

First.—Have a commonplace-book in which to write any helpful thought you may get while talking with friends; or to copy a sentence or paragraph from a borrowed book or paper; or an illustration that flashes through your mind at a most unexpected time or place, and which, if not put down, is apt to be forgotten.

At —'s you will find blank books which are just what you want. They cost only three cents, have thirty leaves, which give sixty blank pages. These are better than writing pads for notes, for being bound they are always in place and do not get torn or lost.

Second.—Have a large business envelope or an empty envelope box in which to put clippings from the newspapers relating to your country or topic. Take them from the daily and religious papers, and select items of all kinds.

Third.—Have a mucilage bottle, for you will want to paste several short clippings upon a half-sheet of paper, so that you may give a part of your information, in a convenient form, to some member of your society to read at the meeting.

Fourth.—Subscribe for as many missionary magazines as you can *possibly* afford; for in order to spread a tempting feast for your missionary meeting, you must study the magazines till your heart burns within you at what you learn of the missionaries, and how God is blessing His Word to the conversion of the heathen.

By this time you will find your enthusiasm glowing, and now you are ready to make the skeleton of your paper, dividing it into heads. Here you will find your commonplace-book and envelope of clippings and mucilage bottle and missionary magazines of the greatest help. Select carefully what you think of interest and value, and fill in your skeleton. It is probable that you will not be satisfied with the result; but put away your paper for a few days, then read it over and you will be able to make the needed alterations, culling out superfluous matter and changing the sentences until they run smoothly.

"But this takes so much time," some one will say. Of course it does, but it is time well spent. It takes time to have a pretty gown made, but I have yet to know the woman who foregoes the gown because of the time spent upon it. It takes time and strength to go to an afternoon reception to meet a company of women, each one talking at the top of her lungs, trying to make herself heard above the confusion of voices and the inane tinkling of Tomaso's Mandolin Orchestra hidden behind a screen of palms and ferns; but the woman all go! You are familiar with "Gray's Elegy, written in a Country Churchyard." The English is so beautiful and the lines flow so naturally and smoothly that it seems as if it might have been written under the inspiration of the twilight hours of some lovely summer day, with

the rural scene spread out before the poet's eyes. But it took Gray seven years to perfect this exquisite gem. He began it in 1742, revised it several times, and finished it in 1749. Even then he did not give it to his publishers for two years. As a result of this patient labor, his beautiful verses will live as long as the English language is spoken. Surely every woman will be willing to give hours and days in gathering material for a missionary paper, when she considers that she is writing about the kingdom of Christ, which is an everlasting kingdom.

Copy your paper neatly and have it ready several days before the meeting, and, when the day arrives, go to your society feeling you have a pleasant part to take in it. Read your paper in your cheeriest voice and most animated manner, as if you enjoyed it, and you will, I promise you, and your hearers will enjoy it, too. —From "*Woman's Work for Woman.*"

Books and Periodicals Department.

The Review of Reviews. New York: 13 Astor Place. \$2.50 a year. There is an exhaustive and authoritative article on the Armenian crisis in the January number of this *Review*. It has been prepared by one who has intimate knowledge of affairs in Armenia, derived from years of residence, and who has returned to this country within a few weeks. It is a most careful and interesting account of the dastardly outrages committed on the Armenian Christians. Other articles of great value make the January number a notable one.

WE have received the *Living Church Quarterly*, containing an almanac and calendar for the year of our Lord, 1895. It is an admirable publication. This year's issue is enriched and made specially valuable by half-tone engravings of all the American cathedrals, and exhaustive articles on cathedral systems, their organization and work. The investigation of the subject of divinity degrees, which was made last year in this valuable annual, has been systematized and carefully tabulated, so as to be a permanent feature.

The Religious Review of Reviews has an interesting interview with the veteran churchman, Archdeacon Denison, of Taunton, England. The articles on "The Art of Reading," of which No. 23 appears in the last number, are very practical and useful, and are recommended to all clergymen. They reflect great credit on the author, Canon Fleming, who is also the editor of the *Review*.

The Expositor and *The Clergyman's Magazine* (London: Hodder & Stoughton) are, as usual, scholarly and instructive. The *Expositor* has a careful "Survey of Recent Biblical Literature," by Professor Marcus Dods, D.D.

The Canadian Methodist Magazine comes to us this month in a new and improved dress. Professor Goldwin Smith contributes an interesting article to the January number on "Oxford, and Her Colleges."

The Missionary Review of the World. Funk & Wagnalls Co., 30 Lafayette Place, New York. Dr. Pierson continues his attack on the Parliament of Religions. The January number is well up to the mark.

In the *Cosmopolitan* for January (New York, \$1.50 a year) there is a carefully-considered article on "The Young Men and the Church." This number is really a splendid one.