

WOMEN'S HOME MISSIONS.

Almost simultaneously two great conventions were being held in Toronto last week—the annual meeting of the Women's Home Missionary Society and the National Congress of the Men's Missionary Movement; and both have been most successful gatherings. Just now we have to deal with the former.

The reports read indicated solid progress in the various departments of work. That of the Board of Management, read by Mrs. W. B. Hendry, reviewed the steps taken during the year to keep the hospitals and mission houses efficiently equipped. There have been many necessary changes on the nursing staff of the several hospitals at Teulon, Vegreville, and Wakewell owing to the hard work which is carried on often in great loneliness. Although much is done by this society for the Galicians and other needy foreign settlers in the home field Mrs. Hendry said a great deal is also accomplished for native brethren. At Atlin, it was stated, the W. H. M. S. support two nurses, and at Ethelbert and Sifton Mission Houses nurses are doing splendid work, relieving the sick and needy. Beside this hospital work, ten mission fields are under the care of this society.

The corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. M. Kipp, showed that at Teulon eighteen hundred outdoor and office patients had been treated during the year, one hundred and sixty-nine indoor; and at Sifton, six hundred and sixty-nine outdoor and twenty-seven indoor; at Ethelbert, six hundred and seventy-five outdoor and twenty-four indoor, besides the many who have been nursed in the own homes.

The treasurer, Miss Helen Macdonald, gave the receipts as \$19,299.27, with a balance of \$1,926.22 in hand after all indebtedness had been met. The larger part of this balance has been allocated to extending the work already undertaken.

MANY NEW AUXILIARIES.

Mrs. J. A. Macdonald, convener of the organizing committee, reported that never before had such progress been made in her branch of the work, one hundred and twenty-one new auxiliaries, and nine new Presbyterials having been formed—one hundred and thirty in all. This makes the total number of Auxiliaries three hundred and thirty. Three sub-committees to assist in organization were established in the West, one for British Columbia, another for Alberta, and a third for Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Mrs. George Anderson, supply secretary, reported one hundred and ninety bales sent, with an estimated value of \$10,450, and weight 18,810 lbs.

In the Literature and Library departments great strides have also been made. Leaflets on almost every phase of the work have been prepared by Mrs. C. P. Smith, and her indefatigable committee. Much good work has been done by the Library Department, over thirty well selected libraries having been sent out to points where reading material is greatly needed.

Almost every report made a touching reference to the loss sustained by the society in the death of Mrs. J. A. Patterson, who was intimately associated with almost every one of the Board's activities.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

At the afternoon session Mrs. A. F. McFadyen, the president, in her address, after briefly reviewing the progress made by the society during its six years' history, spoke on the sphere of women's work. She said that woman's highest mission in life was to glorify the common tasks, that her's is a work of affection and sympathy, such as is led by our nurses at the different hospitals and mission houses. With 787,850 added recently to our popu-

lation—many of them of a poor type of manhood—Mrs. McFadyen urged much must be done to raise the moral standard, particularly among those foreigners who hold women in so little esteem. As a society, the W. H. M. S. should strive for the elevation of the young women particularly, since the future of a nation depends upon its women. God-fearing women make a God-fearing nation.

After Miss Brenda Smellie's solo, which was very much appreciated, the Rev. George Arthur gave an address of great interest on the work he is doing for the people among whom he labors in Alberta. Dr. Pringle's address was also full of force and vigor. Dr. Pringle's experiences in the Yukon have impressed upon him the value of Hospital work, and no one believes more firmly in the need for such work than he.

A CHANGE ASKED FOR.

The Women's Home Mission Society discussed a clause recommended to be introduced into the constitution of the Home and Foreign Mission Societies to regulate mission work. For some time past it has been felt by those who work for both societies that their methods could be simplified, and the boards of both recently conferred and arranged the following clause:—"That where only one woman's meeting is possible for both home and foreign work, the two divisions be kept distinct, and be taken up either at alternate meetings or consecutively at the same meeting; that there be either one or two sets of officers, as deemed best, excepting the office of treasurer, which is divided; that there be two separate sets of books for minutes, fees, and offerings; each branch of the work reporting at the close of its year to its own society; thereby making each division auxiliary to its own general society, whether the W. H. M. S. or the W. F. M. S."

After a good deal of discussion the clause was accepted by the meeting and will go before the annual meeting of the W. F. M. S. in Ottawa in May, when it will pass into the constitution of both if there endorsed.

A resolution was put by Mrs. Graham and seconded by Mrs. McGreor to the effect "that in reporting of the values of clothing sent in, no valuation be placed upon second-hand clothing, the weight only be given, but all other articles valued." It was decided to experiment with this for one year.

Invitations were received from London and Orillia to the society to be their guest during next year's annual meeting. As the greater number of auxiliaries are grouped about London, it was decided to go there, though the invitation from Orillia was warmly appreciated.

The following officers were elected:—Hon. President, Lady Mortimer Clark; Hon. Vice-President, Mrs. Parsons; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. John Somerville; Vice-President, Mrs. John Somerville; Vice-President, Mrs. Thom, Mrs. Talling, Lady Taylor; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Kipp; Associate, Miss Anderson; Recording Secretary, Miss M. Steele; Treasurer, Miss Helen Macdonald; Associate, Mrs. McFadyen.

Mrs. McCurdy introduced several resolutions of thanks, appreciation of hospitality, etc., and Mrs. R. S. Smellie closed the convention with a short address and prayer.

Herald and Presbyter:—There are some wonderful revivals this winter and spring, reported from all over the land. Men and women are being converted and added to the Church by thousands. Of course, evil is rampant, and sin abounds, but the Gospel of the grace of God is having marvelous triumphs on every hand.

OBITUARY.

After a lingering and enfeebling illness, borne with Christian patience and fortitude, there peacefully fell asleep at her late residence, 198 James St., in Ottawa, on Thursday night last, Mary Pritchard Findlay, beloved wife of Rev. David Findlay.

Mrs. Findlay was the third daughter of the late John Pritchard, who for many years officiated as an elder in the Presbyterian Church at Wakefield, Que. The late Mr. Pritchard's family consisted of five daughters and six sons, and there still survive two daughters and four sons—all of whom continue to be loyal and staunch supporters of Presbyterianism in the township of Masham, Quebec.

Mrs. Findlay had by her gentle manner and cheerful disposition, gained a wide circle of true and faithful friends by whom she is deeply regretted.

She was truly a very worthy helpmeet, a comfort and strength to her now bereaved husband, during the greater part of his pastorate at Canby; also for ten years at Manotick, and during a nine and a half years' pastorate at Rutledgeville and Bell's Corners. There survive to mourn her loss a devoted family of four daughters, and one son, who will ever cherish sweet memories of her loving counsel and Christian example.

"What to us is sunset to her is dawn."

MOHAMMEDANISM.

The Free Church of Scotland Monthly Record says: "Those who talk of Mohammedanism as on the whole a very fair religion, only second in value to Christianity, and not to be lightly displaced on account of its essential excellence, do not realize how great an obstacle it is to the evangelization of the nations."

What has often been said about the Papacy may be with equal justice said about religion of the false prophet. It is a masterpiece of Satan, and pre-occupies the field of the world to an extent which it is appalling to think of. "The religion of Mohammed," says a recent writer, "is professed by about one-tenth of all the people on the earth's surface. Dating only twelve centuries back, it numbers as many adherents as Brahminism, whose origin lies far back in a misty antiquity. Coming into the world at a time when Christianity had been seated for some centuries on the Imperial throne, in an incredibly short space of time it overthrew both the Christian Empire and its rival, the Persian, and established a sway greater than the Caesars had ever wielded. Its converts do not number more than a fourth of those of Buddhism; but unlike that religion, it has not confined its conquests to one quarter of the globe, but counts its adherents in all the four great continents. When the first streak of dawn falls upon the eastern shores of Asia, the Mohammedan Malay turns his face towards Mecca and offers his morning prayer; and as the light steals westward over the continent, it falls upon thousands of minarets in India, Persia, Arabia and Turkey, from which is heard the muezzin's voice proclaiming, in clear and solemn tones, in the stillness of the dawn, 'God is most great. I testify that there is no deity but God. I testify that Mohammed is the apostle of God. Come to prayer. Come to security. Prayer is better than sleep. God is most great. There is no deity but God.' From Zanzibar on the south, to the banks of the Danube and the steepes of Tartary on the north, the same voice is heard; and westward to the remotest shores of Africa it is repeated, and responded to by pious worshippers. Even in the New World, there are not wanting votaries of this religion, which thus five times daily encircles the globe with a continuous stream of prayer."