

THE FAREWELL MEETING

Reported by Edith Dale

Yes, it was a wonderful meeting, one answered to the greeting of friends that night when "spacious Walmer Road" was crowded to the wall with Toronto Baptists and Baptists outside Toronto, to bid farewell to nine out-going missionaries; four new ones, and five returning to their field. There was the great gathering itself—so many people all come together with one accord, with one aim and purpose—which surely must have proved to the missionaries that there was a host of loyal, loving friends behind them in the homeland, who are definitely interested in, and praying for them. Then there was the inspiring song service when we all sang the grand old hymns led so heartily by our faithful Mr. Senior, and interspersed with earnest prayers—thus the atmosphere was prepared for the meeting which followed.

Our honoured President of the General Board was in the chair, and was aided by our "indefatigable" General Secretary. (We always thought Mr. Stillwell was in-de-fat-i-gable, but now we know it, for Mr. Moore said he was).

Two of our veteran missionaries, Mr. Craig who had given 48 years, and Dr. E. G. Smith, who had given 32 years of wearing service to India, led us in scripture reading and prayer.

The missionaries introduced by Mr. Stillwell were, first, Rev. Percy and Mrs. Buck, who were returning to Bolivia, and who really needed no introduction for Mr. Buck had spent a busy furlough all over the land, near and far, telling of Bolivia and its needs in a way that gripped our hearts. Speaking for himself and Mrs. Buck, he said they were debtors in a three-fold sense, but lastly to Bolivia because of the great gift of Jesus Christ, of which Bolivia was ignorant, and the debt was so great that they would never be able to pay it. For this reason he and Mrs. Buck rejoiced that their faces were once more turned Bolivia-ward.

Mrs. Matthews, the President of the Women's Board, in her charming manner, introduced the two ladies returning to India. First, Miss Farnell, an evangelistic missionary

returning to Samalkot. She presented the need and the call to us in a very direct way, saying she was gladly going back to India to answer the call of her sister missionaries who were constantly pleading for more workers, of the children of India who gladly received her and her message, of the women who wanted the Gospel, and whose question was still sounding 'When will you come back to us? We are ready to listen, when will you come back to us?' and also because of the strong plea of missionaries last year, for more single ladies, unanswered yet, and she was gladly going back to help answer it.

There is a great deal in a name, said Mrs. Matthews in introducing Mary Stillwell McLaurin (Mrs. J. B.) who, after a very strenuous furlough, is going back with her husband to India. She said she was gladly going back to India's women and children, for although they had such hosts of friends here, they had hosts of friends there too, and the friends there needed them more.

Then the new missionaries were presented by Mr. Stillwell. First were Mr. and Mrs. Quirk, who had been Methodists and school teachers, but had arrived so far in their "spiritual pilgrimage" that they were now Baptist missionaries elect for India. Mrs. Quirk had become a Christian when eight years old, and had always wanted to be a missionary, but had received a definite call from a sermon heard in Trinity Methodist Church, and had been led to think of India by Dr. Margaret Patterson. Mr. Quirk, while teaching in a Toronto Collegiate, where he was successful and much beloved, had been as well the lay pastor of Ebenezer Church for the last three years. He saw many of his pupils in the audience and to them, and all other young people, he appealed, to think of, to live for and to follow the Master in His power and strength.

Next were presented Rev. E. J. and Mrs. Church. They came from Manitoba,—Strathclair, and "anyone coming from Strathclair" we were assured, was "strictly orthodox." They had been educated at Brandon College, which has given us so many of our missionaries. Mr. Church, while a student there had served the Strathclair church. After their