

Bible and saying a few words which would bring out this missionary aim and rekindle missionary zeal.

Here I would anticipate the objection made by many a president, "but I could not speak." Perhaps there are a very few women who cannot speak, but there are a great many who have never done so, who could if they would try, if they would be willing to fail the first time, to begin feebly, until they find that habit soon gives ease and they forget themselves. It is not fine speeches that we want, only a few simple words to remind those present of the aim we have spoken of, and which we want definitely kept before us. I believe if God has called anyone to fill the important office of president of a parochial branch, He can and will make her a good one if she is willing.

There are helps in the way of books. Short selections might be made from such books as Miss Havergal's "Marching Orders," or bits from missionary addresses.

Then, too, the president might ask some member to do this for her, sometimes, if not always, the more members taking part in the meeting, the better.

Prayer should form a very prominent part of the work done at the meeting. We have our members' prayer, which seems to have a place in it for every new need as it arises. The Missionary Litany is also very beautiful, and to it special definite petitions can be added. Urge the members to write out such petitions and give them in to the president before the meeting begins. Ask if they have brought any. Show that you expect them to do so. Petitions for our own branch, petitions for the money we need, for the various cases brought before us. At every board meeting there is a long list of requests for all kinds of things; let a list of these be made, and let them be definitely brought up at each meeting during the month. Perhaps the members would like the secretary to make copies of the list, that they might take them home and remember them in private prayer. Next month will bring a new list to be taken up, and surely so many uniting in these petitions would bring down such showers of blessing, that requests for praise would add lists for thanksgiving to our lists for prayer.

Is the objection here made that this would take so much time? Could it be better spent? Surely the cutting out might and ought to be done at home, or at some other time, so that it should not interfere with our true missionary work; and many of us would gladly take sewing home, that our boxes should not fall behind, or our missionaries be deprived of one garment for their poor shivering people.

The next question is, "How shall we awaken and increase missionary interest in our branches?"

We can only take an interest in things we

know about; so, if we are to be interested in missionaries, we must get to know about them and their work, and the places and people they are laboring among. This can only be attained by reading or by addresses. We can't have a missionary come to speak to us every week, but we can listen to some one reading. I would most earnestly urge that some time be set apart for reading missionary news at each meeting. I believe there are some meetings where ordinary stories are read, while the ladies work; but surely this is falling short of our highest aim. Pick out the best reader, and let her read as well as she can; let some one make a selection for each meeting. It need not all fall on one person; if every member would take her turn, that would be the best way. The magazines should, of course, be supplied. The country branches might look to their town representative to supply them with reading. She might even go the length of making selections for them. The town branches can always get magazines and books somewhere, and we are taking for granted that we are all willing to take a good deal of trouble, if we can only increase and stimulate our workers.

Let each one try to cull out of a magazine or book the most interesting parts, arranging them so that they can be read consecutively. The subject might be given out at the previous meeting, and the members might each try to find out some little bit of information about it, so that when the hour, or even half-hour's reading was over, the talk might become missionary. May I, before leaving this subject, beg that each president will give this plan a fair trial, for surely at the end of each year of missionary work, we should know more about the work being done over all the world's great harvest field, than we did at the beginning.

Letters from missionaries whom individual branches work for, are always full of living interest, and bring us into touch with them.

There is one tiny stone which I would like to roll away, lest it might sometimes be a hindrance, and that is, "Don't let any collecting for outside things be done at the missionary meetings." It is so very convenient when so many are present to try and sell tickets or some such thing; but it may prevent some coming, who are not wealthy and don't like to refuse. Of course, collecting for the missionary objects of the society is quite a different thing.

I think it would be a help if our Diocesan officers would inspect the branches, much in the same way as a bank manager does his banks. At present, when they come to us, we gather in as many as possible and they speak to us, and it is quite different from our usual meeting. But if they came and found us as we really are, they might often make helpful suggestions, and assist the President in carrying out plans for improvement. Let us each feel that we are called to do