

A Question Drawer, conducted by Mrs. Sawyer and Mrs. Bigelow, gave pleasure and profit.

The report of the Supply Committee, read by Mrs. (Dr.) Sparks, of Kingston, showed good work done in that department.

The address of Mrs. (Dr.) Williams was most interesting. She urged greater zeal and activity during the coming year.

The audience were delighted to meet Mrs. Gooderham, our Dominion President, and as she told us of the exact state of the work in foreign fields, which she had visited in person, a deeper interest was aroused in mission work and workers.

Mrs. Ross, President, sang again (by request) the solo, "Happy Day." It was a rare treat. Miss Libbie Beach, of Iroquois, in a very pleasing manner, rendered "Hear, Us, O Father," and received a hearty vote of thanks. Miss Carrie Moore also sang "Come unto Me."

Papers were furnished by Miss Mills, of Montreal, "On Ideal Reports;" also "A Message to Young People," by Mrs. (Rev.) A. M. Phillips, of Montreal. Both these papers were excellent, as was the recitation of Miss Tennant Cornwall.

On Thursday morning, the Superannuation Fund was discussed, and resolved, That this Convention, with the approval of the Board, recommend its adoption.

Moved, seconded and carried, that Mission Bands pay \$25, as before, to entitle them to representation.

Recommended that missionaries be required, while drawing salaries, to pay into the Superannuation Fund, and draw from it according to length of service.

Reports from Supply Committee of French schools gave great satisfaction.

Report of Mission Bands and Circles by Miss Bailey gave the number of Bands and Circles, thirty-nine; increase, seven.

After prayer by Mrs. Gooderham, election of officers took place, resulting as follows: President, Mrs. Ross; 1st Vice-President, Mrs. McRossie; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. Bigelow; 3rd Vice-President, Mrs. Sawyer; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Dr. Williams; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Dr. Atkinson; Treasurer, Mrs. Dr. Sparks; Mission Band Secretary, Miss Bailey. Representatives to Board—Mrs. Bigelow, Mrs. Dr. Sparks, Mrs. McRossie, Mrs. Sawyer, and Mrs. Scott. Alternates, Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. Timberlake.

The Convention, with very great reluctance, received the resignation of Mrs. McRossie, Treasurer, whose reports have always been a pleasing feature of our Branch meeting, and it was unanimously resolved, "That the heartfelt thanks of the Montreal Conference Branch are due to our retiring Treasurer for her long years of faithful, efficient service, and that it is with deepest regret we have received her resignation as a necessity, and only accepted it when assured by her that it was a necessity."

It was decided to hold the next meeting at Smith's Falls. Invitations were urged from Athens, Sherbrooke and Cornwall.

It was moved and seconded that an Easter programme be provided by the Literature Committee.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Rev. Mr. Lett, for his help and sympathy during the Convention; to the Iroquois choir, for the music furnished; to the trustees, for the use of the church; to Miss Beach, for her solo; to the ladies of Iroquois, for their kind hospitality; to the Mission Band, who during the first evening did the singing; and to Mr. Tindale, who had been so courteous to the delegates.

This closed one of the best Conventions it has ever been our privilege to attend—helpful and inspiring. May this year be one of great ingathering for the Master.

"Our Annual Report."

*Read at the Nova Scotia Branch Meeting in Yarmouth, N.S.,
September, 1895.*

(Printed by desire and resolution of said Branch.)

MY subject this morning is rather an unusual one and difficult to handle, but as it has been given me, I must try to say a few words, if only to open the discussion. If we can judge from the number of "Reports" sold, it is not

a popular or interesting theme, as we have 20,000 members in our Auxiliaries, and only three thousand copies of the "Report" were printed last year—only one in seven can have one. The Dictionary says a report is "a statement of facts or statistics," and we are told elsewhere that "facts are stubborn things," and that "figures cannot lie;" therefore, our "Report" ought to be strong, reliable and true. In this utilitarian age we cannot afford time or space to publish all the minor details, but the ever-increasing cry is for short, practical and condensed literature in every form—even sermons have to be shortened nowadays.

Each year has made our "Report" larger and more bulky, thus increasing expense. It is necessary that a full report of one year's work should be printed, for only a small percentage of our members attend the Branch and Board meetings, and all the information received there cannot be gathered up or kept in mind even by those who are present.

It is also due to our societies that a public receipt, as it were, should be put into their hands, vouching for the work done and moneys expended. But the problem before us to-day is, how can we reduce the size, and thus the expense, of our Annual Report, and also increase the interest so that more of our Auxiliary members will take it?

We find that the printing of three thousand reports last year cost \$551.30, and the receipts from sale of same were only \$280.85. The printing of the names of Auxiliary members alone cost over \$100.00. If those of you who have your report with you will turn to page 70, and look at the thickness of these seventy pages, you will see how much extra space is required for this item alone. There are in last year's issue seventy pages of members' names.

In all the reports of other societies that I have been able to look into, only the names of officers and life members are printed. This would take about one-third, or less, of the space now used—say about twenty pages. The loss has been such, that last year at the Board meeting it was decided that the price be raised (doubled) to 10 cents; and yet at that sum it is said it will not pay expenses.

Someone suggested that the reports from the fields, such as Japan, be condensed, and thus help to reduce the size of the whole. Those who were at our last Branch meeting will remember a resolution was passed to the effect that the Auxiliary members' names be dropped, but this did not carry at "Board," and unless all the Branches unite in a similar course it will not be of any real benefit.

Some of the bright minds before me may be able to evolve other ways and means by which to reach the desired end, and yet that our Report may contain everything essential to show the state of the work of our Society, and also to bring it within the reach of all.

Most of us know how severely some of our sisters in small Auxiliaries, and in country places, are already taxed to take all the literature that seems needful to keep up the interest and provide for their monthly programmes.

This is not written, dear sisters, in the spirit of fault-finding, but with a sincere desire for the greatest good to our loved society.

In closing, I should like strongly to urge the necessity for all the officers of Auxiliaries and leaders of Mission Circles, at least, to feel it their duty to take the Report each year. They cannot successfully work without it, nor keep pace with the new developments and rules which may be added year by year. If all Presidents would make it part of their programme at the beginning of the missionary year to remind the members of the "Report," and urge as many as possible to take it, I think the circulation would thereby be materially increased.

A good plan would be to have a "Drill" on the "Report," as the programme of one meeting, assigning the several parts to different members beforehand; then these would be obliged to read up, and the information would be diffused.

Our constitution and rules are not well enough known by our members, and these might be included in such a programme as I suggest. No doubt more light will be thrown and some valuable points will come out in the discussion which is to follow this imperfect paper, which is humbly submitted as a starting point.

S. JENNIE SMITH.