

PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL ADDRESS.

(MRS. MAY R. THORNLEY, London.)

It is the dull monotonous round of camp life that tests the endurance of the soldier even more than the perils of the field. The excitement of the conflict obscures its danger, and it is a fact that the long, dreary march swells the list of deserters more rapidly than the bloody sights and horrid sounds of the battle field.

Last year we had the bustle of preparation, the fever heat of combat, followed by the laurels of victory. Mutual congratulations were the order of the day. Indifference to our work seemed to vanish before the interest aroused by the plebiscite campaign, and we closed our year with empty treasuries, to be sure, but with happy hearts.

But when we farewelled from Cornwall, a year ago the coming month, our women went out to the steady humdrum routine of the camp life. The regular meetings, the usual Department work, the old-time lines of education—these must take the place of the more interesting exercises of the campaign, for we were come down to the test of "dead level work."

Now I want to tell you, fellow-workers, that we have stood the ordeal grandly. While some of the "hurrah members" have dropped out, and the empty treasuries have slightly diminished the affiliation fees, and consequently the reported membership (as only affiliated members can be reported), yet we wind up our business for 1894-95 with a good balance in the bank, an army of workers in the field, and hearts full of trust for the future.

As my task is not so much to report what has been accomplished as to take our reckonings for the future, and as I purpose following last year's example in sending plans of work to Plan of Work Committee, I will only touch upon a few of the Departments, leaving the Superintendents of the rest to present their own cases.

But just here lies the dilemma—what Departments to select, when nearly all embody burning questions stirred up by the year's work.

THE SABBATH.

Take for instance our Sabbath Observance Department. Not within the memory of any of us has the Lord's Day been so strongly and craftily assailed as during this past winter, when it was proposed to legalize Sunday street cars.

"In American cities, the Sunday street car and the Sunday newspaper are the two levers by which the day of rest has been pried from its place in the week;" so says the *American Sabbath Union*. The spirit of secularization that would appropriate God's Day, that would shut Him out of the public institution and organization, is the greatest menace to our nation's life. "What! greater than intemperance?" some one says. Yes, for a Sabbath desecrating people is a conscienceless people; and if the moral sense be dead, what have you left to work on for the success of any reform?

As that class of humanity who have most profited by the coming of the "Divine Man," let us, unflinchingly, stand for God in everything till the glad day shall come when even the "bells of the horses" shall be dedicated to him.