

through routine without sufficient thought to enquire if we may not work to better advantage, and with greater gain to the work?

We present two questions, to which we have been asked to reply in this department. Our reply must be accepted as our opinion only, though having solicited that of other members, we give it with more confidence.

1st. "It has been proposed to change the time of the annual meetings from October to April or May. What would be the advantage of so doing?"

2nd. "Should a minister, made a life member of our Society, be considered an active member of the Society? Kindly state his position in regard to the Society on the Circuit of which he is pastor."

Answer 1: The advantages would be (1) the closing of the books when the year's work is practically closed; (2) the bringing of our year into harmony with the Church or Conference year; (3) our financial year ending, say in May, would enable us to give the full financial report to Conference. There would also be an advantage to the General Board. As the schools reopen in all our fields in September, the Board of Managers would probably be favored by the presence of newly-accepted missionaries, and thus making their personal acquaintance, would acquire a redoubled interest in their work. Our Presbyterian sisters hold their annual meeting in April.

Answer 2: The constitution does not empower us to receive as active voting members any but women. There is nothing against the admission of men as associate members. The position of a minister in regard to the W.M.S. on his Circuit is exactly what it is in regard to any other organization on his Circuit. He is superintendent of all. He may preside at all meetings, but it is in accordance with usage and courtesy that the elected presidents perform that function.

Another question regarding the making officers ineligible after a certain time, we acknowledge without reply.

We are glad to receive questions. They are a manifestation of deep and intelligent interest, and this department is intended to be helpful in every way possible to every inquirer.

District Doings.

OWEN SOUND DISTRICT CONVENTION.

THE first convention of the Woman's Missionary Society in connection with the Owen Sound District was held in Markdale June 13th, Mrs. J. W. Garrett, District Organizer, presiding. The morning session opened with singing, Scripture reading and prayer. The calling of the roll was followed by very encouraging reports from the different auxiliaries, showing that the missionary zeal is increasing among the members.

A consecration service, led by Mrs. (Rev.) Rupert, opened the afternoon session. Miss Christoe, of Flesherton, presided at the organ. Mrs. G. W. Pickle, on behalf of Markdale friends, read an address of welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. John Rutherford, of Owen

Sound. The remaining part of the session was occupied by the reading of interesting and helpful papers on: "China," by Mrs. R. B. Miller; "Mission Band Work," by Miss Mary Frost; "How to make Auxiliary Meetings Successful," by Mrs. (Rev.) Hinks; also a letter from Dr. Retta Gifford was read by Miss Ida Miller, and a solo given by Mrs. J. H. Rutherford. Every paper read showed that the unemployed talents of the women of our Church were coming more and more to the front. The discussions which followed each paper were instructive and very beneficial. Mrs. (Rev.) R. J. Cuyler, late of Bella Bella, B. C., led in prayer for the missionaries in the different fields. The Question Drawer, opened and answered by Mrs. Rutherford, concluded the programme for the afternoon.

The church was tastefully decorated with flowers, and dinner and tea were served in the lecture-room, the social hour thus spent adding much to the pleasure of the day.

At the evening session Rev. E. S. Rupert occupied the chair. After prayer by the pastor, Rev. S. H. Edwards, Miss Wright recited a piece, entitled, "So Much to do at Home." Mrs. (Rev.) R. J. Cuyler gave an admirable address on "Missionary Work among the Indians of British Columbia." Mrs. Cuyler is an easy and eloquent speaker; her flow of language and ideas, her incidents connected with her work in British Columbia, all impress one with the feeling that you are listening to a woman who is wholly consecrated to God and to His work. At the close of this address a hearty vote of thanks was given the speaker. A few congratulatory and encouraging remarks were made by Rev. E. S. Rupert, after which the convention, which all felt had been a very successful one, was brought to a close.

ANNA HENRY, *Sec. Convention.*

Bay of Quinte Branch.

THE Annual Meeting of the Bay of Quinte Branch will be held at Port Hope, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 2nd, 3rd and 4th October. It is very desirable that every Auxiliary should be represented.

Please send names and addresses of delegates to Miss A. E. Shepherd, Port Hope. H. L. PLATT, *Cor. Sec.*

Notice to the Auxiliaries.

THE attention of Auxiliaries is called to the memorial presented by the Central Branch at last annual meeting, asking "That the names of Auxiliary members, excepting those of President and Corresponding Secretary, be omitted from the annual report."

An amendment was carried, "That this be left over for a year, and the question be brought before the Auxiliaries."

Let the matter be well discussed, and an expression be given at the Branch meeting, such as shall be a guide to the Board.

E.S.S.

Movements of Missionaries.

THE early days of August were marked by a return to Japan, after a year's furlough, of Miss Munro, of Peterboro', and Miss Preston, of Mount Pleasant.

The former has been unable to address many public gatherings, owing to nervous exhaustion after her five years of service, and with a view to gaining all the strength possible for the responsibilities which await her as Principal of the Girl's School in Azabu, Tokyo.

Miss Preston has given considerable time and strength to eager Auxiliaries, denying herself much coveted time in her own home, but acknowledging great benefit from more intimate acquaintance with the home aspects of our work and with the workers here. She returns to increased responsibility in her former field, Kofu, not only to the superintendence of the evangelistic work, but as Principal of the School.

Accompanying Miss Munro were: Miss A. Belton, of Clayton, Ont., and Miss M. Lambly, daughter of Rev. O. R. Lambly, Bloomfield, Ont., who are now just beginning their career as foreign missionaries, and who for the present will reside in Tokyo.