

cations than these. As a matter of fact, the guiding hand of the Spirit has surely been over the elections, for the Board has always been strong and efficient. But while that is true, there is this possibility in open nomination of proposals made without due thought—a possibility which can be easily guarded against.

There is a regulation which provides that any member of the Board absenting herself from four successive meetings without explanation of her absence may be retired and a successor appointed. This regulation, which seeks to provide against the diminution of our working force through either carelessness or unavoidable hindrances, has been put in force, but only most rarely has it been necessary to call it to mind.

The Society has said that the duty of the Board is, in brief, to do the business of the Society, and then to report it at the annual meeting, to be discussed and passed on. This is done each year in the reports of the various officers, which, of course, are a record of the work of the Board as a whole. It is not necessary to go more into detail of the work than the brief statement in the Constitution, which reads thus: "To obtain and diffuse missionary information among the women and children of the churches, encourage the organization of Circles and Bands, seek out and recommend to the Board suitable lady missionaries, make appropriations, and designate the particular uses to be made of the funds of the Society, subject to the approval of the General Board."

The meetings of the Board are held each month. The Constitution reads, "shall meet quarterly, and more frequently, if necessary." It has been found advisable of late years to hold a meeting every month—the second Thursday—but it is the custom to do only the really necessary business, and

hold over as much as possible for the quarterly meeting, which comes on the Friday nearest the 15th, in November, February, May and September, and for which notices are sent to all members of the Board throughout the constituency.

The officers of the Society are a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Recording Secretary, two Corresponding Secretaries (one for the home end of the work, the other for the foreign), a Treasurer, an Editor of the "Link," and, in conjunction with the Women's Home Mission Board, a Secretary of Bands, and a curator for the Bureau of Literature. Only the three first of these officers are elected by the Society in Convention—the President and the two Vice-Presidents—and these are nominated and elected in exactly the same way as are members of the Board. All the other officers are appointed by the Board at its first quarterly meeting, held immediately after the Convention, and naturally the largest meeting of the year. In addition, there is the Executive Committee appointed at this meeting, which consists of the officers and four Board members. Their duties are especially light since the monthly Board meetings have been held, and it is not necessary to do more than occasionally prepare some resolutions or recommendations to be brought before the Board meetings.

Such is the machinery by which our women's foreign mission work is done. True to our Baptist sense of democracy, the members of the Society have full control of who shall do their work, either themselves electing the ones in charge or making responsible to themselves those who do.

There only remains to be discussed in connection with this Constitution the regulations regarding annual meetings and the delegates to these, their numbers and qualifications.