

ings at the mission. In country places the inconvenience is not so great, so that lady missionaries suitably attended take tours from village to village, at regular intervals, and where there are Christian families they remain, sometimes for a considerable time, often in unpleasant surroundings, instructing all who come.

Besides all this there is a vast amount of energy bestowed in caring for the poor and homeless, and in giving practical sympathy to the afflicted and sorrowing. Much time is given to hospital visitation, and lady physicians and nurses have in hospitals and dispensaries and by touring from village to village, diffused the benefits of scientific treatment to multitudes of suffering women and have prepared the way for the Great Physician. Ladies have also done much in the distribution of literature, and by their contributions to the press have enlightened Chinese and Christian lands as well.

Such are the multiform agencies by which ladies are sharing in this great work, and to which the W.F.M.S. in our own and other churches are contributing. It is vain to try and estimate results. Nothing is more deceptive than statistical tables. The work is so deep and subtle and enduring that it can no more be tabulated than the "all manner of fruits" that grow in the trees on either side of the River of Life.

#### Rev. J. A. Murray's Death.

The Church has lost one of her brightest ornaments and one of her most useful and faithful ministers by the death, under circumstances of peculiar pathos, of Rev. J. Allister Murray, St. Andrews' church London, Ont. The illness was of several weeks' duration, but as the end approached, it took an unmistakably decided form and hope was abandoned a few days before he died. At the time of his death—on Sunday evening Rev. Dr. G. M. Milligan, Toronto, was preaching in the sick brother's pulpit and his references were touchingly tender. Before the benediction was pronounced the news was brought to the church that the pastor had passed to his rest, and it became Dr. Milligan's sorrowful duty to make the fact known to the congregation. The impression made by the sad news was a tribute to the tender and deep hold Mr. Murray had had upon the hearts of his people. Many wept; for from them had been removed a spiritual father, a guide, a comforter, a very friend, not probably to be entirely replaced in this world.

#### Sabbath Observance.

No duty has been more strictly enjoined on the man than that of Sabbath observance. The church, taking up the divine command, has clearly defined her position on the subject, insisting upon the holy keeping of the Lord's day. Yet with all this, no word in the decalogue is disregarded openly with a greater degree of public countenance. Even ministers of the gospel have been found bold enough to advocate the secularization of the sacred day, and naturally the mass of the people, always ready to break through restraint, be it of human or divine decree, has not been slow to take advantage of the fugitive views proceeding from a few pulpits. Hence the necessity those who are earnest upholders of the Sabbath are under to meet the assaults of their opponents, by combined activity and vigilance. The result of the Toronto Street Railway campaign showed that the consciences of the people can be reached if the efforts be commensurate to the necessities of the case.

That fight was one of the keenest on record. Unscrupulous wealth was on one side; unwonted faith in God on the other. Of course success went with faith and works, and so it does in the majority of cases. To work effectively organization is necessary, and the conference on Sabbath observance held on Monday in Toronto did well to continue the committee of the conference to take steps for the furtherance of the cause.

The conference, although not largely attended, was important as being the vehicle of utterance for many influential men, prominent in the Sabbath observance movement. What is needed is a rousing wave of enthusiasm from people who realize their responsibilities as Christians, and the character of the speakers will ensure a respectful and earnest consideration for their unanswerable arguments. The church must be awakened; pulpit references and pleading are not of themselves enough, consecrated action by churches of the various denominations is necessary. Public meetings and conferences where every one interested would be welcome to listen and to work might help to spread the leaven of enthusiasm. Certain it is that there must be a more systematic, and tangible force at work, than now to cope with desecrators who are as strongly entrenched as railways, ferries, and other corporate bodies whose mind is reached only through the purse, as was well pointed out by several of Monday's speakers. The treatment of the Charlton Bill by the Senate should not escape notice on the hustings and at the polls, for even the august Senate can be reached by the ballot. There be those whose politics differ greatly from Mr. Charlton, who think such a bill would fare better in other hands. It is a pity they think so. The measure, if it be good ought to be supported; on the statute book it becomes the law of the realm, not the law of Mr. Charlton.

The divine origin of the Sabbath and the benefits derived from it by mankind were ably treated by Prof. MacLaren whose lucid style and grasp of the question gave great value to his paper. In the discussion of the topics raised in the conference much of interest was spoken, and if even those who were present would but earnestly follow up Monday's meeting, much good might be expected from it.

**Died in China.** A cablegram was received in Toronto on Tuesday last from Tientsin conveying the sad news that Dr. Lou Graham, and Mrs. Malcolm had died in China. The former died on the 13th inst. of cholera, and the latter on the 22nd inst. of peritonitis. Dr. Lou Graham was the daughter of Mr. Henry Graham of this city, and Mrs. Malcolm was a native of Galt, Ont., and wife of Dr. Malcolm, all laboring in the Honan Mission field. The cable states that Miss Mackintosh and Dr. Malcolm are returning to Canada. Sincere sympathy for the bereaved relatives will be felt throughout the Church.

**Foreign Mission Funds.** Dr. Reid has paid out since the beginning of the financial year up to the 11th of October, \$35,623.43, and only \$8,388.16 have come into the treasury during that time, thus leaving a deficit of \$27,236.27 at the present date. Unless the friends of Foreign Missions throughout the Church make an effort this year our Foreign Mission work will be in deep waters. Much relief could be given by congregations, if instead of holding their contributions over until the spring, whatever is already contributed were sent in at once. Interest on such large loans is a serious loss to the fund.—REV. P. MacKAY.