

besides, an invitation to imperfect order throughout. Let the devotional exercises be something more than a mere prelude to the other business of the meeting. The religion of Christ is nothing, if not aggressive and missionary, and our meetings have no point or purpose, if their mission is not in direct obedience to His farewell commands; hence, there is no business under heaven concerning the interests of which we can wait upon Him with greater certainty of being heard and helped than in our work of sending the Gospel to others. Let our selections for Scripture reading be such as will deepen this conviction, strengthen our belief in the ultimate and complete triumph of His kingdom, and encourage us in our sometimes discouraging work of endeavoring to promote that triumph, and when we come to prayer we will feel no necessity for the intervention of saints or virgin; we will be in closest touch with Him whose servants we are, and with whom it is nothing to help, "Whether with many, or with them that have no power." One great secret of success in interesting people is to employ them, and the President will find in this exercise an opportunity of engaging a goodly proportion of the members, especially if she have prepared, as it would be wise to do occasionally, a number of select portions of Scripture bearing on the points already mentioned, in which case *all* may take part in reading them. The reading of the minutes, which seems to be generally voted a dry exercise, only to be tolerated for the sake of its value from a business standpoint, need not necessarily partake of that character. The Secretary, by the application of a little judicious thought, may impart almost as much interest to them as was possessed by the meeting of which they are a record, and may make their reading a profitable exercise.

Also it goes without saying that in this, as in everything else read or spoken, the reader or speaker should take such a position, and speak with such distinctness, as to be clearly heard by every one present.

In some measure these remarks concerning the minutes will apply to the next two items in the order of business—the reports of the Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary. Concerning the latter, which consists largely of the presentation of letters from the various fields of labor, it may be hinted, as in regard to the devotional exercises, that the interest taken in the meeting may be promoted by a division of the work of reading them. To make this practicable, it should be arranged beforehand, so that the person requested to assist in the reading may be familiar with the matter.

The next item is the reception of reports from members of what they have done for the good of the Society. This is a most important item, and yet it is one that is frequently allowed to go by default. The mere asking of the question, "What have you done?" should itself engender a desire to do, as members will naturally grow weary of answering at each meeting, "Nothing." But where this answer has to be given, it may be because the member giving it has not known what to do or how to do it, and the statements of those who have been busy, may yield them light, and at the same time stir them up to emulation.

Concerning the next item—unfinished business and the enrolment of new members—it may be observed that to make new members feel at home they should be made acquainted. To this end the President should be on the alert for new faces, and when enrolled, their connection should be publicly announced to the meeting.

Under the head of miscellaneous business would arise the question of entertainment, one that may, perhaps, be looked to for important suggestions. It must be borne in mind that the Auxiliary is not a literary society, nor a concert company, nor anything else in which entertainment is introduced for the mere purpose of attracting. Everything brought in here should be clearly and directly in line with

the great and inspiring object of the Society itself. To lose sight of this, and to attempt to attract and entertain members by exercises having no bearing on missionary work, is to enact a burlesque on the Auxiliary and its mission. Fancy a denizen of one of the countries whose condition claims our intensest sympathy and effort dropping into one of our meetings, listening to the warbling of some sentimental love song, or the recitation of some equally unprofitable selection, asking the question "What are these?" and being told in seriousness, "These are introduced as a means of interesting servants of the Lord Jesus Christ in the duty of sending the glad tidings of His love to your country." Would such a statement be likely to increase his hunger for a religion whose exponents resorted to the use of means so impotent and incongruous? There are many countries in which the light of the Gospel has furnished its inhabitants as yet with but the faintest glimmer, and concerning which comparatively little is known. Suppose that an announcement were made at one meeting that at the next, say a half-hour would be spent in hearing from members all they have been able to learn concerning some of these, and that during the month, search were made by each individual member for such information, would not the result be the accumulation of greater knowledge as to the pressing needs of heathendom, and the consequent quickening of missionary zeal? Or, suppose that, in addition to our own *OUTLOOK*, some of the members should subscribe for some of the excellent periodicals published by denominations whose operations are carried on in many countries, much useful information could thereby be gleaned as to the conditions of these countries, and, in fact, of the whole world; and in case of there not being time for a general discussion, some enthralling selection from one of these could profitably be introduced.

Before closing, I may mention some special means resorted to by the Auxiliary to which I belong for increasing and maintaining membership. Between the last monthly meeting of the year and the annual meeting, the Treasurer, accompanied by some other worker, personally calls upon all whose names have appeared upon the membership roll for the year, but who have not renewed that connection by the payment of their annual dues. A standing committee of several members is also in existence, whose duty it is to keep constantly on the look-out for new members, as well as to stir up delinquents.

Then a postal card, announcing the annual meeting, is sent to almost every lady in the congregation. This is taken as a personal attention, and the response made to it usually results in the addition of several new members to the list and an equal number of dollars to the treasury.

#### JAPAN—EVANGELISTIC WORK.

(Continued from page 13.)

YESTERDAY afternoon we three, that is, Mrs. Sabashi, Miss Preston and I, went to Futagawa, a village about four miles away, and held a meeting in a private house. Considering the fact that not one Christian was there, our audience of about fifty inside and out was an encouraging one. The owner of the house is a rich man, evidently, as it was a magnificent place. Both he and his son and all the family listened carefully, though none are Christians. We did not know that there were no Christians there, yet when it was over Miss Preston remarked that she had felt it very hard to speak. It seemed to me like reading against a stone wall, and when I heard that no one save ourselves were Christians, I understood why. Though they listened carefully, there was not the Christian