

Canadian Missionary Link.

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The Society's Constitution.

One of the characteristics of an ideal Society is that every member of it shall understand thoroughly its object, its plan of work, and something at least of its record, and in joining, shall intelligently give himself to the furtherance of the object, and take upon himself the responsibilities as well as the privileges of membership.

That this state of things is not always to be found among those of us who have joined the Women's Baptist Foreign Mission Society of Ontario West, is sadly evident at times. Perhaps it is, generally speaking, true that the greater number of those who join are willing to bear the responsibilities, at least in some measure, but it is far from true that the greater number instruct themselves accurately as to the object of the Society, as to its plan of work, and least of all perhaps as to its record,—a record for which its members may well be grateful. We submit that the more this is done by individuals, the more circles see to it that the members joining them have an opportunity to do it, and the more the Society itself is able to spread abroad definite knowledge of its workings, the sooner will the interest in the great task of spreading the Gospel cease to be hazy, indefinite, inadequate and spasmodic, and the sooner will there be a sufficient and steady supply of the "sinews of war."

Now, the most trustworthy and authoritative statement, in a condensed form, of the object and plan of work in any Society is to be found in its Constitution. This is true in our Foreign

Mission Society as in others. And so we plead for a larger use of these small sheets which are supplied on request, and for time to be given to thoroughly understand and appreciate them.

It may help Circles and individuals in following this out to have certain points emphasized and commented on,—points on which mistakes sometimes arise,—which we shall proceed to do.

1. What constitutes membership in the Foreign Missionary Society of Ontario West? Article 3 says, "Any woman may become a member of this Society by contributing \$1 a year to its funds." Anyone who does that then is a member.

When the Society was organized years ago, it was emphasized that the payment of that small sum from a large body of women would accomplish marvellous things, and it has accomplished marvellous things. But it goes without saying that the work we are now doing in India is not done by the uniform payment of that sum. A very large number of our women have left that goal far behind them and are giving the tens and the hundreds each year. But, unfortunately, there are still multitudes of the women who could, in many cases, easily double, treble and multiply by ten that amount who never even think of doing so,—why should they? Does not the Constitution say \$1 a year? It does put that sum as the minimum amount for membership, but surely, surely a moment's thought will convince anyone that our responsibility