

MISSION CIRCLE PROGRAMME.

Programme III.

Study Book for 1914-15, "The Child in the Midst." Chapter III., The Child at Play and at Work.

Scripture Reading—"The Child in the Midst." Matthew 18: 1-6, 10-14.

Three-minute talk or paper on "The Value of Play as One of the Chief Educators of Childhood."

Reading—Japanese Children at Play. Paragraph 1, page 96, "Feast of Dolls," "Feast of Flags," (pages 93 and 94).

Reading—"Games That Are Known the World Over." African "London Bridge" (pages 95-96-97).

Reading—"Children of the Desert at Play" (page 98).

Reading—"A Little Russian Girl and an American Doll" (page 102).

President: "We see that children are pretty much the same the world over; the spirit of play is born in them; but in non-Christian lands, all too soon the games of childhood merge into the stern realities of life; and as we watch, and listen, and smile, we suddenly wonder why the laughter is hushed, why the smiling girlish lips are covered by a woman's thick veil, why the little backs stoop beneath loads far too heavy for them, why children so early become 'little old men and women.' With shame we have to confess that, even in our own Christian country, premature child labor is to be found; but law after law is being passed, protecting the child from ignorant parents and greedy employers. In non-Christian lands, in general, there is not only no law to protect the child, there is no public sentiment to enforce law on the subject."

Paper or talk on "Children at Work in Many Lands" (material beginning page 104).

Season of prayer for our work among the children of our own and other lands.

Quiz.

1. Do you know that there are countless little slave children, who are stolen from their homes in "darkest Africa," who are sold by their parents in China and Assam, who live lives of unspeakable misery in Korea, in Siam, in Turkey, Morocco and Arabia?

2. Do you know that "To set at liberty them that are bound" is still the work of Jehovah's servants, and that a few Rescue Homes for slave children have been opened here and there in non-Christian lands by Christian missionaries?

3. Why is it that, until missionaries started to work for defective children—cripples, deaf mutes, the blind, orphans, famine waifs, children of lepers—no effort was made to better their condition in non-Christian lands?

(Other questions may be added.)

Reading—"A Russian Helen Keller" (Page 117).

In closing the meeting, all rise, and, with bowed heads, repeat:

THE COVENANT.

Grateful that "I know that my Redeemer liveth." Mindful that vast millions of women and girls can never hear the "tidings of great joy" unless a Christian woman be sent to them. Remembering that Jesus made loving obedience the supreme test of discipleship, and that His last solemn command was "Go teach all nations."

I gladly enter into this Covenant of obedience, that I will not cease to make offerings of prayer, time and money, to the end that the daughters of sorrow in heathen lands may know the love of Jesus.

E. C. CLINE.