

us adopt the Saviour's test as ours, "By *this* shall all men know that ye are *mine*, if ye *have love one to another*."

And now, dear sisters, this being an assembly of auxiliary workers, may I be permitted to take advantage of it to present a few thoughts covering questions sometimes raised among us. It is frequently urged that our membership bears too small a proportion to the membership of the church; and again, that the proportion of active workers is small compared with the roll of members. If this be so, may we not question why? Has the auxiliary not impressed itself strongly enough upon women of the congregation to enlist their active sympathy? If not, why not? There is certainly through it a possibility of extending good influences, of diffusing knowledge and developing latent powers. Are we striving to really recognize the individuality of our members, to give it exercise for the general good, to promote interest and profitable variety in the exercises of the meetings? Can meetings be other than monotonous and irksome in which the stereotyped routine programme is the chief feature, and the same few active members are the regular and only partakers, with the other same few, the passive and silent spectators?

No less a worker than Mr Moody says, "It is better to make ten men work than to do the work of ten men." To make Woman's Missionary Society work more generally interesting it is important to avoid working in "ruts," and to cultivate the resources of all the membership to the fullest extent.

We often find ourselves in the company of those who have strong predilections in favor of foreign missions, and again others who oppose them, believing our strongest duty lies in our own land, and I think there is a tendency in all of us to try to win recruits to our own way of thinking. Whether this is a virtue or a weakness I do not say, but I think it well to remind ourselves of the wisdom of God in permitting to us our own individual choice. How very awkward it would be if in the economy of human life this privilege were withheld! So it seems this diversity of choice promotes the various forms of Christian activity. The important point is obedience to the command to "Go and preach the gospel," but "all the world" means our part too, and "every creature" means the heathen of our own Christian centres as well as all races of other blood and other climes.

Then again, busy young mothers often plead inability to give time to this work. Well, there are many ways in which this large class of women may fulfil their responsibility to the work contemplated by us, if they cannot come directly in contact with us. I like to say to all such that primarily that responsibility is in the home. "Take this child and nurse it for me," said one of old. And I think the sentiment may well be cherished by every mother as from God himself.

There is a large class of women in every congregation whom we think might be great gainers by a live interest in our work, many of whom are wont to say, "my time for that is past," I am getting old now. Too often when cares relax and powers are not called into action life becomes less interesting in the present, and thought lives in the receding past, which makes old age seem more burdensome. There is the ever present self to be reckoned with. To such we say, That is not ennobling; take up this work, get a broader outlook for your weary vision, put yourself in touch with the best influences in the universe and by love in service you will be saved from mental and spiritual degeneration.

In these days of excessive organization, when the mechanism of our Christian work seems so minute in detail, so prompt in operation, and so panoramic in presentation, there is one text I love to cling to, and I commend it to you as the sure feeder of that personal piety whose relations to our work we have been considering. It reads: "But *thou* when thou prayest, enter into *thine inner chamber* (R. V.) and having shut thy door pray to thy Father which is in *secret*, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall recompense thee." With this text in mind shall we not all join in the beautiful prayer of the Poet Whittier:

"If there be some weaker one
Give me strength to help him on;

If a blinder soul there be
Let me guide him nearer Thee.
Make my mortal dreams come true,
With the work I fain would do;
Clothe with life the weak intent,
Let me be the thing I meant;
Let me find in Thy employ
Peace that dearer is than joy,
Out of self to love be led
And to heaven acclimated,
Until all things sweet and good
Seem my natural habitude."

—ANNIE PARKER.

District Doings.

BRANTFORD DISTRICT CONVENTION.

THE Brantford District Convention of the Woman's Missionary Society of the Methodist Church was held in the Brant Avenue Church, May 9th.

The morning and afternoon sessions were both interesting and profitable.

Mrs. Phelps, District Organizer, in the chair. Miss W. Shannon was elected Recording Secretary, and Miss Weymes, Secretary of Supplies. The reports of the work presented were very encouraging, and many valuable suggestions given by the different Circles and Bands.

An address on "Mite-Boxes" was given by Mrs. Schell. It was replete with useful facts for the information of the delegates, after which the Misses Verity and Mrs. Geary rendered a duet in a pleasing manner. Next came "the unorganized circuits, and how they might be reached." The President gave a very earnest and practical talk on the subject, and after a lengthy discussion it was suggested by Mrs. (Rev.) Rutledge that each Auxiliary take up the unorganized places nearest them.

The Organizer's report showed that much earnest work had been done, and many plans were spoken of to reach all the ladies in our Church and try and interest them in missionary work. This brought the morning session to a close. Refreshments were provided by the ladies of the Brant Avenue Church, to which the delegates and visitors were cordially invited.

In the afternoon an address of welcome was given by Mrs. T. White, who, in a few well-chosen words, cordially welcomed the friends to the Brant Avenue Church at this Convention, which was responded to by Mrs. C. W. Bell, of St. George.

The minutes of the morning session were read by the Secretary and approved. Miss Morgan gave an address on "Missionary Work," and from her experience as a missionary in Japan for several years, gave us much useful information. Her address was listened to with pleasure by the audience. Mrs. Crompton and Miss Snyder contributed to the interest of this session by singing a couple of sacred solos very sweetly. Mrs. (Rev.) Colling St. George gave a paper on "Self-denial;" Mrs. Rutledge, President of Colborne Street Auxiliary, on "How to Keep Up the Interest of our Missionary Meetings." This paper gave evidence of careful preparation. "The Need of Medical Missionaries in China" was ably dealt with in a paper given by Miss Ames, of Paris. Mrs. Wheelend also gave a paper on "Missionary Work." Mrs. Sweet gave a brief and very practical address on "The Unemployed Talent in Our Churches."

The question drawer was opened and the numerous questions answered by Mrs. Phelps, the President, Mrs. White, and Mrs. (Judge) Jones. They were interesting, and many important facts were brought out by the answers.

The consecration service was conducted by Mrs. (Rev.) Wilkinson, of Mount Pleasant, at which many testimonies were given by those who have identified themselves with missionary work, as to the blessings coming into their own lives from the work. Greetings were received from Zion (Presbyterian) Mission Circle.

The Secretary read the minutes, which were approved, and the Convention adjourned. The delegates were again entertained in the church by the ladies, and were well pleased with the hearty welcome and generous hospitality