

TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COR-
RESPONDING SECRETARY OF THE WOMEN'S
BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF ONTARIO (WEST).

Twenty-two years ago the Baptist women of this province banded themselves together to carry the Gospel of salvation to the women and children of heathendom, especially to the women of our own mission among the Telugus. Their enthusiasm was great, and their work steadfast. Success crowned their efforts. Year after year the Board was able to report at the Annual Meeting additional interest in the work, increased offerings and new work on the field undertaken. The growth was steady until 1894, when the circles reached the number of 213, and the income of the Society amounted to the sum of \$8,421.72. Since that time, although God has wonderfully blessed the work in India, no advance has been made by us in the home land. This year, however, we are thankful to say that things are becoming more hopeful, 200 Circles having reported to the Treasurer as against 191 last year, while 18 Circles that gave nothing to Foreign Missions last year have made returns this year, and of 9 Circles that did not report during this year 2 have sent offerings since the Treasurer's books were closed.

The Associational statistics are still in several cases at variance with the amounts sent to the Treasurer, Guelph being the only Association in which the monies credited to each Circle tally with the Treasurer's statement. In six Associations every Circle has reported. We hope that next year complete returns will be sent from every Circle and Band to the Associational Director by the first week in April, so that she in turn may have her report in the hands of the Secretaries before the close of April.

Fifteen Circles have been organized, or re-organized, during the year. Seventy-nine Circles have increased their offerings, but about 80 have fallen off. We are yet far from the penny-a-week from every Baptist woman for Foreign Missions; only 4 Circles have reached that standard. There are 12,735 women in Church fellowship reported this year, and only 3,823 contributors; but in four of the small churches there are more contributors than women in the church. The question of how to gain those women in our churches who are half-hearted or utterly indifferent is still a problem. Paul says, "In every thing, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." We know that the hearts of all are in God's hands; so let us bring these women to Him in earnest believing prayer.

The returns from many of the Associations show that the Director has, "with all her might," done her work "as unto the Lord."

For the first time in our history we are called upon to record the removal by death of one of our Directors, Mrs. Emily Welter, of Elgin Association. Long after her frail body was weakened by disease she continued the loved work, which she had carried on ever since the formation of the Association, and only gave it up a little while before Jesus took her to be with Him, where there "shall be no more pain," but loving, unwearied service for ever more.

Prayer Union.—"Without Me ye can do nothing." A few members of the Board have met on the last Thursday afternoon of each month during the year for prayer and conference. As in these busy times one is in danger

of forgetting the pledge proposed by Miss Hatch on October 16th, 1894, just as she was departing for India, and adopted at that time by many, we here repeat it:—"We, the undersigned, do band ourselves together to pray for missions, and we agree to endeavor to remember each day at 12 o'clock, to offer up a prayer, silent or expressed, to Him who hath said, 'Ask of Me and I will give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.' We also agree to endeavor to induce others to join our Union."

Miss Marion Clevesha, Port Hope, who is Secretary of the Union, reports that there are now 432 members, 12 of whom have joined the Union during the past year.

"The fields are white already to harvest, PRAY ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Volunteers.—One young lady has during the year offered herself to the Board for service in India. She has taken a course of training in Boston, Mass. Others have written for information as to the preparation necessary for a single lady missionary. Hitherto the funds of the Society have not warranted the Board in taking any decisive action in regard to these cases.

OUR MISSIONARIES.

Miss Rogers has done good service in visiting and speaking to many Circles during the year.

Miss Simpson expects to return soon to her loved work among the Zenanas of Cocanada. We hope she will be able to meet with a number of our Circles before she leaves for India.

INDIA.

Miss Hatch has been laid aside by sickness more than once during the year. When we remember that for several months she was the only resident missionary on that large field, that there was an outbreak of cholera, and in her loneliness the anxiety of caring for the sufferers was added to the already too great strain upon her, can we wonder that her strength gave way? Rather let us thank God that He allowed no worse "evil to befall her."

While attending Conference in December, Miss Priest was stricken with fever, which laid her aside for several weeks. During her convalescence a period of rest at Akidu was of much benefit to her. Last March Miss Baskerville was seized with fever, and for a short time was unable to attend to her duties. At last accounts she was recovering.

CHANGES.

Miss Murray, the missionary of the Women's Board of East Ontario and Quebec, has taken the oversight, during Miss Simpson's furlough, of the work for women and girls in Cocanada.

At last the school buildings in the new compound are occupied by the Cocanada Girls' School, and Miss Baskerville is rejoicing in the more convenient and commodious rooms which have been completed; but there is a good deal more yet to be done. The sick room as well as the widows quarters for which the money has been provided are to be built. Illness, and the overseer having been busy with repairs on the old compound have caused the delay in these. A wall around the girls' yard and houses for the teachers have yet to be provided for. We hope the money for these will very soon be forthcoming.

The Board has accepted the support of Miss Folsom.