

# Canadian Missionary Link

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## WHAT ABOUT A STUDY CLASS ?

This is a plea for the Mission Study Class. For years past there has been issued each autumn a Mission Study Book—sometimes more than one. These study books are filled from cover to cover with information, with interesting records, with stories of triumph and of desperate need. They are written for text-books, for study-books, and are admirably adapted for their purpose. They have been used by hundreds of womens' organizations over the whole continent, but, much to our loss, to a very, very limited extent by our Canadian Baptist women.

Why is this? Are we less interested in our task of Missions than others? Are we less in earnest about our Masters' Kingdom? Surely that cannot be so. Are we less able to put ourselves down to hard work? Do we lack in power to apply ourselves, to concentrate our attention on a subject? Surely that is not the case either.

What is it, then? Why do we not adopt, with greater enthusiasm and more widely, that which has proved so acceptable and productive of good otherwheres?

"They" sometimes call us "slow," sometimes "unprogressive," sometimes "pitifully unprogressive" for all these sins of omission. Are the descriptions true, or at least partly so?

Probably the reason most Circles would give for not joining the ranks of the Study Circles is "lack of time"—the members would have a heart-to-heart talk about their busy, busy lives, the effort it is to get to a meeting, not to mention any preparation for it, and

with rapidly-growing sympathy for themselves, and a pucker between their eyebrows, would depart for home, fully convinced that those people who want to study "just ought to lead my life for a while, and they would find out."

Not at all. As a matter of fact, there are very, very few of us who do not find our hearts and hands more than full, to whom the days are not all too short for that we have to do, to whom at times a desert island with nothing to do but pick our dinner of berries, would look like a desirable haven of rest.

But there are two things to be considered. One is, that in all our activities we must learn to put first things first. There is nothing which can be of more importance to any of us than an intelligent appreciation of the progress of the Kingdom, and a burning enthusiasm to fulfil our obligation towards that progress in the most effective manner. Anything which will conduce to that end is worth while.

Our usual form of Circle meeting follows the path of least resistance. One or two who have either grasped the idea that study brings its own reward, or who have not been able "to get out of it," give helpful addresses and inspirational readings. And the audience drinks it in, and enjoys it. But most of us are mentally lazy, unless forced to be otherwise. And we will have to acknowledge that, half an hour later, around the tea-table, we cannot give any connected idea of what our speaker has tried to impress upon us. "Why, she said—she said—. Well, I don't know just how she put it; but it was splendid anyway. And the conditions