

A Model President.

Paper read at Eastern Branch Meeting by Mrs. C. B. Bigelow, and published by request of the Branch.

IT has been stated that a W. M. S. has never been known to fail if it contained even one consecrated woman. Whether this be strictly true or not, the assertion contains food for reflection. We all agree that to attain the highest measure of success, the president of an Auxiliary of the W. M. S. should be a woman devoted to God and the cause of missions with such intense devotion as will compel unceasing effort in the Master's service and inspire a burning zeal for the coming of His kingdom in the world. She must be active, earnest and decided, with a strong, tenacious, abiding grasp by faith upon the great eternal, such a hold that no discouragement, no difficulty, not even the devil himself, can disturb.

She must believe that the truths taught in the Bible are wholly, awfully, grandly, gloriously true, and with an earnestness born of strong conviction, she must teach by her whole demeanor that she knows that "God hath made of one blood all nations of men," and that obedience to the Golden Rule and to Christ's last commission is incumbent upon her and every other woman in the Church to which she belongs, and that all alike imperil their salvation if through ignorance or indifference they disobey.

This spirit should so permeate and control her daily life that those with whom she mingles must catch the inspiration of her faith and its fruits, and be constrained to believe as she believes, feel as she feels, and go and do likewise.

She should, in so far as she has opportunity, read up the missionary literature of the day so as to keep abreast of this great movement in the Christian Church. Especially should she know just what her own Church is doing at home and abroad and the agencies employed by it, and be ready to give information whenever and wherever needed, that both her own zeal and that of her fellow-workers may be "according to knowledge." She must preside at the meetings of her Auxiliary, and if by any providence she is prevented from doing so, she should see that her vice-president is duly notified and equipped to take her place.

In order to preside acceptably and efficiently, she must be conversant with the constitution and by-laws by which the W. M. S. is governed. Her ruling must always accord with their regulations. Besides this, she should endeavor to conduct the business part of her meeting according to parliamentary procedure.

The Literature Committee have issued a pamphlet, entitled "Rules of Order," designed and adapted to supply needed help in this direction. It is a comfort to feel that what we do not know we can learn.

The President of the Auxiliary should study the annual report as it comes out, carefully noting the progress of events, the changes made from time to time, the new missionaries as they enter the work and their fields of labor, with any and every item of information that can be useful in her own little corner of the vineyard.

She should know the names of those who officer the branch of which her Society is a part, also of the officers of the General Board, and introduce those leading personalities; that is, make their names and work familiar to her workers. This will strengthen the tie that binds kindred spirits engaged in a kindred work. She should recommend and do her utmost to introduce the OUTLOOK into every home where she may have an influence.

She should be of a cheerful, hopeful, persevering spirit, ready to condone mistakes unwittingly made, but firm on all questions where a principle of right action is involved.

She should always manifest kindly consideration for the feelings of others, and be willing to modify her own plans or yield her own points when it can be done without detriment to the work in hand.

She should know all about, and if possible keep on hand a supply of the missionary ammunition procurable at the Mission Rooms in the form of leaflets. In this way she can fortify herself, and place in the hands of others facts, arguments and illustrations to meet every emergency as it occurs.

She should acquaint herself with the contents of the *Monthly Letter* as soon as it appears, watching for and

ready to seize upon any new suggestion it may bring. Seems to me that every Auxiliary president must feel like thanking God for, and calling down blessings upon, whoever originated the idea of that programme for Auxiliary meetings printed in the *Letter* a month ahead, for an enterprise or a meeting well planned is half done.

The wise, wide-awake president who bears her work on her heart before God and the people with the guidance of that programme, can, during the month, out of her own prayerful thought, the Holy Scriptures, and the intelligence of her members, evolve material for a missionary meeting so profitable, intellectually and spiritually, that no one who can possibly be present will allow herself to stay away.

As the president has the supervision of the whole work, it must be understood that the kindly, watchful, controlling power of her love, intelligence and tact will pulsate through every part of the Circle and Band work, as well as the Auxiliary, while she realizes that her responsibility towards all these is commensurate with the power her position confers upon her.

She should see that the missionary prayer-meeting is conducted in the interest of missions, either by herself or somebody else with the sanction of the pastor. She must not allow the subject of prayer for the month to be forgotten, nor the Scripture readings to be neglected.

As much of the success of any undertaking depends upon its systematic management, she must cultivate the ability to organize, plan and execute her plans.

Of course, all this means thought, and prayer and work, but over against it all our God hath written, and we believe His every promise true, "In due season ye shall reap if ye faint not."

In Memoriam.

SIDNEY.—Only a few months since our Auxiliary was called to part with two highly valued members, Mrs. W. R. Vandervoort and Mrs. H. Hubble, who were called to be "forever with the Lord." Now we mourn the loss of another of our number, Mrs. P. C. Ketcheson, who, on January 9th, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus. Although on account of failing health, she had not enjoyed the privilege of attending our monthly meeting, she was every ready to aid with her substance and prayers. We greatly miss our dear sisters, but the fragrance of their godly lives still lingers and is an incentive to renewed zeal in the Master's work.

MRS. S. E. LANE, *Cor. Sec.*

SHEFFIELD.—On July 3rd of last summer we lost one of our members, Miss Minnie F. Taylor, by death. At one time she was the Corresponding Secretary of our Auxiliary and always loved the work. Hers was a lingering illness, but she never murmured. When dying she left us \$8.00. We cannot help missing her; but we know that our loss is her gain.

C. L. B., *Cor. Sec.*

SCHOMBERG.—It is with feelings of the deepest regret we have to record the death of our dear sister, and much esteemed President, Mrs. W. D. Walker. She had been President of our Auxiliary for about six years; she was also a life-member, and was always in her place, unless detained through sickness, which has often deprived her of meeting with us in the last year. She was one of the most devoted Christian women you could meet, very humble, and seemed so unconscious of her own Christian excellence. With her it was always "All of thee and none of self." She was most devoted to the missionary cause, was always planning ways and means of increasing the spirit among our members. To meet her was really inspiring. How we will miss her in our meetings. We feel like sheep without a shepherd, yet we realize that our loss is her infinite gain. On whom will her mantle fall? We hope it will not leave us, but that a portion of it may rest on each one of us, that we may be enabled to carry on the work she loved so well. Her whole life was consecrated to the cause of Christ. I wish I could more fully express her worth, but words fail to give it. I am certain many of the ladies who have met with her at the Branch meetings, will regret deeply the loss we have sustained. To those who have suffered a greater bereavement than we, in