

Name," reading of the sixth of Isaiah by Mrs. Higgins, of Lachute, and prayer by our returned missionary, the Rev. John McLaurin.

The president, Mrs. Claxton, then gave a most cordial welcome to the delegates from Circles present, expressing the pleasure that all felt in also welcoming Miss Frith and the Rev. J. McLaurin amongst us at this time. Touching reference was made in the course of her address to the missionaries who had just left, and to the one who was then leaving our shores (Miss Alexander sailed from Boston, Oct. 6th), and the great honor that women of this age received in being called to work together in this our Master's cause; closing with an earnest appeal to the members of the Society for continued interest, for, "Behold, lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest."

After the minutes of the last annual meeting, the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were read, both of which will be found in another column.

During the afternoon two beautiful solos were given—"Looking over the Crystal Sea," by Mrs. Whitman, and "O, Rest in the Lord," by Miss Smith, which contributed much to the enjoyment of the audience.

Reports from the following Churches were read, viz. Abbott's Corners, Brockville, Barnston, Coutcook and Dalesville, Dominionville, Grove Hill, Sawyerville, Morrisburg, Osgoode, Kenmore, Westport, Roxboro', Perth and Kemptville. Delegates from the Circles at Ottawa, Tayville, Hull, Winchester, Cornwall, Maxville, Lachute, and the Olivet and First Baptist at Montreal read their reports, all of them most interesting and showing a marked advance in interest and efficiency. Many of them also expressed their sympathy with the Secretary, Miss Muir, in her illness and retirement for a time, from active work.

After the singing of the hymn "Stand Up for Jesus," Mrs. Upham gave an address on "Some Women of Europe," she, having witnessed the scenes she so graphically described, urged the women of Canada to live worthily of the higher privileges enjoyed here.

The President then explained the circumstances that caused her to be appointed by the Board to write to Lady Dufferin in India for certain information on the subject of Medical Missions, and in answer received the following gracious reply, which she then read.

(Copy.)

VICE-REGAL LODGE.

Simla, India, May 18th, 1887.

Madam, I have received your very kind letter and am grateful to you for your expressions of sympathy with the work of the National Association for supplying female medical aid to the women of India.

There is one point on which, however, I should like to make the matter very clear to you. Personally, I sympathize warmly with medical missions and medical missionaries, but the money subscribed to the National Association, of which I am trustee, is not spent upon any mission. It is entirely devoted to secular medical work, and it has been subscribed on the understanding that the work of the Association should be strictly unsectarian.

When, therefore, you say that the Ladies' Society of Eastern Ontario and Quebec desire to share in our Indian medical work, I feel bound to explain to them that there are two distinct organizations for carrying out the same object—the one unsectarian, the other missionary—and that funds for the latter should be subscribed through the missionary societies, and not through me. There is in this great country room and to spare for both organiza-

tions and the money which societies such as yours, can subscribe to medical missions, is greatly needed and can be most usefully spent by the managers of the missionary societies.

I trust therefore that the Ladies' Society in whose name you have written to me, will carry out their intention and will, this jubilee year, in one way or the other, help to supply their Indian sisters with that medical relief which they so greatly need.

For those who are interested in the National Association and in its position with regard to the missionary societies, I send a few copies of a little paper of my own, and also the annual report. I also enclose a letter which bears particularly on the missionary question.

The particular need of medical help for women in this country is, from the very nature of the subject, one upon which it is difficult to write. There can be no doubt, that marrying extremely young, that living a life of extreme seclusion, that being often victims to superstitious practices, and to grossly ignorant treatment, the women of India must suffer even more than women of other countries from those maladies and those circumstances which are peculiar to women; and yet, those among them who are the most secluded, and who are compelled to live the most unhealthy lives, are absolutely debarred from any medical relief, unless it can be brought to them by women.

The male doctor is only admitted in extreme cases, and even when the patient is in danger, his examination of her condition is made under the most unsatisfactory circumstances, and must often be practically useless. While, for those who suffer merely from "all health," as distinguished from "an illness," there is no help at all.

We do, therefore, earnestly desire to increase the number of female doctors in India, to instruct native women, educating them as doctors, mid-wives and sick nurses, to open Lying-in Hospitals and female wards, and we are making decided progress, though we have not nearly enough money for so great an object, and we have great difficulties to contend with.

The £50,000 to which you allude, are still far from being collected, but, I feel sure as time goes on, the people of the country will take more and more interest in the work, and that every year will see the question of medical relief for women taken up with more determination and with ever increasing success.

Any expression of interest and sympathy coming from Canada, is especially grateful to me, and I desire to thank you sincerely for your letter.

I remain, Madam,

Yours sincerely,

HARRIET DUFFERIN.

This answer being such, that as a Society, we are not able to contribute, the President felt that this subject should have a wider answer, and would urge upon the women of Canada some plan to meet this question in this the Jubilee year, and suggested, that if only ten cents was given by each, it would be an offering most acceptable; but some one in each district of the country and in each town must take charge of this, and if so wished, would herself most gladly forward to Lady Dufferin all that may be thus collected.

After a paper by Miss Green, "The growth of the Kingdom," Miss Frith answered questions put to her, in reference to the work in India, in a very interesting manner.

Mrs. Ross, of the Methodist Missionary Society; Mrs. Paul, of the Presbyterian Society, and Mrs. Greene, of the Canadian Board of Missions, gave greeting and con-