

around one common mercy seat, our objects, our aims are still the same.

This past year has been one of blessing, one of deep experience to most of us; let us hope that it can be said of each one "She hath done what she could," but let each remember that the days and the years as they roll on bring new capabilities, we must advance to merit this commendation, for there is no standing still in the Christian's life.

From all the different fields connected with our Woman's Missionary Society, we have had through the year encouraging reports. Souls have been won for the Master; women have been led into better lives, made happier in this life and given bright hopes for a future life; little children have been rescued, cared for, and trained for future usefulness.

In Japan, during the year, a new departure has been made that must commend itself to every heart, and that is: The opening of orphanages in Tokio and Kenazawa. These have been more successful than even the most ardent worker expected; but we at home must remember that these orphanages mean for our missionaries more labor, more care, increased responsibilities, and to have a right balance kept they must mean the same to us at home. Have you thought of it in this way?

Our hearts were filled with gratitude to our Father above that no harm came to our beloved missionaries during the terrible earthquake in Tokio, June 20th. The building was considerably injured, but that was little to what might have been.

In our Indian work, the new home at Chiliwhack has been opened, and is filling up fast, there being seventy-two children, boys and girls, in it. An assistant matron was added to the staff in April, but another worker is now needed, as Miss C. Chull is very much overworked. She says, in a private letter: "Are there no consecrated, qualified young women in Ontario to give themselves to this work?" The letters of Miss Redner, Port Simpson, tell of marked improvement in the children of the Home, of the usefulness of those who have gone out from it.

Of the Chinese Rescue Home we may well say, "Thank the Lord for giving it to us, for letting it be instrumental in preparing these rescued ones to be Christian wives and mothers in Christian homes of their own. The work of the French Institute and of the Bible Women, Montreal, is one of deep interest, and good results are reported.

From distant China we hear of the glad reception of our ten missionaries. Many poor, bodily sick women were waiting the arrival of a medical woman. What an opportunity to minister to the soul while easing the pain of these stricken ones.

This is but a hasty glance of our work abroad, but you who have carefully read the excellent monthly letters, have the particulars in your hearts. For myself I cannot see how any one can keep in touch with the work and not read these letters.

At home, as a branch we have been blessed in many ways. Our Auxiliaries and Mission Bands have prospered, and added to this we have had a very auspicious beginning in being blessed by candidates for the work abroad. Our hearts rejoice that Miss Lambly has reached Japan in safety and entered upon her work. Miss Paul is diligently fitting herself for whatsoever work our Society may appoint her to. Other candidates have been before us, but as yet no decision made. My heart has been cheered that in this our first year, so many should have been stirred to offer themselves to this work, that so many have realized that the question now is, "Dare I stay at home?" not, "May I go?"

Several matters of interest will come before you for your careful consideration, such as—a change in the financial year, to make the date harmonize with the financial year of our Church; a more careful and fair division of the work of the different officers of the Branch; the price of our Annual Report and contents; also some method of supplying all the districts with organizers.

One thought, one face has been with me all through our opening, and that is the thought that during the year the ranks of our band of missionaries have been broken, and the face of our dearly beloved Miss Lund will be with us no more in our earthly meetings. While we cannot claim that

her home was in our branch, yet it was from within our branch that she was called to the mission field. We mourn for our loss, but we rejoice that she is at rest; that after years of faithful, devoted work the Master called her to Himself.

And now, of the officers and delegates let me ask these questions: Why are you here? What have you come for? Surely no little matter has taken us from our homes and families. Of the friends in Port Hope, our hospitable entertainers, I would ask, Why have you invited us here? Why have you given us so hearty a welcome? The one answer ought to be given to these questions, "The glory of God and the advancement of His kingdom." As delegates, we must be diligent in this business, we must be prompt in attendance at all the sessions, careful and prayerful in everything said and done; "in honor preferring one another." As entertainers you will best promote the interest of this meeting by being present at all its sessions; let there not be too many Marthas amongst you—give us homelike fare, missionary fare, and come out and help us much, ever so much more by your presence and prayers than you can do in any other way.

The Treasurer gave her report as follows:

Annual members' fees	\$2,363 22
Life members' fees	343 83
Mission Bands	606 96
Public Meetings	566 69
Mite boxes	271 16
Donation and Thank-offerings	511 06
Bequests	44 15
Scattered Helpers' Fund	14 70
Other sources	438 44

Total amount raised..... \$5,160 21

Increase\$1,050.00

COMPLIMENTARY TEA.

Between the sessions the ladies of the congregation treated the delegates and visitors to a sumptuous tea in the lecture-room of the church. Over 200 ladies were present, and it was a sight seldom seen—so many of the fair sex together.

EVENING SESSION.

At eight o'clock a public meeting, under the auspices of the Mission Band, was held. Rev. W. J. Crothers, the pastor, presided and delivered a most excellent address of welcome to the members of the Convention. On motion of Mrs. Pratt, by a unanimous standing vote, a resolution of appreciation was passed. An excellent programme was then presented. Miss Singleton rendered an organ solo in first-class style; the two little daughters of Mr. W. H. Brownscombe sang a duet very prettily.

Mrs. G. D. Pratt, Picton, the Corresponding Secretary, then read her report.

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.

Our increase in membership and funds is not quite as large as we had hoped to report; but when we remember the exceptionally hard times of the greater part of the year just closed we must admit that any increase, however small, is cause for gratitude and encouragement. It is not as easy as it has been in the past, or will be in the future, to find just how much we have grown during the year, but by counting the members reported by the Bay of Quinte portion of the Central Branch, we find that last year our ninety-six auxiliaries had an aggregate of 2,297 annual members, and fifty-six life members. This year we have 2,387 annual, and sixty-eight life members, making a total increase of 102 members. Last year our Auxiliaries and Bands remitted to the Branch Treasurer \$3,808.18; this year, \$4,859.00, giving an increase of \$1,051.91. Last year the increase reported by the Central Branch was \$1,508.68; hence we trust our branch will contribute a fair share to the total increase, which we confidentially expect will crown our efforts this year as in the past.

As a branch we have been specially honored in this first year of our history by the acceptance of two of our young ladies as missionaries, chosen and called of God, we trust, to this most important work. Miss Lambly has already entered upon her term of service in Japan, and Miss Paul, after a few months' preparation in the Deaconess' Training