

THE MISSIONARY WORLD.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS.

The recent annual meetings of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society have suggested the following reflections in the mind of one who was present:

If women are in the future to take part in great missionary and other meetings conducted by themselves, they must cultivate the art of speaking clearly, with distinct enunciation, and with sufficient volume of tone to be heard in a large auditorium. Perhaps with many of us the time to acquire this proficiency has passed by; but we can at least see to it that the education of our daughters in this respect shall not be neglected.

Then a thought as to the arrangements in regard to reporting. If it be considered desirable to confine the attendance at the annual meetings exclusively to women, provision should at least be made to place every facility at the command of women reporters. The influence of the press is confessedly great. It is our duty, and it should be our desire, as far as possible, to enlist that influence on behalf of the glorious work of missions, whether home or foreign. The fullest reports of the proceedings of the recent annual gathering could not bring anything but advantage to the work we have at heart, and, for that matter, credit to those who took part in the whole conduct of the business, as well as to those who addressed us, the speeches, whether prepared or impromptu, being entirely admirable. Indeed your delegates, more than once, regretted that the husbands of those who took various parts in the proceedings, were not present to observe how well women can acquit themselves in conducting meetings of so much importance.

One additional point. We must, as a Foreign Missionary Society, bestow more thought and care to send out to the foreign field only those eminently and completely equipped with the physical, mental and spiritual qualifications necessary to success. Not every one who is willing and has a strong desire to serve God as a missionary, is fitted for that work. Peculiar qualifications are necessary. Let us pray the Master Himself to choose from among us those whom He sees to be most fit for the work.

LETTER FROM INDORE

Miss Oliver, M.D., writes gratefully acknowledging mission boxes. She tells of the immense enjoyment the little girls derive from presents of dolls. A doll was given at Christmas to each pupil. Miss R. writes:

I think you will be interested in hearing about our closing exercises, as we ventured on some innovations from any previous years. We made it a "purdahnashin" affair, that is, allowed no men to be present. This was done in order to get as many as possible of the native ladies to come out to it. We had no room in the girls' schools large enough to accommodate all the girls, so we borrowed the mission high school room, and the teachers and boys decorated it with flags, mottoes and garlands of flowers. Then all the windows were darkened and the lamps lit. The whole effect was very pretty, finished up as it was with 154 bright little faces sitting on the floor; behind sat the visitors; being the European ladies living here, nearly all the Parsee women and thirty or more Marathi and Hindoo women; among them the wives of four of the leading men in Indore City. We were obliged to have a large tent put up in front of the door so that they might come in without being seen. All this may seem very foolish to you, but we feel that it is a great step in advance to have got so many of them out. We hired thirteen ox carts (bigharries), in which to bring all the children of the city schools up to the camp, as it is too far for many of them to walk, besides they would not have been allowed to come so far on foot.

We began by the children all singing a Hindi hymn, followed by all repeating the Lord's Prayer in Hindi. Between the classes we had also a Marathi Kindergarten song by twenty-five of the girls, two verses of "Gathering in the Sheaves" by the girls who are learning English, and then when all the dolls had been distributed, we had the girls sing "God Save the Queen."

Yesterday a gentleman living here sent a present of twenty-four pounds of native sweet-

meats for a Christmas treat to the Christian children, so we gathered them all into our bungalow for a feast. Miss Rodger and I spent part of yesterday filling a work bag for each of their mothers with some of the contents of the boxes; cloth enough for a jacket, and thread, needles, pins, scissors, buttons, etc. I am sure if you could but see how pleasant it has been to handle the contents of those boxes, all the good women of Hamilton Presbytery would catch a share of that happiness.

Being such a liberal supply for all, we just divided the general boxes into five equal shares to represent Neemuch, Rutlam, Indore, Oojein, Mhow. Then, as Miss Rodger, Mrs. Wilson and I had got extras in our private home boxes, we did not need to make the Mhow share any less on account of their special box. Next week we will go up to Oojein, and give dolls to the little girls who have begun to attend our two schools lately there.

The schools have only been open about six weeks, so that the girls have not yet earned a doll, but when I was up last—some three weeks ago—I found that for the first eight days after the schools were opened a number of girls attended them. All at once their parents refused to allow them to come because a report had been circulated that as soon as we got a large number gathered we would carry them off to Indore and drown them. I visited some of their homes and got them to promise to send them back, and, in order to encourage both teachers and scholars, promised small dolls to all who would come regularly.

In a few days the attendance at the Marathi School rose to fifteen daily, and at the Hindi School nearly as many. No doubt "a doll" is the strongest force at work as yet, but if we can but get the girls started to come by encouraging them, I do not fear but that nearly all of them will continue to come. The two teachers are the wives of two of the Christian teachers in the boys' school, and seem to be really interested in their work. I found that they had been going for some time to some of the zenanas, to talk with and read to the women.

We opened a woman's dispensary in Oojein some three months ago, and have been going up for a few days twice a month to attend to patients, leaving a Christian woman—who has been twice in Agra Woman's Medical college in charge. It was when doing medical work there that we were led to think of schools for girls so as to make use of all the Christian women.

SAMOA.

There is no one island called Samoa, the name is applied only to the entire group of ten islands, often called the Navigator Islands. The great French navigator, La Perouse, who visited these islands in 1787, had one of his officers and ten of his men massacred, and while bitterly denouncing them for their "atrocious manners," declared it "one of the finest countries in the universe." A similar testimony was given by other navigators who visited these islands before their evangelization.

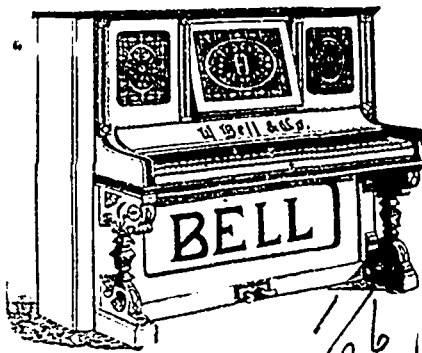
But all of the islands that form the group are now professedly Christian. The first missionaries, Williams and Barff, reached Samoa in 1830, and very rapid progress was made in Christianizing the islands. Heathenism is now a thing of the past, and there are 200 villages in which native pastors are supported by the people. Besides supporting the native pastors, the native churches have contributed on an average during the last twenty years \$6,000 per annum to the funds of the London Missionary Society, which numbers 27,000 adherents. The Wesleyan Mission have 5,000, and the French priests claim 3,000. The population of the islands is now 35,000, an increase since 1843. In seven years after the entire Bible was printed in their language, an edition of 10,000 copies was sold, and the British and Foreign Bible Society has received from sales the entire amount of its outlay, \$15,571. Some years after another and revised edition was published, of 10,000 copies, which is now exhausted. The natives had never seen a piece of money when the mission was started. Now there are English, French, German and American stores, and from \$250,000 to \$500,000

worth of native produce goes into the stores of these merchants in exchange for clothes and other necessary articles.

These facts lend great interest from a missionary point of view to the Samoan matter, which now occupies the joint attention of the three leading governments of the world. It is affirmed that on account of rivalry for the chieftainship, and feuds growing out of it, the bulk of the people, and even the chiefs, longs for foreign help and protection. These islands of the South Sea, so recently converted from savage barbarism to Christianity by English missionaries, deserve the sympathy and prayers of Christendom. It is obvious that the triumph of the German policy would work injury to missionary interests in that part of the world.

FREDERICK T. ROBERTS, M.D., Physician to and Professor of Clinical Medicine at University College Hospital, London, Eng., says: "Bright's Disease has no symptoms of its own, and may long exist without the knowledge of the patient or practitioner, as no pain will be felt in the kidneys of that vicinity." This accounts for many people dying with Bright's Disease, or advanced kidney malady. The disease is not suspected until it reaches a fatal period. If Warner's Safe Cure is used at the proper time, the fatality from that disease would be greatly decreased. Dr. Thompson also says: "More adults are carried off in this country by chronic kidney disease than any other one malady except Consumption."

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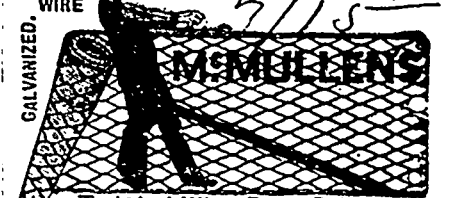
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