

Young People's Department.

MISSION BAND REPORT, 1913.

A wise man has said: "The first requisite in the steersman of a state, as of a ship, is a knowledge of its goal. No helmsman, however skilled or experienced, would be trusted to guide a vessel unless he knew and could specify in what direction it should go." Organizations at once imply leaders, followers, aims and purposes. Leaders, whether experienced or inexperienced, must, at least, be headed in a certain direction. The Mission Band has a definite goal. Why was it organized? What is its purpose? The first essential is that the boys and girls may learn to know Jesus Christ for themselves, then that there may be developed from these ranks workers who may be depended upon in our churches for years to come. The Bible is a missionary book. The Band gives thorough instruction in the Bible precepts concerning going, giving and praying, and helps the members to put these principles into practice. Definite knowledge is imparted about our Home and Foreign Fields. The members must know why we work for missions, where our monies go, and what is being accomplished. For so great an object, the leader herself needs to be a praying Christian, and an enthusiastic believer in missions. If to these qualifications there be added a love for children, a teaching ability, a power to set others to work, she will, indeed, be able to steer her ship successfully. The inexperienced, but willing, leader finds that, as she labours in this department, her ability increases, and her Lord supplies out of His own great storehouses sufficient grace for the day, and sufficient strength to supplant her own weakness. It is a cause for rejoicing that so many women unsparingly and willingly devote themselves to this work for the Lord. The world does not know the names of

these workers; the Convention Boards cannot know all the names. We are hidden, "you in your small corner, and I in mine." Yet it is the hidden, natural forces, such as electricity and gravity, and so many forces of chemical energy, that are, after all, the most powerful and effective. See Phil. 4: 3, Paul writes, "Help those women who laboured with me in the Gospel and others, my fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of life." Their names are unknown to earth, but they served their own age, and God knew them, and gave lasting reward.

"But what avails the gift of empty fame?
They lived to God.
They loved the sweetness of another name,
'And gladly trod
The rugged ways of earth, that they might be
Helper, or friend,
And in the joy of this, their ministry,
Be spent, and spend,
... glory clusters round their names on earth.
But in God' heaven
Is kept a book of names of greatest worth,
And there is given
A place for all who did the Master please,
Although unknown,
And there lost names shine forth in
brightest rays,
Before the Throne."

It is because so many have been quietly, faithfully working, it is because so many thousands of units have been dropped into the Band treasury that we can to-day present the financial report that is so full of encouragement. For Foreign Missions, there has been given the sum of \$1,686.46; 132 Bands contributed. The contrast with last year is this, a loss of four Bands as contributors, and a loss in funds of \$50.46. Three were made life members—Mary