read aloud, and the interest and attention of every delegate centred thus on the business in hand. A meeting indulging in side chats while elections are going on reflects discredit on our management. The Branch Meeting is formed by delegates elected from our Auxiliaries. There is something to be said in favor of sending at least one delegate who has been there before. A Branch Meeting composed entirely of new delegates would be a mistake. Experience is very valuable in a delegate, and entire familiarity with work and methods is necessary. Auxiliaries may give expression to their desires for any improvement or their suggestions, in the form of resolutions or memorials, to be forwarded to their Branch Meetings. Consecrate your thought

to the work in hand, determined to do your best to make the work of the Society a true and genuine success. Above all, commit it in all its minutest details to His oversight and care, and let us invoke His presence and the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may be able to candidly face difficulties and patiently overcome them; to give to the work He has given us our best thought, remembering that we are instruments in His hand, to be used as He will.

A great responsibility rests upon us, of which the subject for the month is a plain reminder. We ask God to bless "our missionaries in the field and those offering for service." We, in this as in most other cases, have much to do with answering our own prayers. We ask God to bless our children every day; we also make ourselves perfectly familiar with all their surroundings and the conditions under which they live, and we provide and secure to them the very best we can for their mental, moral and physical welfare. Our responsibility is to make sure that their environment is that which will enable them the best to be useful and happy, and to develop their powers in the noblest directions. Our responsibility regarding our missionaries does not end when we have voted on their acceptance and their salaries. It extends to their lives in the homes we provide them. We cannot ignore the duty of making their surroundings such as will contribute to beautify and enrich the characters we present to the heathen minds as object lessons. The dear young women who go out from loving parents and comfortable, happy homes, where they are prized and treasured, going at the call of the Woman's Missionary Society, entail upon us a responsibility whose solemnity we should understand. Before God we assume a serious duty when we accept these young lives and detail them for our service. They are self-denying and consecrated to God, but there is great room to believe that oft-times their faith is sorely tried. Prayer and sympathy we do extend them, but sanctified common-sense applied to every case is a part of the duty of every member of the Society. A little "Golden Rule" is a magnificent remedy. What if these were our own in the far-off land, subject to strange trials, sickness betimes, and to various perplexities, cares and disappointments? How brave the women are! How patient, too, under the vicissitudes incident to their life! Let us honor them for their own sake, for their work's sake, for the Master's sake; but let us certainly see to it that by all we can do, their circumstances and all their environment are such as to conduce to their truest welfare.

Chat With the Editor.

VACATION is over. From seaside, mountain or park our friends and workers have come home ready, we trust, to enlist again for service. Another year looms up before us, with its duties, prospects and responsibilities. Can we not improve on the last? Are we thinking about the great work to which we have put our hand, or are we drifting