

Woman's Missionary Society

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166 Carlton Street.

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113 Hughson Street N.

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46 Bond Street.

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52 James Street.

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"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."—ISAIAH lxi. 11.

ONE of our best workers in Mission Band work writes:—"I am becoming more convinced that concerts, etc., are a poor way of raising money for mission work. It is now almost impossible to interest them since the entertainment."

This testimony is valuable. We have several times urged our Mission Bands, and Auxiliaries also, to avoid the pernicious system of making the money object supreme in our work. The anxiety to make money at church entertainments has sometimes produced results most damaging to the cause of religion. And "getting up" certain kinds of shows, for the benefit of missions, not having any reference to missionary work, is practically to concede that the subject of missions does not possess interest enough to attract or benefit an audience. Programmes of "entertainment," from which no one can gain an item of information, an inspiration to work for God's cause, or a stimulus to devotion or liberality, are a failure.

Rather an assemblage of people under the auspices of a Mission Band, or Woman's Missionary Society, ought to be regarded as an opportunity for sowing seeds of information about missions, the claims of God upon His followers, and the needs of the work, etc.; seeds which are sure to germinate and propagate themselves. With the youth of the Church alive to true missionary interest, the success of the cause in the future may be already assured. The Woman's Missionary Society, through the wise policy of encouraging a love of the work for its own sake, and in hope of stimulating our young people to work for the advance of the Redeemer's kingdom, have inaugurated

the Mission Band Programme system. If our dear young Band workers, and our Auxiliary members, help to carry out our plan, we know that every meeting will result in adding to their knowledge of mission work, and also in spreading this knowledge among the people. During the past winter the Literature Committee have published programmes on Japan, Chinese Work, Our Indians, The French Work. Also an Easter service, and in this number a second one on "Indians." For a very small sum Bands can be supplied with copies of these, and thus one part of an entertainment is easily procured, with the certainty of its being profitable. We ask the attention and co-operation of our Bands and Auxiliaries in this work.

The General Executive met during the past week in Toronto.

The President of the Western Branch has called her Executive to meet in June to discuss certain aspects of the work. It may not be out of place to notice that contemplated changes in the Constitution require a three months' notice before the Annual Board Meeting.

"*Woman's Work for Woman*," a Union illustrated magazine, published monthly by Women's Foreign Missionary Societies of the Presbyterian Church, presents its readers with a statement of the Women's Boards of Canada, in which our own Woman's Missionary Society is mentioned with a condensed account of our entire work.

FOR AND FROM MISSION BANDS.

SCRAP-BOOKS.—Of course, every wise mission band leader keeps her scrap-book for missionary items, recitations, dialogues, copied or clipped from papers, books and periodicals, but it would be well for the children to be encouraged to have missionary scrap-books. One way to do this is to offer a small prize for the scrap-book containing the best articles on missions, no articles to be cut from missionary periodicals, as we should always lend them after reading them ourselves; but good readings might be copied and the written copy pasted in the scrap-book. The prize, if possible, should be of a missionary character—a Japanese book-mark, pin-cushion or little box, each costing ten cents, or some missionary story would be a suitable prize.

A LADY in Tilsonburg writes as follows:—"My cousin's little children, in Toronto, saved their candy money since they were up here in November, for the mission work. They heard me talk about the Chinese children, and wished their money to go to them. When Mr. Crosby was here they handed it to him, and he promised to deliver it to Miss Leak, as 'Candy money from Stella, Violet, Minnie and Dickie.'" We think this a good precedent for "little children" and children of a larger growth to follow.