

TORONTO T. S. ANNUAL MEETING.

On Wednesday evening, 27th February, the Fourth Annual Meeting of The Toronto Theosophical Society was held in the Hall, 365 Spadina avenue, all the resident members but two being present. The president, Mr. S. L. Beckett, presided, and the usual reports were presented and adopted. The Treasurer reported a small balance to the credit of both General and Library Funds. Nearly \$600 had been expended in the direct work of the Society. Two hundred and thirteen meetings had been held during the year, and the average attendance was increasing. Although it is not the custom to invite members to join the society there has been an increase of 50 per cent. since last annual report. The officers of the society were re-elected as follows:—S. L. Beckett, president; John Randall, vice president; A. E. S. Smythe, corresponding secretary; R. E. Port, treasurer and recording secretary; W. Jones, librarian. E. W. Hermon and D. J. Howell were added to the board of trustees, and A. E. S. Smythe, F. E. Titus and R. E. Port were elected delegates to the annual convention at Boston in April, in addition to the president, who officially represents the Branch.

The following extracts from the president and secretary's report may be of interest:

The work of the year as indicated by the recording secretary and treasurer has been of a satisfactory and progressive nature. There is one feature about our membership which calls for attention, in the fact of four of these being non resident. Something might be done to vitalize the tie that binds these absent and distant friends to our body corporate, and perhaps to assist them in developing active centres of energy in their present abodes. As regards ourselves we should feel the responsibility devolving upon us as the premier Theosophical Society in Canada and endeavor to realize that the Dominion is particularly our bar-est field in a farm which covers the world. Toronto is a natural centre for Ontario and Ontario for Canada, so that the more we can extend the knowledge of the principles we have in trust the more widely we can help the good law of Brotherhood. It is true that objective work may not be largely possible, but let us remember the dynamic power of

thought, and that "our strong desire will strike like Vulcan upon some other hearts in the world, and suddenly we will find that done which we had longed to be the doer of." Recent efforts in Hamilton, where Mr. F. E. Titus addressed a good meeting in the Unitarian church, afterwards followed up by a paper from a resident theosophist and discussion, and a meeting held in Ottawa and addressed by your Corresponding Secretary, which was well reported in one of the papers, leading to subsequent correspondence, demonstrate the undoubted possibilities that lie before us.

The visit of Mr. Claude Falls Wright last August afforded evidence of the sustained interest capable of being elicited in a large number of Toronto citizens by a clear presentment of theosophic thought. Night after night for nearly three weeks the meetings were well attended, and, though many spoke of over pressure and reaction, nothing but good results can be attributed to that earnest effort. We have the assurance of the General Secretary that he has Toronto noted as one of the places that he intends to visit, and we should not lose sight of the necessity of taking the greatest possible advantage of an opportunity which may well crown our endeavors here with the inauguration of a new and fuller and more public era of theosophic work.

For the two remaining years of the cycle publicity appears to be the most fruitful means of growth. As in the parable of him who made a feast and invited many who neglected to attend and who sent out the invitation afterwards to those of the highways and hedges, it may be gathered that those apparently most capable of appreciating theosophy permit other cares to occupy them while in less likely quarters grateful attention is paid to the message. Publicity is nowhere so well attainable as through the newspaper press. In Toronto we cannot complain of the space afforded to theosophical communications. The natural intolerance of a sectarian community is less strongly reflected in the local press than might be anticipated. There has been, however, no regular means of appealing to the public through these media, and the independent effort made by the Branch in establishing THE LAMP is intended to supply this want. In "The Path" for January, 1891, every Branch is directly advised of work that