

fixed and strong, it will take time to show extensive returns. But encouraging progress is being made.

In the past year, through twenty-seven societies, grants were made for 364 Biblewomen, an increase of twenty-four. The number of native women to whom on an average they each week read the Scriptures rose to 18,742, an increase of 861. The number of their pupils who attained in the year the standard of being able to read the Bible for themselves was 1,374, an advance of forty-three on the number of the previous year. The circulation of Scriptures through the Bible-women increased by 623 copies through gifts, and by 809 through sales, a total increase of 1,432 copies. The entire circulation, so far as reported, was 12,361 copies; 9,715 of which (or more than three fourths of the whole) were sold. This progress has been effected at an additional cost to this Society of only £87 13s. 9d. in its grants, but their aggregate amount was £2,450 12s. 4d.

The Obituary of the year has been unwontedly heavy. Among the distinguished men whose interest in the Society had enrolled them among its Vice-Presidents were the late Duke of Devonshire and his son, Lord Edward Cavendish. The Duke's name had been on the list for fifty five years, and stood at its head. Simply to mention the others will be enough to recall honoured and beloved fellow-workers who brought to the Bible Society as their common centre the gifts and graces which had made them pre-eminent in their respective churches. They were Bishop Perry, Bishop Harold Browne, Bishop Mesac Thomas, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon, the Rev. Dr. Owen Thomas, the Rev. Dr. Donald Fraser, the Rev. Dr. Allon, Sir Robert Fowler, Bart., and F. J. Wood, Esq., LL.D., second to none in warm-hearted devotion to the Society's object.

In their room the following take office as Vice-Presidents: Lord Middleton; the Right Revs. the Bishops of Peterborough, Lichfield, Sodor and Man, and Montreal; the Most Rev. the Bishop of Sydney, President of the New South Wales Auxiliary; the Rev. Dr. Mackennal, the Rev. Principal Edwards, D.D.; J. H. Angas, Esq., President of the South Australian Auxiliary; Alderman Sir Joseph Savory, Bart., Alexander McArthur, Esq., M.P.; W. Blomfield, Esq.; H. M. Matheson, Esq., and George Williams, Esq.

Among the Honorary Governors for Life who have gone, affectionate regard enshrines the names of Bishop Pjetursson of Iceland, Prebendary Blenkin of Boston, Dr. Collingwood Bruce of Newcastle, and the Rev. James Calvert, who loved this Society, and through it gave the people of Fiji and others renderings of the Bible perfected to the utmost of his power.

To fill the vacancies in the list of Honorary Governors for Life the following have been appointed: The Rev. Prebendaries Stephenson of Lympham, Tate of Kippington, and Wightman of Shrewsbury; the Rev. W. S. Swanson, late of Swatow; C. F. Foster, Esq., of Cambridge; C. J. Plumptre, Esq., of Fredville, near Dover; H. J. Tomlinson, Esq., of Barton-on-Humber, and E. Chambers, Esq., of Chelsea.

To these must be added, in a special list, a little band to represent a large company of persons to whom this Society owes more than any honorary distinction can express. Its lady friends have been its sheet anchor throughout. So early as 1811, the name of one appeared among its Honorary Governors for life, as having rendered it very essential services. For forty-seven years that lady's name held its place, suggesting, but not securing, additions of a similar kind. The omission is at length to be corrected. Following that early precedent, the Committee have this year named the following ladies Honorary Governors of the Society for Life:—

The Countess of Harrowby; Miss Allcard, Maida Vale; Mrs. J. Gurney Barclay, Leyton; Miss Barker, Southport; Mrs. Burdon, Hongkong; Miss Cahill, Richmond; Miss Clifton, Bunbury, West Australia; Mrs. Donaldson-Hudson, Cheswardine; Mrs. Fordham, Kensington; Miss Johnson, Sandbach; Mrs. Martindale, Brighton; Miss Jane Peckover, Wisbech; Mrs. Priestman, Sutton, Hull; Mrs. C. E. B. Reed, Upper Holloway; Mrs. Schulhof, Ken-