

membership of Auxiliaries, 13,876; Mission Bands and Circles, 290, an increase of 17; Mission Band members, 6,532, an increase of 116.

Receipts from annual fees, \$12,957; from life members' fees, \$1,459.50; from Mission Circles and Bands, \$6,828.82; from mite-boxes in Auxiliaries, \$2,635.21; from other sources in Auxiliaries, \$11,254.47. Total receipts from Branches and Auxiliaries, \$35,135.00.

This is somewhat less than the receipts from the same sources last year, but bequests and other sources of income more than made up the deficiency, so that the grand total, \$40,379.36, as shown in the Treasurer's report, is \$571.03 in advance of last year.

The President gave an informal talk instead of a regularly-prepared address. She referred to the meeting of the General Board of Missions in Montreal, and the deep spiritual influence ever present. The President spoke with deep earnestness, and the close attention given evidenced the interest and favor with which her remarks were received. Greetings were presented by Mrs. Gray, Mrs. Davies and Mrs. Rutherford, representing the Presbyterian and Baptist Woman's Missionary Societies and the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, respectively.

The reports of Branches were presented by their respective Corresponding Secretaries, with the exception of British Columbia, which was read by Mrs. Strachan, who also gave the reports of separate Auxiliaries. Each Branch has had a slight increase in membership. At the close of the afternoon session the ladies of Carlton Street Church gave a cordial invitation to the delegates, and all the friends present, to remain to tea, when a very pleasant time was spent in social intercourse.

The Rev. S. D. Chown, pastor of the church, presided over a public meeting in the evening. In the opening exercises he was assisted by Rev. M. L. Pearson, President of Toronto Conference, and Rev. Dr. Potts. Addresses were given by Misses Hargrave and Blackmore, of Japan, and Miss Clarke, of Chilliwack, B.C. The Choir furnished suitable and beautiful music, a solo by Miss Ronan being especially enjoyable. Mrs. Strachan gave an abstract of the Corresponding Secretary's report, and Mrs. Briggs read the report of the Supply Committee, which is always interesting.

On Wednesday morning, after the minutes of the previous session had been read and confirmed, the first order of business was the consideration of the report of the Executive.

This was the most important matter which came before the Board, as it contained the findings of the Joint Committee, which had been appointed by the Boards of the two societies, to consider the causes of friction in Japan, and the action which had been taken by the Executive Committee of the Woman's Missionary Society on its recommendations. The following was the report of that Committee:

"The Joint Committee of the Executives of the two Societies having considered carefully the relation of various agents of the Societies in Japan, as shown by the correspondence, beg leave to report:

"1. That in our opinion in order to restore harmony, it is absolutely necessary that several changes be made in the *personnel* of both missions. We, therefore, recommend to the Executive of the Woman's Missionary Society the withdrawal of Mrs. Large from the Japan work not later than the end of the school year.

"2. The Rev. Dr. Eby having tendered his resignation as missionary to Japan, we recommend to the Executive of the General Society to accept such resignation, to take effect forthwith.

"3. We are further of opinion that it is not expedient that the Rev. F. A. Cassidy should return to Japan, and we recommend to the Executive of the General Board that he be retained permanently in this country."

The Executive of the General Society had accepted the report of this Joint Committee as far as it affected missionaries of that Society, and had requested the Executive of the W. M. S. to do the same. The report therefore had been accepted and Mrs. Large recalled. To provide for her after her return from Japan, and in order that her health might be fully restored, a year's furlough on full salary was

voted her. Subsequently communications were received from Japanese teachers in the Tokyo school, from Bible-women, from missionaries, and one from seventy-six Japanese ladies, all testifying to Mrs. Large's great usefulness in Japan, and expressing great regret at her removal.

Last May our Executive addressed a communication to the General Executive suggesting the expediency of a thorough investigation, in which the testimony of all the missionaries now in Canada might be received. To this the General Executive replied that it was not thought advisable to take steps in that direction, at least until the meeting of the General Board in October. As all are aware, the matter was thoroughly gone into at the annual meeting of that body in Montreal recently, and a satisfactory and harmonious decision reached. It remained with the Board of the W. M. S. at this meeting to fully consider the question as it related to our own missionaries. It was decided to have all the letters and other documents read, which had come before the Executive, pertaining to friction between missionaries of the two societies. This occupied many hours, but the time was considered to have been well spent, as the delegates, after hearing them, were more than satisfied of the truth of a letter from Dr. Sutherland, which said: "We have to congratulate ourselves that there have been no complaints concerning the doctrine and teaching of the agents of our societies in Japan, and not a breath of suspicion as to their moral and religious character. Further, their administration on the whole has been of such a spirit and nature as to meet the general approval of the Home Board. Whatever difficulties have arisen seem to have been mainly of a personal or semi-official kind."

After the documents had been read, Mrs. Large who, with the other missionaries, had been present throughout, was asked to make a statement. She replied that she had no statement to give, no complaints to make, no battles to fight. She was there by official request, and was prepared to answer any questions which might be asked her. In answer to inquiries, Mrs. Large gave an outline of the work during the last four years, in as far as it related to any friction with missionaries of the General Society. Questions were asked, and many points cleared up to the satisfaction of the delegates, and Mrs. Large said: "I do not resent a single question which has been asked me, but am only too glad to have an opportunity of making these explanations. I feel that I know my sisters better than ever before, and they understand me better. I know that to myself will come a great benefit from all I have gone through. I have learned lessons which will abide with me throughout life."

The following resolution was then moved by Mrs. Ross, president of the Montreal Branch, seconded by Mrs. Phelps, of the Hamilton Conference Branch, and heartily carried: "Whereas Mrs. Large has been recalled from Japan on account of the want of harmony existing between the Council of the General Board and the Council of the Woman's Missionary Society, and whereas a thorough investigation into the causes of the want of harmony has been made by the General Board, both as regards their own workers and those of the Woman's Missionary Society—seven of our workers having been present to testify in reference to the various causes of friction, which, from their testimony, as well as that of the Rev. Dr. Cochran, the Rev. F. A. Cassidy and others, and from official records, proved comparatively small and insignificant, in no way reflecting upon either the character of our workers or their work, although, as regards estrangements between individual missionaries acknowledgement has already been made that the wisest course has not always been pursued; therefore, resolved, That this Board again expresses its confidence in Mrs. Large and our Mission Council in Japan, and its policy, and empowers the Executive to reappoint Mrs. Large to Japan, when, in the judgment of the Executive, the way to successful work is open."

During the meeting of the General Board in Montreal, a question had been submitted by the President and Corresponding Secretary of the Woman's Missionary Society, asking what, in the opinion of the General Board, were the powers of the Board of Managers of the Woman's Missionary Society in reference to the return of Mrs. Large to Japan. The reply from Dr. Carman on behalf of