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Special Number

Giving information about the Presbyterian Church in the United States.

Articles written by leaders of that denomination.

Woman's Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.

BY MRS. W. C. WINSBOROUGH,
Superintendent of Woman's Auxiliary.

THE first missionary organization of Southern Presbyterian women of which we have an official record was that of the Rockfish Female Missionary Society, which was organized at Rockfish, North Carolina, in 1817, and which has an unbroken record from that day to this. Other societies were organized about the same time, showing that missionary zeal burned early and fervently in the hearts of these missionary pioneers. Some of these societies were organized for foreign missions, some for the support of candidates for the ministry, while others were auxiliary to Bible societies.

As woman's organized missionary work grew and increased in favor, missionary organizations were multiplied over the Church during the quarter of a century following the organization of the Church in 1861, and in 1888 the first presbyterials were organized in East Hanover, Va., and Wilmington, N.C. These organizations increased rapidly and now number eighty-eight presbyterials, including one composed of Indian women, one of Mexican women, and three of Negro women.

The first synodical organizations were effected in Virginia and Texas in 1904, and these were quickly followed by organizations in other synods. We now have sixteen synodical organizations, which include all of the territory of our Church.

Meantime, during the years since the early organization of women's missionary boards, a marked change had come about in the minds of many as to the wisdom of separate missionary boards of men and of women. The uniting of these boards was being discussed, and plans formulated in some quarters for closer coöperation. Soon some denominations took steps toward uniting the two boards, thus initiating a movement which has spread rapidly, until today there are few if any denominations that have not changed, or are not in the process of changing, their plan to that of a general board, with men and women members.

In 1912 the women of the Southern Presbyterian Church, discerning this plan then just arising on the missionary horizon, successfully overtured the General Assembly to erect their general organization to function as an auxiliary or a promotive agency of the Church, rather than an independent board. In approval of this overture the General Assembly directed the organization of the Woman's Auxiliary, in accordance with the plans outlined by the women themselves. Its present reported membership is 121,000.

The ability of women as executives was later recognized by the Assembly in the election of women as members of the general missionary boards of the Church, as well as trustees of the Assembly's training school for lay workers. Other women have, from time to time, been appointed to various important committees by both synods and presbyteries. The Southern Presbyterian Church was, therefore, spared the difficult transition period which many other denominations are undergoing in passing from the old plan of separate boards of men and women to the new plan of coöperative work on one board.

The work of the Woman's Auxiliary is divided into three departments—spiritual, educational, and financial.

The spiritual life of the organization is promoted by a special secretary in every local auxiliary elected for that purpose. She promotes Bible study, organizes prayer bands, arranges personal workers' classes, and study classes on stewardship. During the year ending March 31, 1926, the auxiliary reported 5,027 prayer bands, enrolling 44,946 members; 3,073 Bible classes, enrolling 44,200 members.

The educational life of the auxiliary is promoted through the monthly missionary meeting of the auxiliary. During the year a program on every department of the work of the Church is presented to the local auxiliaries, and literature furnished for its presentation.

Mission study is carried on in the auxiliary twice during the year—in October for home missions, and in January for foreign missions. Last year the number of home mission

classes recorded was 2,754, with an attendance of 41,865, and foreign mission classes 2,538, with an attendance of 41,759.

The financial growth of the auxiliary has kept pace with its spiritual and educational growth. The budget of the auxiliary is "over and above" what its members give through the church envelopes as members of the Church. Every benevolence of the Church is included in the auxiliary budget, and generally proportioned in the percentage recommended by the Assembly. The year ending March 31, 1926, the Woman's Auxiliary gave a total of \$1,495,365, or an average per capita of \$13.00. This was an increase of \$62,816 over the year previous.

In addition to the regular budget of the auxiliary, an especial offering has been given for the past five years toward the equipment of our home and foreign mission work. In May every year a "birthday offering" is brought for a specified object, this offering being "over and above" the auxiliary budget. During these five years buildings have been built for an industrial school in Japan; a school for Mexican girls in Texas; a home for the president of the Assembly's training school; a school for girls in Brazil; a school for Indian girls in Oklahoma, and this year the offering will go for the equipping of a high school for girls in Korea. These birthday offerings total over \$200,000 for the five years.

The plan of organization known as the Auxiliary-Circle Plan is productive of remarkable results in interesting the indifferent women of our churches in the cause of missions and in the spreading of good fellowship in the organization. Our space is too limited to give the details of this plan, but the fact that many other denominations are asking for our organization literature attests the interest felt in this plan which is bringing such fruitful results.

The development of leadership has been one of the gratifying byproducts of the Auxiliary-Circle Plan. Twenty-five years ago there were comparatively few women in the Southern Presbyterian Church who cared to engage in public religious services of any kind. Today the Auxiliary has a leadership which is excelled by none. Women in the local auxiliaries, the presbyterials, and synodicals, have developed into gifted leaders, of consecrated vision and untiring effort. The fact that the various courts of the Church have called many of these women to service on their committees attests the appreciation which the men of the Church have for their ability and loyalty.

Working together in the Church as men and women work together in every other department of life, the men and women of the Southern Presbyterian Church are today rendering faithful service to our Lord in that part of the kingdom for which we are responsible. We are humbly grateful for the rich blessings which have crowned our united efforts.

St. Louis, Mo.

ESTABLISHMENT OF RADIO TELEPHONE.

WIRELESS telephony has been successfully established between London and New York. The mayor of New York carried on a conversation with the mayor of London, and intimated that about a million people were "listening in." The business world did business to the amount of \$6,000,000 in the first day of the practical operation of the radiophone. Words were sometimes slightly blurred, but ordinarily were distinct. At \$25 a minute the users of the radiophone will know exactly what they want to say before they begin to talk. Their speech will be clear, pointed, compacted. It would add much to the comfort of the majority of those who use the phone every day if all conversations over the phone were modeled upon the practices of the users of the radiophone. One of the chief pests, and one of the most irritating pests, of life in a city is that class of people who monopolize the phone. Among all hogs the phone hog is the biggest porker.