

Although the attendance at our Convention was not as large as expected, for various good reasons, the meetings were none the less helpful and inspiring. Those who attended were amply repaid for going. We hope that next year, when we meet at Kemptville, every Circle will be represented.

C. M. F.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In presenting this, the Twentieth Annual Report, I may say that, in that portion of the work under our care, we have no startling incidents to record, but the steady march of faithful workers, doing day by day the duty lying before them. Such years, we hope, are those in which the deep foundations are laid, that shall in the future receive the glorious superstructure of more perfect knowledge of our Lord among the people, both at home and abroad.

To begin with the business part of the report. The usual meetings of the Executive Board have been duly held, with a fair average attendance of the members.

Perhaps at no time in our history has the financial standing of the Society given more anxiety to its members than during the past year. Though the appropriations were not for the same amount as for the year ending October 1st, 1895, all during the year, the quarterly payments have not been equal to our obligations, so that it is with very grateful hearts the fact is reported that the year's obligations are now fully paid. This includes a reduction of 12½ per cent. in the general estimates [not our missionary's salary], to which we have consented, in order to be in harmony with the General and Woman's Societies of the West; this makes a small surplus, that you will be asked to re-appropriate later.

During the year we have lost one of our number, who has been long in office and who has, by her careful financing and sympathetic letters to the Circles, done much to preserve unity of aim amongst us. Mrs. F. B. Smith, our late treasurer, was obliged to resign her office, and we to accept her resignation, owing, first, to her leaving Canada, and after, an uncertainty as to her future place of residence.

For the same reason [leaving Canada], Mrs. W. H. Smith resigned the superintendency of the Bureau of Literature.

Miss Sara Scott was appointed to the Treasurership, and Miss Ada Radford to the Bureau of Literature. In order to relieve the Corresponding Secretary of some of her work, so as to allow her to keep the office, Mrs. H. H. Ayer was appointed Assistant Corresponding Secretary, and has given very efficient help in this branch of the work of the Society.

### INDIAN WORK.

*Miss Murray.*—A year ago on July 14, Miss Murray, our devoted missionary, after passing her examination in the Telugu language, started upon her first tour, and has now completed more than a year of active missionary effort in carrying the Gospel to the heathen women of the Vuyyuru district. Her work, so far, for the women in this place is chiefly evangelistic. Accompanied by her Bible women, she has visited between thirty and forty villages, and has generally been well received; two villages, only, have objected to her presence. Her first tour was taken with Miss Stovel, of Akidu, and was upon Miss Stovel's field during the time of the rice transplanting, a season when they can easily reach the women in going to and from their work.

She is especially hopeful about the caste women she has visited, as they have manifested great interest in what she says. Miss Murray gives very interesting testimony to us who are so much engaged in the educational part of mission work, as to the value of an education that reaches to the ability to read. It helps them to remember what they hear, and a tract or book may be left with them for private study.

Miss Murray has, for the first time since going to India, taken a holiday on the hills. Although she does not complain of failing health, no doubt this rest will conduce to its preservation, and the change will be refreshing to her after her long sojourn on the plains.

Though in some parts of India we hear of unusual drought, in the valley of the Kistna in the early part of the year (Society's year) great floods have taken place, carrying desolation and destruction to very many; but though several of our missionaries reside in this part of the country, their lives and property have been mercifully spared. For the continued good health of our dear missionary, and for preservation of life and home during the late flood, we would render thanks to our Lord, and pray that her work may prove abundantly fruitful and redound to His great glory.

### BIBLE WOMEN'S WORK.

The Bible women of whom we are part supporters, work in and near Cocanada, each having their own lists of houses which they visit. Their reports are very interesting, but difficult to glean for results suitable to report. It is truly a work prosecuted with "Precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little." It is an attack upon the very core of heathendom found in the hearts of the women; and in reading these reports, one cannot help but be impressed with the necessity of the girls' schools. Ignorance and the bigotry of false religion hold full sway over these poor women—fast in heathendom.