

*Helps for Leaders.*

THE USE OF MISSIONARY LITERATURE, BY MISS HELEN S. LATH

Leaders may find one of the greatest helps for the inspiration and guidance of societies they seek to influence in the use of literature. Current publications in book or magazine form are a source of riches open before us. Libraries offer mines of knowledge to all who will delve therein.

Many a girl who does not join a mission circle because she believes it must be dull and uninteresting, might be attracted by the very name of a book club. We have reading circles whose purpose it is to keep in touch with the fiction of the day, travel clubs for studying the art, geography, history of new lands; current events clubs, to acquaint us with that which is being done and said and thought. Why not have a mission reading club? Have missions no geography, history, current events which concern us, no literature to interest and instruct? Read the catalogue of a publishing firm like Fleming-Rice Co., and see the material with which one house furnishes. Look at the monthly and weekly publications of our mission societies alone, and find out how many young people are reading them. Is not the cry constant in our ears, "We did not know these things?" One cannot be interested in that of which he is ignorant. Read and gain the knowledge which is power.

All societies have their secretaries. If writing gives them power, might not reading give growth? Would not a reader do as much for a missionary society as a writer? Such an officer would keep in touch with the missionary literature of the day, be ready to suggest books and magazine articles to the members, and bring the supply within their reach, would be an invaluable aid to the society.

Leaders, persuade your young people to read, and to give extracts or reviews of what they read, that every one hearing them shall wish to be the next to take the book.

Obtain the books by some means. Send to the Women's Board Library for them. Borrow them if you must, own them if you can. A library is a link to bind your society together. Do not let it rust for want of use. Read your books until they are worn out with honorable service. Study the scene of the story until it becomes a living matter to you, and you can make it real to others.

A society novel interests us, perhaps, because of our knowledge of its ground, our understanding of the possibilities of plot and character. How much familiarity with locality and history adds to the intelligent enjoyment of book of travel, biography or romance. Are missionary books dull to us because