

2nd. They should remit on purchase account as often as convenient,*but at least once a year.

3rd. They should remit on purchase account *only* the proceeds of sales, together with a sufficient sum taken from subscriptions to cover the cost of any grants the Branch may have made in the neighbourhood, such as Scriptures given gratuitously to very poor persons, or given at reduced prices to hotels for the use of their guests.

4th. After deducting the local expenses, including the grants above named, they should remit all the money raised by subscriptions and collections as free contributions towards the great work of the Society.

We are not aware of any rules in existence on these matters, and believe that, within certain limits, each Branch is free to apply the money intrusted to it in whatever way most commends itself to the judgment of its Committee, and so to its own purchase account, if that seems best. But we are endeavouring to show the advantages of the other method, which, we are glad to say, is adopted by most of the Branches.

Where the above suggestions are followed, we believe the Board will be quite ready to wait for payments on purchase account until the Bibles are sold; trusting, of course, to the judgment of the Committees not to keep unnecessarily large stocks, unsaleable kinds of Bibles being at any time taken back if in good condition.

In this way a Branch is always, both practically and morally, although not legally free from debt, for its debt to the Parent Society is always represented by the stock in its own Depository; whereas, under the system of which we have been speaking, a Branch, although apparently and legally free, is morally indebted to a degree which sometimes is little realized.

Another practice, or rather occasional irregularity, is for a Treasurer to retain a considerable sum of money for a lengthened period of time, perhaps even from one Society year into another, under the impression that he is acting for the best interests of the Branch.

There are several reasons why this is exceedingly undesirable; but we will only ask, is it not a principle that commends itself to every one:—that money given for a certain purpose should be applied to that purpose as directly and as soon as practicable?

A circular letter might have been addressed to the few Branches concerned, but it is thought that these few lines in the RECORDER may perhaps prevent other Branches from adopting, now or in the future, the method referred to. Besides this, we shall be glad to receive, from any friends of the Society, suggestions upon these or other interests of the cause, which we shall take care to submit to the Board of Directors, where they will, we are sure, be thoughtfully considered.