

Canadian Missionary Link.

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The Society's Constitution.

(Continued).

This editorial on the Society Constitution is to deal with the annual meeting of the Society, and the regulations governing it. It is only once a year that the Society as a whole attempts to come together. The branch organizations meet in their respective localities many times; the Board of Managers meets many times, but the Society itself convenes but once a year, the time and place being decided by the Board of Managers.

This annual meeting we know better as our convention—the Women's Convention. And just here lies a possibility of confusion. The Convention, as we know it, is composed of the annual meetings of two societies, the Home Society and the Foreign Society, which we have been in the habit of holding on two successive days. As a matter of fact, however, these two annual meetings are in no way connected with or dependent on each other, and the only reasons for having them follow each other rather than having them at different times of the year, are those of convenience and saving in expense both for the entertaining churches and the delegates. Therefore, as we speak in this article of the annual meeting, we are not speaking of the Convention as a whole, but only of "Foreign Day."

The purpose of this annual meeting is set forth as the hearing of "the annual reports of the Board through the Secretaries and Treasurer," the transacting of "other business of the Society, accompanied with suitable religious services." Would that that very plain statement

might be read, re-read and its importance justly estimated by every reader of this paper! It is very greatly to be feared that a large proportion of those who come up to Convention year by year, fail to grasp the real business of our meeting, the "why" of our coming together. We are not there primarily to be entertained,—we are not there primarily to be enthused,—we are not there primarily to enjoy the intercourse of workers and missionaries,—we are not even there primarily to be instructed. We are there to hear reports of the year's work, to discuss these reports, and either adopt them or decline to do so, and transact other business which may be brought up. Our inspirational addresses, our contact with returned missionaries, our social intercourse, pleasant and helpful as they are, are not our business at Convention. They form the extra—the diversion.

The adequate grasp of this fact will place a very different emphasis on the reports and discussions of our morning and of part of our afternoon sessions. They—these reports and discussions—form our reason for coming together, and, as such, ought not to be hurried through with scant interest, with scarcely-concealed impatience, and with dreamy inattention. The annual reports of the Secretaries and Treasurers give, as it is given nowhere else, what has been done during the year with the money that has been sent up from the Circles, and set forth the plans carried out and the plans that are in process of being carried out. Not only so, but