

The W. A. M. A.

An effort is being made to infuse new energy into the Women's Auxillary Association and to increase its membership in this place. We wish it all success. There is surely ample room for the development of the missionary spirit in St. James' Church. Generally, it is only a few members do anything substantial for the society and even that occurs only for a few weeks in the summer. Now, it is intended to hold weekly or fortnightly meetings for work during the greater part of the year, and thus prevent zeal from cooling and accomplish much more work.

The District Visitors.

The Rector wishes to convey in a public manner his gratitude to the members of the least heard of, but certainly one of the most useful and necessary societies in the parish, i.e., the District Visitors, for their persistent and unselfish labors. On the whole they have done their work faithfully and well. Without them as sentinels, with their regular monthly reports from all parts of the city, such a large parish could not possibly be worked intelligently. They deserve the gratitude not only of the Rector, but also of the congregation. The welcome presence of the District Visitor is a monthly pledge that the Church remembers all her children.

The Junior Auxillary.

We are glad to announce the formation of a Junior Branch of the W. A. M. A. in connection with St. James' Church. Miss Stoeet and Mrs. Moore (Grange St.) have kindly consented to superintend the work, and so far the little ones have shown a very marked enthusiasm both for giving and for working. They will meet every week in the Chapter Room, on Monday, at 4:30 p. m. Their officers and membership will be found on page 2 of the Magazine, among the parish organizations. We hope to announce in the next issue the formation of an organization for boys, into which they can enter with enthusiasm. We are already in correspondence as to two or three boys' organizations, endeavoring to discover which would be the best for the boys of St. James' Church.

Easter Vestry.

The Easter Vestry will have passed before another issue of the Magazine will appear. The importance of these Vestries is hardly realised by the bulk of the congregation, or else the attendance at them and the interest manifested in them would be much greater. Let our people realise, then, that this is the only official meeting of the congregation in the course of the year; that the successful financial administration of the Church for the year depends entirely upon the wisdom of the arrangements made at the Easter Vestry in the selection of energetic and earnest men as Wardens. This first, naturally, for it concerns ourselves. Then it is almost universally forgotten that after the Vestry is over and the local work is finished, a meeting of the congregation is held for the election of Delegates to Synod, or in other words, with a view to the general work of the Church. Now, far too little importance is placed upon this part of the work on Easter Monday. The Delegates are often elected without any thought of fitness, or of prescribing any work, or of calling for a report; in fact without any serious idea of the great responsibility which rests upon the Lay Delegate. Often indeed they are selected amidst the confusion of searching for overcoats and rubbers previous to leaving after the conclusion of the Vestry. Now, we should like to see more seriousness in this department. Just as a member of the Provincial Parliament has a greater responsibility than a local alderman, so the Lay Delegate has greater responsibility than the local Church officer. His vote counts in the disposal of nearly \$1,000,000 trust funds. He has a voice in the formation of Canons or Church laws, for the government of his Church in this part of Ontario. If a vacancy occurred in the Episcopate, he has a voice in the selection of another Bishop; and three votes (the number to which St. James' is entitled) go often a long way in such elections. We therefore suggest, in order to make this election a more serious matter than it generally is in most parishes, that the Lay Delegates be requested to present a report of the proceedings of Synod, together with the part which they took in them; that some special work be assigned to the Delegates to advocate in the Synod, such for instance as the Division of the Diocese, or the reform of the Canon on the Mission fund, or the method of raising Diocesan funds of all kinds so as to do away with the multiplicity of special collections, etc. Were this done, perhaps more interest would be manifested by the congregation at large in the work of the Delegates, and the Delegates would have an incentive to devote themselves intelligently and energetically to their work. For the guidance of our parishioners we append the qualifications of any person to vote both at a Vestry and at a meeting of the congregation for the election of Lay Delegates: First, for voting at a Vestry, "Every male member of any Church of the Church of England of the full age of twenty-one years, and holding a pew or sitting therein shall be entitled to vote at the Vestry. And in any Church in which a portion of the sittings are free (like St. James' Church) such male members of the congregation, of the full age of twenty-one years occupying said free sittings as shall declare themselves in writing in a book provided for the purpose, to be members of the Church of England and as not belonging to any other congregation and shall have contributed to the support of such Church not less than \$2 per annum, shall have a right to vote at such Vestry meetings." (Canon xix., Sect. 1). Second, for Lay Delegates: "It shall be the duty of Wardens of each congregation to provide a book in which each male member of such congregation and of no other, and of the full age of twenty-one years, shall subscribe his name as being a member of the Church of England, as belonging to no other religious denomination; and such and no others shall be entitled to vote at the election of the Lay Representatives." (Constitution, section 3).

Thus it will at once be seen that many more persons can attend and have a right to vote in the election of Lay Delegates than at the Vestry. For the latter purpose, registration of membership and a money contribution are necessary; for the former, registration of membership alone is sufficient.