

Towards the cost of these mission premises, the Women's Society of Ontario, in addition to what they gave last year, made extra grants of \$200 and \$500.

Your Board feel that they cannot express too highly the deep obligation they are under to the Women's Society for this cheerful and timely assistance rendered by them.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

*Finances.*—Again your Board is constrained to call your attention to the deep anxiety caused, especially to the Executive, on account of the irregularity of the Society's receipts. Month by month money in fixed amounts has to be sent to the East; and this has to be done very frequently with perhaps not more than one-third of the required amount in the treasury. Were it not that your Treasurer has got his heart thoroughly absorbed in the work, great embarrassment would result from this.

The Treasurer will report to you, for the year just closed, receipts amounting to over \$15,500. Making, along with \$1,500 for the "Garside Fund," a total of \$17,000.

In the early part of the year the Board had with regret, to accept the resignation of Rev. J. W. A. Stewart, as Secretary of the Society, consequent upon his acceptance of the pastorate of the First Baptist Church in the city of Rochester, N. Y. At the unanimous request of the Board the present Secretary was asked to take up the work.

About this time word was received from India that the health of our senior missionary, Rev. John McLaurin, was so impaired that it was a grave question if he could hold out much longer. For more than a year he had been so enfeebled that his work, at other times a joy, had become a burden almost too heavy to be borne. It was hoped that the brief rest and change at Bangalore last October, would have so benefitted him that he could stand it a little while longer. But after resuming his work at Samulcotta it was found that no permanent improvement had been derived, and therefore, on consultation with the other missionaries on the field, it was deemed best in the interest of his valuable services to the mission, that he should leave his work for a year and come home to Canada. He accordingly sailed from Madras in April, and although seriously ill almost all the way across, and constrained to tarry for a while in England to recuperate, along with Mrs. McLaurin he arrived amongst us the third week of June. It is surely a matter of gratitude to our Father in heaven that he is able to report himself as recuperating fast. It is also well known that Miss Frith, of the Women's Society, had been in poor health for a considerable time. Our sister's heart was so absorbed in her work that she forgot to take care of herself, and, consequently, her frame, not so strong at the best, gave way, and she, too, acting upon the advice of the other missionaries, came home with Mr. and Mrs. McLaurin for a period of rest. But this temporary withdrawal of three efficient