

This being the case, we are not satisfied, the meeting is incomplete without our young sisters, and we feel that they are losing that which might yield them profit and enjoyment. Our strongest impressions are formed when young, and if our young sisters cultivate an intelligent interest in missions now, may we not expect greater things as they increase in years? A physician generally inquires about the disease before prescribing a remedy, and I feel inclined to ask *Why* do they not come? before suggesting how they may be induced to come.

Possibly upon looking into the matter we may find that it is the older sisters themselves who are the most to blame. Have we who deplore this state of things tried faithfully to correct these erroneous impressions, instead of weakly lamenting that they exist? Have we talked often with those whose bright, eager faces we long to see at our meetings, and told them how greatly they are needed there? Have we told them how much it would encourage the older sisters to feel that they might always count upon their interest, sympathy and help? Have we represented to them that though money is much needed to carry on missionary work, *prayer* is needed *more*.

Some perhaps have felt that unless they become members, and for various reasons they are not prepared to join the Society, they will not be welcome at the usual meetings. Have we made it plain to them that though we would be glad to have their names on our list of members, we above all desire them to *come*, and they are at liberty to join or not as they feel inclined? If they plead as an excuse that they are afraid they may be called upon to pray aloud, and they feel too timid for that; do we say kindly "never mind that, if you do not dare to use your *voice* in prayer for the heathen, *come* and lift up your heart while others pray aloud, perhaps courage will grow by-and-by." Many tell us of engagements or duties which must be performed at this hour; have we gently reminded them that *one* hour a month is not much to spare to this great cause, when so *many* hours are occupied with their own pursuits or pleasures. Above all, are our own hearts so alive to the claims of missions that we tell them in glowing words what a glorious *privilege* it is to be "workers together with God," in carrying or sowing the blest Gospel to the millions who are perishing; for lack of it? The young are active and enthusiastic, it would not be pleasant for them to come to the meeting and sit quietly listening while the older sisters transact business, read, pray or talk about missions. Have we begged them to come and help, so that through them the treadmill style of meeting may be broken up, and new life and vigor take the place of old monotony?

Such are a few of the questions which come home to my own heart; with shame I confess my slackness and half-heartedness. If we older sisters plead guilty and admit that we have not done our duty, we cannot blame those who naturally look to us for encouragement and guidance. Yet let us not waste time in grieving; that we have "left undone the things we ought to have done," but looking to our Master for help, resolve to "strengthen the things which remain." One hesitates to attempt great changes lest they prove to be worse than the old ways. Sometimes the best reformation comes about through improving what already exists. Let us not be deterred from making the attempt because of apparent difficulties, or feel discouraged should we encounter them. Prayer, patience and perseverance are powerful weapons, shall we not agree to use them? "Yes." You are perhaps thinking this is all true, we have long known all you have told us, but what we want to know is, "How can we in-

terest the younger sisters in the cause of missions, and how can we induce them to attend the meetings of the W. A. Society?"

I have been turning this important question over and over in my brain, and longing that such new light might flash upon it as would reveal to me some grand scheme, which would easily solve the oft discussed problem; but alas! no such revelation has come to me, and I can only suggest that on our part we try to faithfully perform those duties in regard to our younger sisters, which we acknowledge to have been imperfectly attended to. Perhaps those simple measures within the reach of each one are all that are required to induce the younger sisters to attend these meetings. Do we pledge ourselves to try them? Then if we succeed in inducing them to come, both questions are answered at once. If they come they will become interested, and if interested they will come.

In our own church there are at least twenty-five young ladies, only two or three of whom are ever seen at the meeting. How good it would be if they would form themselves into a band of willing helpers to the Missionary Aid Society, each member of the band pledging herself to attend the meeting unless unavoidably hindered, and each willing by taking her turn in providing something for the meeting. A leader and two assistants might be chosen from among themselves, whose duty it should be to select what appeared suitable for their part of the coming meeting, and their selections shown to the President of the Aid Society for her approval or suggestion, so the same line of thought may be pursued throughout the meeting, and its exercises be harmonious.

An almost endless variety of entertainment might be arranged at the discretion of the leaders. For example, several young ladies might each keep themselves posted in all of new interest in various mission fields, and thus be ready to bring their own particular mission before the meeting when called upon. Papers read on the lives of missionaries and the many phases of their work. Discussions, wherein two young ladies might give us their views of the same subject from different standpoints. Recitations of touching and appropriate poems. Readings, geographical exercises, describing the various countries where missions are established, and last but not least, sweet music to cheer and enliven all.

These are only a few suggestions as to ways wherein our young sisters can become a power in the Aid meetings. The work divided among so many will not be burdensome to any. If the leaders are faithful I believe the rest will follow as they are directed. If they resolve to adopt some such plan as I have hinted at, they will soon come to the meeting from the love of it. They will feel that the meeting cannot get along without them, and they cannot get along without the meeting. Not only will their own interest be aroused, and they be constantly gaining, a more intelligent idea of missions and missionary work, not only will those who have so long and faithfully attended the meetings be cheered and stimulated to greater effort, but many members who have carelessly excused themselves from attending the meeting will feel ashamed to be absent when the younger sisters set them such a good example. I trust the happy day is not far distant, when *all* the sisters of our churches will unite in making the W. A. Meeting a greater power than it has yet proved. If we realized what the love of Christ is to ourselves, who believe we have been redeemed by His precious blood, we would let nothing stand in the way of our carrying or helping to send the blessed news to those who sit in great darkness. We would feel so grateful for His wonderful loving kindness to us that we would not stop to consider