

The Eastern Society

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WASHINGTON.

"The women were a mighty host!"

Two Montreal women found themselves the only accredited Canadian Baptist delegates that had the privilege of attending the annual meetings of the Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America, January 27th, in Washington, D. C., held immediately preceding the Foreign Missions Conference of North America.

The first contact with our sisters across the border was at the union luncheon of the Home Council and the Foreign Federation held in the New York Ave. Presbyterian Church, at which over two hundred women were present, gathered from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

Discussion centred on the problems affecting various aspects of our work, the importance of summer schools for training leaders for all branches of work in the home base, and very great emphasis was laid on the necessity of co-operation, for strength lies in union and the Boards must get together in order to build a programme which will effectively meet present conditions. It was a great inspiration to hear vital questions taken up in such a clear, forcible manner by women of ability and grace.

After luncheon an open meeting was held with Mrs. Silverthorne, President of the Federation in the chair, when all the departments of work carried on by this very large organization were brought before us in rapid survey. Space forbids more than a brief reference to one or two, but all were teeming with interest.

Mention must be made of Christian Literature in foreign lands, which claims a great place in our consideration. "We are raising literates but giving them no literature." This was emphasized by Mrs. Donald MacGillivray, Shanghai (Canadian Presbyterian), editor of "Happy Childhood," the first magazine for children in foreign lands.

Another point touched upon was one which ran through all the sessions of the week—that of our attitude to the foreign races in our midst. This was brought very

close to us by Miss Pauline Senn, a Chinese student in Columbia University, who referred to the 1500 Chinese students in America, many of whom, coming here Christians, lose religion through contact with the indifference of church members and return to their homes as pagans or atheists. What an indictment of Christian America!

At 7 p.m. in the Rose Room, Hotel Washington, we were guests at the Authors' Dinner, held to celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Central Committee of United Study. The high place held by the hostess, Mrs. Henry W. Peabody, "the elect lady," in the hearts of her fellow-workers, was evidenced most vividly on this occasion. "A woman sent from God," gracious, and of charming personality, Lucy Waterbury Peabody has accomplished the almost impossible task of linking up the women of the churches in the united study of missionary work. The record of her beginnings is summed up in the words, "It can't be done but here it is," which have since become the slogan of the Central Committee.

A most delightful feature of the programme was the three-minute speeches from a large number of the authors themselves. How interesting it was to us to look into the faces of so many men and women, familiar to us for many years through their books! The whimsical personality of the much-loved Jean Kenyon MacKenzie, of "The African Trail"; Mrs. Gamewell, author of our present study book, "Ming-Kwong"; Mrs. Mary Labaree Platt, with her winsome appeal for "The Child in the Midst"; Dr. D. L. Fleming, who struck a new note in our approach to the non-Christian peoples in "Building with India"—these, with many others, will ever remain in our memory.

Informality and gay good humour marked the evening's proceedings. Mrs. Peabody's ready wit and sweet womanliness, "truly the lady of our delight," taking all formality out of this unique occasion.

The third gathering occurred on Friday, January 29th, at the Hall of Nations, Hotel Washington, again a luncheon, this time