

## WHAT SHALL YOUNG WOMEN DO FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS?



THE easiest thing to do is to talk about missions in a helpful way. Instead of making slighting remarks about "begging sermons," and alluding to missionaries as if they were objects of pity, learn to speak of Christ's heroes with at least as much enthusiasm as you do of the world's!

Get a clear idea of their motives and aims, their discouragements and victories. Then see if you cannot interest some boy—relative, friend, or Sunday school scholar. Girls hear their mothers discuss missionary work, and go with them to meetings of the Auxiliary and the like, but the boys are often overlooked. But you could interest any boy in the "Heroes of the South Seas," for instance, especially if you studied up the curious facts connected with those islands, and told him about them.

Give the boy a glimpse of something higher than worldly success; there is a love for true heroism in every child's heart. If you can thus bring the boys into connection with the Junior Auxiliary and give them definite work to do in connection with its meetings, you will have done a good work. You will also find it necessary to give the subject more study on your own account, to be able to answer questions. And here let me urge the formation of "Mission Study Classes." At the Deaconess House we have had a missionary society for the last five years, meeting weekly to listen to a carefully prepared paper. A new plan has greatly stimulated our interest and increased our knowledge. We pledge ourselves to ten minutes' daily study, or an hour weekly. A leader is chosen, who gives each member a topic under the chosen subject. At the meeting the leader calls for these topics in order, so that we have, finally, a complete account of the country, its geography, people, religion and condition when the missionary began his work there, as well as a close study of the missionary's life and labors. We always have a good map, made up from smaller ones, and drawn on a large scale by one of the class members. We began with the lives mapped out in the *Students' Volunteer Magazine*, but as few Episcopalians belong to this organization, we found we were learning nothing about our own missions. Their secretary, hearing of our difficulty, most kindly made out a scheme of study of Henry Martyn's life, and also referred us to a Church of England society just formed for this same object. This last year we have been using their text book, Maclear's "Medieval Missions," and after finishing that, wrote out our own scheme for missions in the South

Pacific, including the lives of Bishops Selwyn and Patteson. It is an object worthy of the efforts of the young women of our Church to organize these classes in every parish; to create a demand for missionary literature; and to urge that in *The Spirit of Missions* there should be a printed list each year of suitable studies, so that the leader could find suitable subjects and the names of the reference books needed for the course adopted for the current year.

In Pennsylvania we are collecting a good missionary reference library, partly at the Diocesan Library and partly at the Deaconess House, so avoiding the necessity of duplicating the more expensive reference books.

As you study this subject, the question of your own responsibility in regard to missions will be brought home to you. Poor health, defective education, or home duties may cut you off from personal service in Foreign or Domestic Missions. In such case, you must feel, like some of the ancient Hebrews, that your lot is to "stay by the stuff," for those who are fighting the battles. We can relieve them of anxiety about their families and supplies, we can train others for future service, we can offer prayers, sacrifices, and thanksgivings for their success. In the meantime, also, we can guard against the foes lurking right here, in our home cities and parishes.

Yet, as in a national crisis it must be a weighty cause that keeps a patriot from going to the front, so with the Christian in the missionary crisis now upon the Church. You have heard of the wonderful openings in China, Japan, and in every heathen quarter of the globe—only workers are needed, the way is prepared. Have *you* any right to hold back, if you are well educated, healthy, and free to serve? The more gifted you are, the more needed. We Connecticut people have a story of an old minister who protested against putting false coin in the offertory, "Because the heathen know the difference between a penny and a button with the eye driven in." They do know the difference, and demand our best. It is the people who are valued and missed here, who will be valued there. Who have been the successful pioneers in all ages of the Church? When a missionary was needed for the educated West, whom did the early Church send? Not one of the humble Galilean fishermen, though full of the Holy Ghost, but St. Paul, the finished Greek and Hebrew scholar, who could meet the philosophers on their own ground. Ever since then the missionary honor-roll has been a list of men who could have commanded earth's best prizes. The names of Selwyn, Livingston, Patteson, and scores of other will occur to you in proof of this.

Suppose you decide to be ready when the