

* PALM BRANCH *

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DECEMBER, 1897.



HE pretty town of Whitby, Ont., was more than usually astir the last week in the month of October, '97, because of the presence in its midst of fifty ladies from all the Provinces of the Dominion, representatives of the W. M. S. met to talk over the successes of the past year, and to plan new work for the future. The weather was all that could be desired, as was also the kind welcome given in hospitable homes, Church and town. Mrs. Strachan's report of the various mission fields was very interesting, and told of good work done by our faithful missionaries. The Home Report showed no lack of interest and zeal in our home workers. Total amount raised by Branches, Auxiliaries and Bands for last year, was \$36,455.32, an increase of \$8,731.18. There are 680 auxiliaries in the society—increase 17, there are 15,071 members, including 843 life members and 5,833 Band members. \$83.20 of this amount sent in by the Manitoba and North West Branch, was given through a little crippled boy, Herbie Bellamy, of the Moose Jaw Aux. He has no use of his hands and Mrs. Carcary showed a little letter written with his foot. We hope to be able to give this letter next month to the girls and boys of the Mission Band, and to tell them a little more about this dear boy who shows so much love for Jesus.

Wednesday an interesting memorial service was held by Mrs. Ross, and a tender sketch of Miss Jennie Ford's life, written by her Uncle, part of which we give in our pages this month, was read by Mrs. Strachan. The meeting adjourned somewhat earlier than usual, to admit of the acceptance of a kind invitation from Dr. Hare, Principal of the Ladies' College, to a reception within its hospitable walls, where two or three hours were delightfully spent. It was really

a delicious break in the midst of details and statistics, and fully appreciated. This College's beautifully situated and brilliantly lighted for this occasion made an imposing picture as we drove up to the door. We were escorted into various rooms and peeped into dormitories, in which, here and there, were groups of sunny-faced young girls. We much admired the home like aspect of the place. Then came an invitation to the dining-room, where little tables for four were invitingly set and a generous repast was served by teachers and pupils. Later on, choice music, consisting of sweet songs and fine organ and violin solos, was given by the young ladies. After pleasant speeches and mutual good wishes, the guests departed, well pleased with the entertainment.

In the Anniversary meeting, held in the evening, Miss Spence told of successful work done among the Indians, and of the improvement in their lives, and of work still to be done; and Miss Veasey told of Japan, of the encouragements and difficulties in that field. Both of these faithful missionaries, unconsciously to themselves, revealed their own great adaptability to the work. Let us not forget that they are at home for a much needed rest!

Miss Hattie Jost, of Nova Scotia, who has been some time in the Deaconess Home, was introduced to the Board, and carried the hearts of all with her, as she touchingly told of the way in which she had been led to devote herself to this blessed work. It was decided that she must go very soon, so as to reach Japan before Christmas. Let the prayers of all our young people go with her as she goes to that untried land and work. It was decided that a small Orphanage be built this year in Chentu, to be called "The Jennie Ford Home," and it was agreed to ask Mission Bands and Epworth Leagues to give a "Thank-offering" for the building of this Orphanage. A new Doctor and Nurse are to be sent, as soon as possible, to China. The petition against slavery and ill-treatment of Chinese girls, in British Columbia, is to be sent direct to the Government. The action of our Japan ladies, in opening up work in Nagano, was heartily approved.

In reference to Mission Circles and Bands being merged in Ep. Leagues, it was earnestly recommended that Circles and Bands maintain their identity and work as separate societies. Resolutions of good will and continued interest were sent Mrs. Gooderham and Mrs. Large, now in Japan. We give a part of one of the many Resolutions passed:

Resolved,—"That the thanks of this Board be given to Mrs. Gordon Wright, Editor of the W. M. S. department, of the *Outlook*; Miss Smith, Editor of THE PALM BRANCH; and to Miss Ogden, Sec.-Treasurer of the Literature and Publication Department, for their self-denying work and labor of love, during the past year."

A very happy Christmas to all our readers!

Do not forget that next month will be the beginning of the New Year. That is the time, for those who have not already done so, to subscribe for the PALM BRANCH.