

SUPPLEMENT.

Annual Reports of the W. B. F. M. Society of Ontario.

Annual Meeting of the Women's Societies of Ontario.

A large number of ladies representing the Mission Circles of the province, gathered in the Talbot Street Church, London, on Wednesday and Thursday, the 28th and 29th of October. On arriving in London, the delegates were most kindly met by a committee of ladies, who directed them to the homes provided for them. Wednesday was Home Mission Day; Thursday was devoted to the Foreign work. Upon both occasions, the first half hour was spent in earnest prayer that God's blessing might be upon the work of the day, and His presence felt to be with us in our gathering together, a petition to which an abundant answer was granted.

At the opening of the session on the morning of the first day, Mrs. McMaster, President of the Women's Home Missionary Society, presided. Mrs. Carrière, on behalf of the Circles of that city, very warmly welcomed the delegates to London. Mrs. McMaster replied suitably, passing on to the consideration of the work undertaken during the past year by the Society over which she presided; also, to what must be attempted in the future. The reception of the reports of the associational directors, followed by those of the officers of the Home Missionary Society, occupied the rest of the morning. These were of such a nature as to make it a matter, not of regret, but of thankfulness, that both Societies had opened the year with the resolve to take "a forward step." It was felt that this would also be a wise policy for the year to come.

Early in the afternoon session the Band work was taken up. The carefully prepared report of the Secretary, Miss Hattie West, shows that the children continue zealous in the good work. A short, but very good paper on the same subject, was read by Miss M. J. Mills, of Guelph. The report of the committee, which was last year appointed by the Convention for Indian Mission work, was given by Mrs. Wells, of Toronto. It was proved that the work so modestly begun has a warm place in the hearts of our women. The ladies of the committee have given careful attention to the work laid upon them, and Mr. J. Prince, the educated Indian, who has been our missionary, seems to have been especially prepared for the present need. The committee was re-appointed to continue this work on their present methods for another year, at the close of which they hope that foundation work will be well done, and, if desirable, the management may be safely changed. It will be remembered that the plan of raising funds is, to seek from each Baptist only ten cents a year, and, though many deeply interested in the work have given more, this is the only tax which we have been asked to lay upon ourselves on behalf of our Indian mission.

A very pleasing feature of this Convention throughout was, that the time allowed for questions and discussion was freely made use of by those present, so that many of us will return to our homes with clearer ideas in connection with our mission work than ever before.

Though a full programme had been arranged, the business of the Convention, on both days, was so well conducted, and the speakers expressed themselves so clearly and concisely, that much time was left for pleasant social intercourse, especially as the London ladies had very kindly provided tea in the church.

A full house assembled in the evening, when, for the first time in the history of the Women's Societies, the ladies took

full charge of the meeting themselves. This course was decided upon because the time of the Convention—only two days—has been felt to be increasingly valuable for our special work. It will be safe to say that no one had reason to regret the innovation.

The very interesting report of the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. John Lillie, had been reserved for the larger gathering of the evening. We hope that many gained from this a fuller idea of the work that the Baptist women of Ontario are trying to do in lending a helping hand to some struggling churches in our own land; also, in carrying the light into dark places, where, even in this favored country, the love of Jesus, as it has been revealed to us, is a thing altogether unknown.

Mrs. Firstbrook, of Toronto, followed with a bright, humorous, but earnest address, on the place which a woman in the midst of many home duties, may fill as a worker for missions. The speaker emphasized the duty and the privilege of sacrifice, pointing out that all who will follow Him are called to it in some form, though it may not be necessary for all to give up the same thing. The evening closed with a few words from Mrs. Boyd, of Toronto, on the Indian Mission, which is so near to her heart.

On the morning of Thursday, the 29th, the Convention re-assembled, Mrs. Booker, the President of the Foreign Mission Society, in the chair. After the usual opening exercises Mrs. Booker gave a brief address, an address which, in thought, brought every one of our lady missionaries, in her separate field of labor, very near to us. The reports of the officers and of the LINK were received. These will appear in full in the LINK. The adoption of the revised Constitution, upon which much thought and care have been bestowed for the last two years, was the next order of business. After a very brief discussion, the new constitution recommended by the Board was cordially adopted. According to this decision the officers for the year were elected. By this arrangement five members of the Board will retire each year, but are eligible for re-election. After lunch, the Corresponding Secretary gave a general report of the year's work, which was followed by the full reports of our missionaries themselves, each one being read by a different individual. This plan lent a distinct interest to the work of each missionary, tending to impress the details clearly upon the memory. The ladies who thus represented to us our sisters in India had evidently carefully studied the reports, and read with much feeling. These will all appear in the LINK. There followed the somewhat sad pleasure of listening to a noble paper from Mrs. McLaurin. Sad, because we realized that we all, who had been so often stirred by the words which came to us in that loving, gentle voice, should listen to it no more, at least for many a year to come. The impression made by that address will, we trust, still rest upon our spirits when she who spoke to us is far away.

There being a few minutes to spare at this point, Rev. Mr. Spencer, of St. Thomas, asked permission to say a few words on behalf of the General Board. They wish the ladies to interest themselves in the missionary conferences which are to be held at central points in this province. At Mrs. McLaurin's request the afternoon session closed with the singing of, "In the Sweet By-and-bye."

Mrs. Newman gave to the evening meeting an instructive paper on "Woman's Work in Foreign Missions." Much information on the ladies' auxiliaries of former days was supplied. It was shown that this was no new thing, except in the matter of organization and extension, which has been