

address was delivered by Mrs. Ewart, of Toronto. She thought the convention appreciated the cordial reception met with in Hamilton. The society was free from debt and its receipts were constantly increasing. This was particularly gratifying considering the many other missionary societies which had to report a deficit this year. Encouraging reports had been received from nearly all the branch societies and bands included in the W.F.S. The President thought the interest in the society's work might be increased if the members stirred up their male relatives in regard to the work. Every effort should be made to create a more intellectual interest and greater liberality in missionary offerings. In conclusion Mrs. Ewart thought the delegates should be very thankful for the work achieved in all departments during the year.

#### BOARD OF MANAGEMENT.

The twenty-first annual report of the Board of Management was presented by Mrs. A. Playfair. The only change in the personnel of the Board was the result of the death of Mrs. Jennings, one of the Honorary Vice-Presidents. One of the important clauses in the report was as follows: The subject of the Training Home has occupied much time and thought, and has been very fully considered during the past year. With the hearty concurrence of the Foreign Mission Committee, it has been agreed that the establishing of such a Home has become a necessity in our work.

#### THE FOREIGN FIELD.

Mrs. M. Shortreed, Foreign Secretary, presented a lengthy report of the foreign work of the Society. It contained interesting summaries of the detailed reports prepared by those in charge of the various branches. Details were given of the work in Indore, Mhow, Neemuch, Ujjain and Dhar, in India, and Formosa and Honan, in China, and from Trinidad and the New Hebrides.

#### WORK AMONG THE INDIANS.

Mrs. O. M. Jeffrey, Secretary for Indian work in the Northwest and British Columbia, reported an advance in the work of nearly all the schools and reserves. During the past year 63 children in the Indian Schools have united with the Church. Continuing the report says: The work among the young is the most promising; it is very difficult to reach the hearts and consciences of the older men and women, as they are afraid to break away from old customs and traditions. Our missionaries speak of a decided improvement in their habits of industry.

At Mistawasis six members have been added to the church and four to the baptismal roll. The school register has 17 names and the average attendance was 8. Domestic science is evidently more than an experiment there, because the report states that "Both boys and girls have knit for themselves warm socks, stockings and mitts, and the girls excel in bread-making."

At Makoce Waste reserve the school has 14 pupils, as against 9 last year. Kindergarten exercises, as well as domestic science, are taught here. One girl took a prize for a quilt at Prince Albert Agricultural Fair, and one Indian woman took three prizes for bread, buns and jam.

Regina has 149 pupils at the school, which is supported entirely by the Indian Department. The girls take regular turns in the laundry, kitchen, dining room, sewing-room and general housework, and the boys are taught the different trades, also farming. During the past year forty pupils, working for farmers, earned \$1,700. The school paper, printed by the pupils, has a circulation of 1,000 copies. The school supports five native helpers in the Indian and Chinese mission field.

At Hurrican Hills there are 200 pagan Indians. The mission has a new \$2,000 building there, and the missionary reported that he had to give each attendant on Sunday services a cup of tea and hard tack as a counter attraction to a regular Sunday dance, which in this way was soon closed up.

The Crowstank School has 41 pupils, and Miss McIlwaine conducts a Junior C. E. Society there, which has 15 little Indian members.

Birtle School has 47 pupils registered, and the older girls can now prepare a comfortable dinner without any assistance.

Bird Tail reserve School has a branch of the Y.M.C.A., and 22 church members. At Portage la Prairie those in charge of the school have been unable to supply the demand for girls wanted out at service. Okanase, Pipestone Reserve, Fife Hills Reserve, Moose Mountains, Round and Crooked Lakes, Rolling River, Lakesend and Rossburn Reserves made encouraging reports. The three mission stations in British Columbia also reported progress.

During the year 33,740 pounds of strong, warm clothing, blankets, etc., were sent to the different reserves and schools in the Northwest.

#### SUMMARY OF HOME WORK.

The report presented by Mrs. M. H. Grant, Home Secretary, contained the following: The little band of 50 who formed the first

society has swelled to over 20,000. Fifteen Presbyterian Societies have increased their contributions, London again heading the list with an advance of over \$300. A summary of the home work is as follows: Presbyterian societies, 20; new auxiliaries, 24; new mission bands, 31; auxiliaries unreported or disbanded, 14; mission bands unreported or disbanded, 16; total number of auxiliaries, 612; total number of mission bands, 287; auxiliary membership, 12,678; mission band membership, 7,135; yearly members of General Society, 3,370; life members added during the year, 80; total number of life members since organization of society, 963; scattered helpers, 1,071, contributions, \$928.05; contributions from all sources, \$43,311.34.

#### THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Miss Isabella George, Treasurer of the Society, presented a report showing total receipts of \$43,809.01 and disbursements as follows: India, \$18,635.59; Honan, \$1,700; Formosa, \$835; British Columbia, \$4,818.70; Northwest, \$15,258.55; New Hebrides and Trinidad, \$1,200; interest, \$200; total expenditure, \$42,647.84; April 1st, 1897, balance in hand, \$28,028.66. Total, \$70,676.50.

The Hamilton Presbyterian Society raised \$3,098.10, as follows: Auxiliaries, 2,294.30; mission bands, \$728.30; interest, 75.50.

#### OTHER REPORTS.

Miss Joan F. Caven, Secretary of the International Conference, reported. Mrs. Agnes Craig and Mrs. Agnes Telfer reported for the Leaflet, the official organ of the Society. It has 14,800 subscribers, as against 14,305 last year. The receipts were \$2,174.92 and the balance to the credit of the publication account was \$387.37. All the reports were adopted.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS.

Mrs. Shortreed read letters of greeting from Women's Mission Boards at New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Chicago, Oregon, Queensland, Australia, and Methodist and Anglican Mission Boards.

All the reports were adopted.

Brief addresses of welcome were delivered by Mrs. Lloyd, representing the Baptist Mission Society; Mrs. Bellhouse, the McCall Mission; Mrs. Shortreed, the Toronto Jewish Mission; Mrs. W. H. Watson, Congregational Church Mission Societies.

#### A TRAINING HOME.

The question of establishing a training home was discussed, and on motion of Mrs. Alexander and Mrs. Gardiner the matter was left in the hands of the Board of Management to mature.

Among the questions which the Board of Management suggests should be put to would be missionaries are the following: Have you any near prospect of being married? Are you or your friends willing to pay \$3 weekly in advance for your board in the Home? The Board asks an appropriation of \$500 for the first year's maintenance of the Home.

Mrs. Campbell's amendment to the rules in regard to a month's notice being given before new business can be brought up at the annual meeting was carried.

Rev. Dr. Buchanan, a returned Indian missionary, addressed the convention on the work in India, and he made an appeal for assistance toward raising \$5,000 for the establishment of a mission among the Bheels in India. His address was interesting, and he had the sympathy of the ladies in the cause.

The question of the delegates sitting for a group photograph came up, and it caused an interesting discussion. A number of the delegates seemed opposed to it, evidently thinking such a proceeding would be rather too worldly, but a Guelph delegate settled the question in favor of the photograph being taken by stating that it would be nice to have a photograph of their aged President, Mrs. Ewart, who had been at the head of the Society for sixteen years.

Mrs. Ewart was timid about getting the photograph, for fear her picture would get into the papers, but she finally agreed to it.

In deference to Mrs. Ewart's wish the readers of the "Review" will have to forego the pleasure of having her portrait appear in connection with this report.

In the evening the ladies of Knox church entertained the delegates to tea, about 600 ladies partaking of the hospitality. B. Edwards was the caterer.

#### PUBLIC EVENING GATHERING.

The public meeting in Knox church was very largely attended the church being crowded. Rev. Dr. Fletcher opened the proceedings with prayer, after which Rev. Dr. Fraser welcomed the delegates, and introduced the chairman of the meeting, Hamilton Cassels of Toronto, Convener of the General Assembly's Foreign Mission Committee.

The speakers of the evening were Rev. Dr. Warden, Toronto, Treasurer of the Funds of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and Rev. Murdock McKenzie, a missionary from Honan, China. Rev. Dr. Buchanan and Rev. J. G. Shoarer were also on the platform.