

Canadian Missionary Link.

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ASSOCIATIONS—THE WHY AND WHEREFORE.

Several notices of Associations appear in this number, and this reminds us that the months of May and June in Ontario, June and July in the West, are the busy months in our churches. The Women's Meetings in connection with these denominational gatherings have not always been. It is comparatively only a few years since the idea of Women's Conferences was born. The good resulting from these, the inspiration given to wearied workers and imparted to new ones, the new organizations formed, the better methods adopted, the greater amount of money raised, all of these surely abundantly justify the carrying out of this idea, and the vast majority of the real workers in our Circles would feel that the abandonment of these annual gatherings would be a great loss.

There is always an inspiration in numbers. We are all of necessity, centering our activities and our thought in one church, occasionally large, usually small. It is worth a great deal for us to come once a year where there is a host of people, all striving to accomplish the same purpose. One feels like repeating at an Associational Meeting, "The Lord giveth the Word; the women that publish it, are a great host."

Besides this inspirational value, however, these meetings have another value. The programmes are prepared and carried out with a view of giving the greatest help to the greatest number. There is a much greater chance here of finding a way out of an individual Circle's difficulties than if the representatives of that Church stay at home and worry over it alone.

Then too, there is another thing to be considered. Many will know, in their own minds, that the reason they do not attend these gatherings, is not because they cannot go, but because they do not want to go. It will be admitted without argument, that there is something wrong in the latter case.

We ought to want to hear about the progress of the Kingdom; we ought to enjoy the fellowship of those who are travelling the same road as we are; we ought to want new light, which others can give, and to give out of our light to others, when they need it. If these things are not with us as they should be, let us find a remedy. And the very best remedy we can suggest, is to pack our suit cases and betake ourselves to our own Associational meeting. May there be great numbers, from all over our country, go up to "remember all the way the Lord our God has led us," and "in the name of our God to set forward our banners."

Missionary News.

Dr. Karl Kumm, who visited Ontario, some time ago, in the interests of a Mission to the Sudan, has just completed a journey through that country, a feat never accomplished by a white man before. Not one of the tribes with which he met, had even heard of Christ. Dr. Kumm has started his work there, and hopes for a great harvest.

A recent Japanese writer has been putting forward some new ideas as to how Christianity may be growing in Japan. He says: "The Western idea, that a religion must show itself in an organized form, before it can be recognized as a religion at all, is alien to the Japanese mind. With us, religion is more a family affair than national or social, as shown by the strong hold Confucianism has had on us without showing itself in any organized societies or movements. I am confident that Christianity is now slowly but steadily, taking the place of Confucianism, as the family religion of the Japanese. And as a family religion, it has no use for