

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. S. M. Brown and Miss Jessie R. Agnew, 372 Shaw Street, Toronto. Everything intended for this column should be sent to Mrs. S. M. Brown, Wainston, Ont.

O. C. W. B. M.

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Programme for April Meeting of Auxillaries.

- Topic: Gentleness. Opening hymn, 554. Scripture lesson—Gal v Prayer by leader Hymn 580. 2 Cor. x. 1, Psalm xviii. 35, to be read by all the sisters in concert. Reading of minutes. Report of Cor. Sec. Report of Rec. Sec. Roll-call, each sister responding with an appropriate passage of scripture, or motto of Auxiliary. Hymn, 574. Two or three brief prayers for growth in spiritual life. Collection of dues. Literary programme. Hymn 125. Benediction.

The subject before us is one of those Christian graces enumerated by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the Galatians, where he groups together the fruits of the Spirit: Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. Where could we find a lovelier picture? What a contrast to that black catalogue termed the "Works of the flesh." For a perfect exemplification of this virtue let us look at the earthly life of our blessed Saviour. It was uniformly characterized by gentleness. As the prophet predicted: "The bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall He not quench." Notice the gentleness with which He treated the guilty woman who was accused by the self-righteous, sinful and equally guilty Scribes and Pharisees, when He says with the voice of a God, "Neither do I condemn thee, go and sin no more." This character of gentleness is not incompatible with the most perfect candor. There is nothing of the sycophant about it. Hear the same gentle Jesus say to the proud, boastful Jews, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar, and the father of it; and because I tell you the truth ye believe me not." "He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God." Could there be a plainer rebuke than the above? And still it comes from the gentle, loving Saviour. To the penitent, repentant sinner He is all gentleness and love. To the fawning hypocrite He speaks in the tones of offended justice. We would do well to study the character of our Master. We are always safe in following His example. Gentleness is a virtue—like all others, that will increase by cultivation. Just notice how the great apostle to the Gentiles, in writing to correct some evils amongst his Corinthian brethren, says, in all humility, "I beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ." This is not the language of the persecuting "Saul of Tarsus," but that of "Paul the aged," who recounts his sufferings in the service of the Master. 2 Cor. xi. 24-29. What an experience! So our kind, Heavenly Father has placed us here with all our failings and weaknesses to be corrected by the means which He

has graciously given us. His holy word, access to a throne of grace and the discipline of life are all calculated to fit us for the companionship of the spirits of the just made perfect. May we improve them all to the honor of Him who redeemed us by His own precious blood. M. S.

O. C. W. B. M.

CONTRIBUTIONS SINCE LAST REPORT.

Table with columns for HOME MISSIONS and FOREIGN MISSIONS. Includes entries for Auxiliary at Guelph, Jennie Fleming, San Diego, Cal., and Mrs. S. O. Kilgour, Guelph.

The Future of Our Work.

No doubt many of the sisters have already turned their thoughts towards our approaching annual meeting and the work of the year that shall follow. I, too, have been thinking, looking backward somewhat, as well as towards the future. We all regret that our mission in the Northwest has not accomplished what we had hoped that it would. When the mission was undertaken about five years ago, it was represented to us that there was a reasonable and good prospect that it would develop into a self-sustaining church in about two years. The need was said to be urgent, and we were more than once requested to make all possible speed in sending a missionary to Minnedosa.

Time has proved that such representation was a serious error in judgment of those who made it, and while we do not attach blame to anyone in the matter, yet we cannot but deeply regret that we were so misled.

When Mr. Brown went to Minnedosa in May of last year, he wrote me in his first letter: "There is no church here." He said repeatedly while there that if he had known the state of affairs he never would have gone, as there was no reasonable prospect of building up a church there, or even of getting a hearing at all beyond the few—Bro. Darroch and family and three or four others—who attended. The point in the country, about six miles from the town, where meetings were held every Sunday afternoon, was much more encouraging, inasmuch as there were good audiences, there being no other preaching in that place. However, notwithstanding our disappointment in the comparative failure of our hopes, there is this comfort in it all: the work was undertaken with the sole motive of doing the Master's will, and work so done can never be lost. The seed sown may bear fruit that we know not of. Only the eternal years can show the results of work done here. The church property there is held by trustees for the use of the church, and it might easily be that the work would be revived by other Disciples moving in, who could assist the faithful few who remain there.

We expect to have a full statement from Mr. Darroch for our annual meeting in regard to present standing and prospects—financial and otherwise—and whether they meet on the Lord's day, keep up Sunday school, etc.

In regard to the future, I think I have frequently said that my sympathies were more strongly with those who are in heathen darkness than with any others, and I find that I am by no means alone in this. These are so utterly helpless and hopeless unless

"We whose souls are lighted With wisdom from on high," shall carry to them the lamp of life, that my suggestion is that the O. C. W. B. M. turn their efforts exclusively to

the foreign fields. That we do away with the separation of funds, and instead of having a Home Mission Fund and a Foreign Mission Fund as formerly, all contributions from every source shall be for foreign work.

Those sisters who wish to aid in any Home work outside of their own churches, can do so through the Co-operation or in any way they wish, but let all pledges and contributions to the O. C. W. B. M. be distinctly understood to be for the foreign work. I hope that all the auxiliaries, and all others who are interested in sending the gospel to the regions beyond, will duly consider this suggestion before our meeting in June. If it should be accepted we ought to be able to send out another missionary this year.

If any of the sisters see what they believe to be a more excellent way, or have any other suggestions relative to our work, we earnestly suggest that they speak of them through the EVANGELIST that they may be considered before we come together.

S. M. BROWN.

Special Notice.

It is now only two months till we meet in convention. In order that we may have a satisfactory report in June it is necessary that the annual report from each auxiliary should reach me not later than May 15th.

In making out your reports will you kindly state number of members on roll, usual attendance, amount contributed to O. C. W. B. M. this year, and any other items that will be of interest. Suggestions for programme for convention and for next year's work will be gladly received. It treats with each one to make this convention the most successful in our history. Shall we not acknowledge this responsibility and work and pray to that end.

L. V. RIACH, Cor. Sec.

Japan Letter.

TOKIO, Feb. 26th, 1894.

C. W. B. M. OF ONTARIO AND MARITIME PROVINCES.

DEAR SISTERS:—The report for this month does not differ materially from those of past months. The attendance of the Sunday school in connection with the chanty school has increased to about an average of seventy; that of the one held in our own home is becoming very encouraging. We have twenty pupils now. Of course, how long the priests will allow it to remain, so I cannot tell.

On account of hard times and the increasing dislike to foreigners, this day-school has decreased a little. You see, these people are so poor that just so soon as a child is 9 years old he is sent to work if any person can be found to hire him.

The meetings in our house are about the same as usual. All the members are faithful in their attendance.

This month I put another girl under Miss Wirrick to be educated as a Bible woman. The scholarship was received from the children of the Maritime Provinces. She is a quick, bright girl, already a Christian, with the one ambition of working for her Saviour. Will you remember her in your prayers, that she may in course of time meet all our expectations, and not only her, but my other four girls also.

My meeting for women on Wednesday afternoon is most encouraging. The women seem to take more interest in the story of the cross and come regularly. We had eight at our last meeting. That may not seem to you a great number, yet we think if we can get as many as two we are doing well so strong is the feeling against foreigners and Christianity.

My new Bible-woman has taken hold of the work in a wonderful way. Have hopes she may be as good as the last one. All the rest of my time is taken up with my studies and English classes. We thought when the girls went we should have a little leisure, but we seem to be busier than ever.

Your secretary writes me to tell you something of my charity school and its workings.

In the first place it was put under my care by the Board, but in September last, on account of lack of funds, it was to be closed, but I offered to carry the expense. Since then it has been going on just the same as ever under their direction and counted as their work.

The school is situated in one of the poorest sections of the city. What that poorest is few, if any, of my readers will have even a faint idea. The children who attend are those who would otherwise be on the streets learning all sorts of wickedness. The Government schools are expensive, so that none but the comparatively well-to-do can send their children to them. The advantage of reaching the children is apparent to all. It may be worth mentioning that this means of carrying the gospel to their people was considered the very best by all at our last convention held in Tsukiji. Oh, I wish I could tell you some of the thrilling stories some of the oldest missionaries on the field told us of how these poor children had brought the gospel to their parents by telling them what their teachers had told them, and not only of how they brought their parents to Christ, but how they loved and served Him themselves.

The school that you are particularly interested in is perhaps the poorest of its kind in Tokio. To get a suitable house in the desired location was an impossibility, so we had to content ourselves with an old tumbled-down dwelling-house, which we fixed up as best we could. The room is small, and on Sunday when seventy or more children assemble themselves, there is no room to spare.

In the day-school last session we had forty-five pupils, but this year so far only thirty-seven. They sit on the floor and use a long, plain board-bench as a desk. The furniture consists merely of wooden benches for desks, a blackboard or two, some chalk and a bell. The children supply their own books, ink, paper, etc. Those who cannot afford to do so are supplied, but expected to pay for them on the instalment plan—a rin (one-tenth of a cent) or so a day. We find this plan works well. We are willing to help those who help themselves. Of course, as you may see, there are only the few out of I may say hundreds that live within a stone's throw of the school who even care to learn to read and write. Most of them would rather never learn than go to that "foreign cat's school." But some are interested and thankful to us for teaching their children. Many times they thank me, and some will come to the women's meeting out of gratitude. Then my helper visits their homes sometimes, and talks with them, although she has little more time than simply to invite them to the meetings. She teaches every morning in the school. I can only afford to give her six yen (\$1) a month and ask a great deal of work from her for that. She is thoroughly educated and understands English well enough for me to teach her the lesson before we go to the meetings or Sunday school. The fact of her being the charity-school teacher gives her a hold on the parents that otherwise she would not have, though I sometimes wish I could have her visit more. For myself, I find it impossible to spare more than one afternoon a week from my

studies and other duties. When I have the language this will be very different. In the winter the school goes in at nine o'clock and is dismissed at twelve. Am thinking of extending it one hour longer.

The Bible is taught forty-five minutes every day. This month they are having a sketch of the Book of Genesis, and learning to repeat a Psalm. (On Sunday they have the New Testament. I find the picture charts I brought with me of great service.) The rest of the time is taken up in teaching them to read, write and cypher. Have already sent home some specimens of their writing. There are four divisions or classes. Those who have come regularly since the school opened read and write very well, indeed. From the amount of money (\$10 a month) spent on the work, it is very encouraging. The only rewards I give are a New Testament to the best boy and girl at the end of the year and a little feast for all of them.

Since last month am getting Sunday school papers for the Sunday school. This I thought would encourage them to read and perhaps by being read at home would do much good. They are rather expensive and unless I see some good results after a six months' trial shall discontinue them.

Last Sunday being the last of the month I gave away about forty pretty picture cards that had been sent to me from home, to those who had been present each Sunday in the month. Let me take this opportunity of thanking those who have sent them. The children appreciate them more than the ones printed here, and I am saved the expense of buying. The helper always writes a Scripture text in Japanese on them, so business cards do quite as well as those with Bible verses on them.

Am hoping that you in America are not feeling the financial crisis as much as we here. The Boards in America find it impossible to send out sufficient funds for the work and most of the missionaries have their salaries reduced. We are praying that better times may come or the work must be stopped. The native helpers are willingly doing their best on reduced stipends. But "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." With love to all, Your sister in the work, MARY M. RIACH.

Obstinate Cough Cured.

GENTLEMEN:—I had a very bad cough which I could not get rid of, but by using Hagyard's Pectoral Balsam I was cured in two or three days. It is the best and surest cough medicine I know of.

JOSEPH GARRICK, Goderich, Ont.

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