

a certain number of women, to attend to the diffusing of information, the collecting of money and the handing of it over to the Treasurer of the General Board. This group of women, or rather two groups of women, as it came to be, are now known as the Women's Foreign Mission Boards of Ontario West, and of Eastern Ontario and Quebec, and the annual meetings of the Societies as the Women's Western Convention, and the Women's Eastern Convention.

As time passed by the original work of the Societies was made heavier, because the General Board allowed them the privilege of recommending women missionaries to them for appointment, and of attending themselves to many matters of business relating especially to the women's and children's work. It must not be understood, however, that the Women's Societies carry on all the work among women and children. The General Board, quite apart from the women's funds, has a number of women missionaries in its employ, who work only among women and children, and also carry on a great deal of the educational work for children.

The foregoing then states the position of our Womens' Circles, Societies and Conventions at the present time—they are strictly auxiliary to the only church-appointed and official Board governing our Foreign Mission work.

The women in our churches are first of all church members, are subject to the same calls for gifts as the men, and their duty to these calls is the same. They have the same voice in the affairs of the General Board as the men.

In addition they have what the men have not had, at least, until recently, an extra organization of their own, where they seek to learn special needs of their own sex, give over and above what they give as church members, and so do special work among the women of India. They do not wish an incorporated Board,—they do not need absolute control vested in their women's societies, because of their voice in the General,—they do not wish to multiply organizations—they do not wish to forget their duties as church members—they only wish to make every possible effort and use every possible means to hasten the evangelization of the world and the coming of the Kingdom. And this is the "raison d'être" of our Circles and our Societies.

HOLIDAYING IN THE HILLS OF INDIA.

Miss Annie C. Murray.

Who can forget his or her introduction to "the sweet half-English (Nilgiri) air" of the hills of India after a term of years on the hot, dusty plains?

Sixteen years ago, there arrived in the hill-station of Coonoor in the Nilgiri Hills (or Blue Mountains) of Southern India, a party of missionaries, including the writer, for, what was to several of them their first visit. They had reached India three years before. The examinations in the language had been successfully passed, and all had entered upon active mission work ere this first holiday, which they were preparing to enjoy to the full.

According to arrangement, each missionary left his or her station on the plains on a certain Monday about the 1st of April, and joined, or was joined by, others until, when finally under way, the party numbered about one dozen.

The facilities for travel being fewer in those days than now, it was Friday afternoon when, after various detours and experiences amusing and otherwise, having completed a journey by oxcart, boat and railway, of, in no case less than one thousand miles and, in some cases, of a few hundreds more, our party finally reached Mettupollium (correctly Mettupalayam) at the terminus of the railway and the foot of the hills.

The zig-zag route had had its compensation in permitting some of us to visit Bangalore, the home at the time of Dr. and Mrs. McLaurin.

A day in the city, situated on a plateau 3,000 feet above sea level whence Southern India is supplied with English fruits and vegetables, made possible some shopping and the replenishing of our lunch basket. The sight of the market with its fresh raspberries, strawberries, etc., was in itself a treat.

The extension of the East Coast Railway has since simplified this journey by furnishing a direct route to Madras, which is eighteen hours by rail from Mettupollium, which lies away to the south-west and but little more than one hundred miles inland from Calicut, that famous Basel Mission Station on the west coast of India. The heat of Metupollium, which is proverbial, had to be endured but two or three hours. The great covered oxcarts previously