

The soft, subdued fire-light glow will be our only light, contributing as it does to the freer interchange of thought; it is so much easier to be confidential now than in the broad light of day, or in the bright glare of gas or electricity. We almost fancy that the quiver in our voices as we speak of our discouragements, our *seeming* want of success in our work, is less discernible.

We note the face of that president who has written us such kindly words of "our chats," and who has been bearing almost the entire burden of her Auxiliary alone and unaided, save for the presence of Him who said, "Lo, I am with you always." Thrice gladly we bid her welcome. We need her mature experience and the wisdom born of it. Over yonder is a recording-secretary of two years' standing. We do want to hear from her to-night, for we well remember of her telling us that upon her appointment the burden of responsibility pressed so heavily that she could not do other on her return home from the meeting than, womanlike, have a good cry over the whole thing, then roll the responsibility and the lack of knowledge of the work upon the great Promise-keeper, who has said, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." We know her secretary's barque has found clear sailing long ere this, but we will let her tell her own story. "Not much to tell," did we hear her say. Yet there is such an undertone of gladness in that commonplace reply that we may be pardoned if we press the matter a little further. We have our reward, for now, in subdued tones, the story comes. "You see," she commenced, "when I was appointed secretary I had not been a member of our Auxiliary sufficiently long to get thoroughly interested in the work, indeed, I feel as if I ought to confess to you to-night I had very little sympathy with it; our own heavy church debt, the parsonage so needing repairing and enlarging, I thought quite enough work for our church women to undertake. At that time I joined the Auxiliary with no higher motive than merely to oblige a friend. Then came the appointment. My first thoughts were rebellious ones. I simply would not undertake such uncongenial work. These were quickly followed by such a feeling of 'woe is me if I accept not this work,' that I dared not do other than give an affirmative answer. My first qualification for the office I obtained the evening of the meeting"—and here the voice sank a note lower, and the silver tones held a most perceptible quiver—"you see, I felt so utterly unworthy that I did not dare assume the responsibility myself, and that first evening was spent in the quietude of my room, dedicating to His service what then seemed to be a purely selfish life. That night He promised to be strength in my weakness, wisdom in my foolishness, and to undertake for me what I could not do of myself, and I have proven that He is a covenant-keeping God. Every step of the way has been prayed over, every duty undertaken in His name, and the work has not been the failure I

thought it would that first night, and I love it—that is all the story."

Dear recording secretaries, sighing over your non-success, your discouragements, that at times seem to assume mountain shapes. Were you careful to obtain this first and most essential qualification for your official position? If not, then need you wonder that the burden at times pressed heavily. After having done so, do not neglect one of the many "little things" that may seem to be incumbent upon you as recording secretary. Be most painstaking and concise in the preparation of your minutes; make them as bright and entertaining as possible; record the encouraging features, and give them to others in an animated, expressive voice. Have you listened to minutes droned out in the same monotonous tone? It does not form exactly—well—a pleasant pastime, does it? In one sense let them be filled with your own personality, while, in another sense, let self be studiously kept in the background; at all events, let them be thought-over, prayed-over minutes. You should be your president's right-hand supporter. To carry this out successfully you must thoroughly familiarize yourself with every detail of the business as it arises, and in the case of conflicting resolutions or unfinished business, consider it your duty to call the attention of the president to it.

What about your notices? Are they written so attractively that the members, as well as those who are not, are almost compelled to attend the meetings? Are you always punctual in your attendance, not only at the regular meetings, but when your Executive meet? Never let your place be vacant if it can possibly be avoided. But there—we must not say another word. Already we have overstepped our boundary limit. Good-night.

WE wonder why we are not hearing more frequently from our District Organizers? Did you not know the OUTLOOK has a corner in waiting for any information you may be pleased to give? Mrs. Scatcherd, Organizer on the Ridgetown District, wrote us last month of an Auxiliary which she had formed at Ridgetown. We were delighted to hear of it, more particularly as a few years ago an Auxiliary had existed in this place, but to whose memory, a year or so later, was erected a headstone bearing but the one word—which told its own sad story—"Disbanded." Out of the ashes of this former one has arisen a new, vigorous branch, for which we confidently predict a long prosperous life. Its inaugural meeting was most favorable, eighteen ladies handing in their names as members. Mrs. Scatcherd accords much of the success of the undertaking to the earnest championship of our W. M. S. work by the resident pastor, Rev. Mr. Philp, and the painstaking efforts of Mrs. Philp, who later writes us that their membership roll is now increased to *thirty-one*. We trust during the month we may hear from other Organizers, and that the reports may be as encouraging as this.