

The National Training School

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THE National Training School of the Methodist Church, situated in Toronto, is an institution which is at once an occasion for great pride and also for most serious study on the part of every Canadian Methodist. For pride, because it is the clear statement that in the matter of higher Christian education for women and preparation for social service, Methodism leads; for serious study, in that it is at a most crucial point in its history; with eighteen years behind, spent in learning its powers and developing them it stands to-day at the door of a marvellous opportunity, eager with its consciousness of power, to advance. Three things it desires: first, to develop its courses that it may give the most thorough training possible in each line of work it undertakes; second, to reach a greater constituency—the time is close at hand when we shall realize that training in vital practical Christianity is the most essential part of an education, to make such training possible for every Canadian Methodist young woman is part of the opportunity which lies before our school; and in the third place it would become a laboratory for the study of the

missionaries and deaconess on furlough are also taking post-graduate work.

Thorough Bible Study and the development of a strong spiritual life are the primary aims of this school. The various courses of study in the Old and New Testaments have four specific objects:—

1. To arouse in the student a love of Bible study.

2. To teach the best methods of studying the Bible.

3. To give the student a general understanding of all the Books of the Bible, with a more detailed knowledge of those portions which are important for the apprehension of the Christian faith and the development of Christian character.

4. To bring each student into a close and vital relationship with Christ.

In addition to the regular Bible study course, lectures are given in theology and the doctrines of the church, and one lecture period weekly is spent in devotional talks.

The effectiveness of the work along these lines manifests itself in various ways. Towards the end of October the students organized a non-day prayer meeting, and daily since then they have

in touch with many of the relief agencies of this city.

An average of two hours a week is spent in the study of missions. The course includes a general survey of the missionary situation throughout the world, with a particular study of our own fields and training in methods of conducting missionary work. In the various departments of the church for juniors, intermediates and adults.

In the Department of Methods, child study and principles of teaching are taken up, together with a careful study of the methods for conducting successful Sunday School and League, sewing schools, mothers' meetings, girls' clubs, and the various other lines of work undertaken by our graduates. In connection with this department each student does considerable practical work under the direction of city pastors, deaconess and mission workers. In connection with their musical work the students also do practical work, going out Saturday mornings with the nurses of the Nursing at Home Mission. Lectures on general and preventative diseases, first aid and sexology are given under this department.

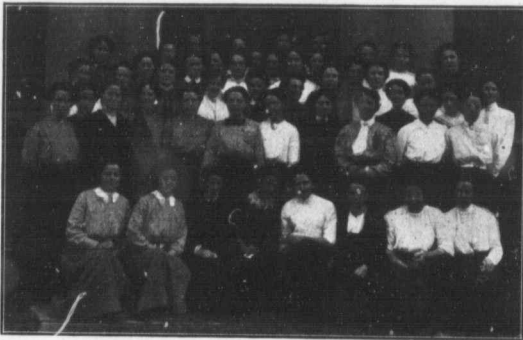
Our curriculum furnishes also excellent courses in English literature and history, the aims of which are to get the girls into intimate touch with the refining influence that comes from reading the best thought of the ages, and to awaken them to the imperative need of studying world movements. Two results unexpected, but not surprising, have already manifested themselves. One is a campaign begun and carried on by the students to raise money to buy the books for the empty shelves of an otherwise magnificent library. The other takes one back to the olden days when the family gathered about the fireplace and someone read aloud; and an evening at the close of the week or an idle hour just before tea is spent by a group of girls in some cosy spot, while someone reads a favorite. These are hours whose influence like that of a mother's love shall remain through one's entire life.

Up-to-date laundry, sewing and household science laboratory make possible good training in these different lines of distinctive feminine work, and an excellent gymnasium affords opportunity for physical development and recreation. In fact our new school building, opened only a little over a year ago, is in every way well adapted for its purpose, and besides class-room accommodation for almost any number it provides residence for over eighty.

The resident staff consists of Rev. George Bishop, D.D., Superintendent and Principal; Miss Muriel J. Hockey, B.A., Assistant Principal; Miss Hazel Martin, Miss Maud McDonald, B.A., Miss Grace Freeman, B.A. The outside lecturers are Professors McLaughlin and Bowles, of Victoria College; Rev. Dr. I. Tovell, Rev. C. A. Sykes, Rev. G. E. Fairclough, Dr. F. Albert Moore, Mrs. F. G. Stephenson, Rev. J. S. Woodsword, Winnipeg; Rev. S. T. Bartlett, Rev. F. F. Farewell, Rev. K. J. Beaton and Mrs. Scott Raff. The practical work is under the supervision of Miss Hilda Burns.

This is a description of the National Training School to-day. What will you have it be to-morrow?

For the past eight or nine years the Equity Life Assurance Company has used our advertising space for the purpose of calling the attention of total abstainers to the special benefits which it guarantees them in connection with life insurance. We would advise our readers to apply direct to the Company for information when thinking of placing insurance on their lives. Its terms, we believe, are exceptionally favorable.



GROUP OF STUDENTS, NATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

(Taken in December, 1912.)

problems confronting the church to-day whose solution may lie in the sphere of woman's work.

What work this institution shall undertake, and what success it shall achieve, will depend on the answer each Methodist throughout our entire country gives to its appeal. "Let me advance to my best." This year an advance step has been taken and many await eagerly the decision of the church as to whether that advance has been made in the right direction or not.

Besides over twenty-five girls preparing definitely for deaconess work and about twelve training for missionary work in China, Japan and our home fields, there are several with teachers' certificates who are taking a year's training before going out as self-supporting missionaries among the foreigners in our West. Two students are training as Y.W.C.A. secretaries. Of the remainder several do not yet know what their work will be, but are taking full courses to be ready for their task when it comes. Many others are specializing in Bible study and Sunday School and League methods, planning to live the most effective lives possible in their home churches. Several

met at the close of the morning lectures for fifteen minutes, gathering together in His name to ask for the fulfillment of His will here. Just before the Christmas vacation they requested that a definite time be set apart for individual Bible study and prayer, and the new term opened making the period from 8.45 to 9.30 each day, a morning watch.

But while Bible study is the central part of our course, it is not all. Our Problem and Methods Departments both claim considerable attention this year. The former consists of two divisions, sociology and missions. In sociology the social teachings of Christ and the actual social conditions existing to-day are studied. Besides lectures, this course includes considerable excursion work. During the fall term the students visited, among other places, Fred Victor Mission, Evangelia Settlement, Neighbourhood House, Alexandria Girl's Industrial School, Broadview Boys' Institute, Children's Shelter, Day Nurseries, Police and Juvenile Courts and the Jail. They have done for various purposes considerable calling in the slum section of the city, and through case conferences have come