

## THE MISSION CIRCLES.

### SHOULD THE CIRCLES FOSTER THE MISSION BAND?

Why should we have a Mission Band? There are two very strong reasons for such an organization, the more important one being its value to the individual child. His spiritual and intellectual development are carried on side by side in this work. I firmly believe that sending the Gospel to our heathen brethren, all important as that great work is, should be second in our thoughts to this work among the children. Bring a little child to Jesus and a life as well as a soul is saved. When our children belong to Christ's Kingdom there need be no fear for missions either Home or Foreign. History in our public schools is an important subject, not alone for the knowledge obtained, but because educators realize that by studying the lives of great men and women the young hearts become inspired to make their own lives great. So the study of the lives of our noble Christian missionaries in the Band will serve as a beacon light to guide its members upward and onward to achieve something worth while in their lives. The second reason why we should have a Mission Band is its value to mission work. The boys and girls of to-day are the Circle members, Christian workers and missionaries of to-morrow, so if the work is to go on they must be educated in it. How can any one of us be interested in that of which we know nothing?

To carry on Band work successfully we must have proper equipment. The "hub of the wheel" is the leader. The world is constantly clamoring for worthy and capable leaders. Why does there always seem to be a lack of these? Not because there are not sufficient capable people for such positions, but because too few are willing to spend

time, energy and talent for the needy cause.

A Mission Band leader should have a whole-hearted sympathy for missions; a strong love for little children and the power of interesting their young minds. Each of us can possess the first by study, the last two must be a part of our nature.

A child's instinct is activity both of mind and body. To interest them in Band work, keep them active. Have as many officers and committees as possible to give the older ones, at least, something to do at each meeting. Take up a systematic study of the countries we are most interested in, especially the child life of these people's. Sometimes a little tea or social hour, with some of the interesting features of these countries introduced, with an offering towards its mission work, would help financially, and also impress the lessons on the childish minds. A correspondence with the student being supported by the Band is of neverfailing interest to the boys and girls, who look eagerly forward to receiving such letters, thus giving each a personal interest in the little life beyond the seas. Last fall I had the privilege of hearing a lecture on Japan by a returned missionary, illustrated by moving pictures taken during his stay in the land. When this becomes a popular method of illustrating missionary lectures the moving picture camera will have found its proper place. Finances can be raised in various ways, mite-boxes, sale of rubbers, birthday money, etc., but it is of great importance that the children are taught to earn the money given, for a penny earned is of greater value to a little tot than ten times that amount given by an older person through the little one. In Mission Band work, as in everything else in life, it is not so much the method of procedure that counts as the love and sympathy behind that method. A poor method in the hands of a loving, capable leader will accomplish much more than the choicest one in the hands of one who is indifferent to the great need of mission work being done by every believer in Jesus Christ.

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