

Missions

HOW IS OUR MONEY EXPENDED?

THERE are many whose hearts beat in loving sympathy with our work, who have had no opportunity of becoming acquainted with the system by which so great an undertaking may be successfully accomplished. For the help of all who would find it useful to know more of these details, the following explanations are given:

First, we would ask all who are unfamiliar with the perfect organization of our dear Presbyterian Church into Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly, to take an early opportunity to ask their pastors for its plan, including the description of the Great Boards appointed by the General Assembly to map out and direct all its benevolent work. Among the latter will be found the Assembly's Board of Foreign Missions, of which our Woman's Board of the Northwest is a loyal auxiliary. This word auxiliary means helper, and implies definite work undertaken by the principal agent which calls for assistance. This is exactly the condition of our Boards of Missions, and the contributions of our

auxiliaries to our regular work are our vital breath.

The process by which the work is put into our hands is a wise one, we think.

The missionaries who are on the field look forward to the coming year, and decide that certain sums which they name are required to prosecute their work: \$—for repairs of school buildings; \$—for rent of room on a new and more advantageous side of the city; \$—for publishing text-books, etc. From all our Presbyterian mission centers these estimates all over the world are reported to the Board of the General Assembly, at 156 Fifth Avenue, New York, of which Mr. Chas. W. Hand is treasurer. If the aggregate is more than can be expected from the churches and societies, elimination begins; but all that the board at last gives its pledge to do, must be done in honor, even at the extremity of borrowing money. Men and women thousands of miles from home, sent to spend their lives in training the nations for God, must be subject to no vacillating policy at the whim or caprice of local auxiliaries. The money is obtained by each individual missionary, both for her personal and school expenses, from the appointed treasurer of each mission center. He receives the allowance for his entire locality from Mr. Hand, of New York. Mr. Hand receives the money for these mission treasurers from the churches, and for woman's work among women, from our women's boards. We need and must have the faithful support of our

helpers—our auxiliaries. The chain is complete—every link holds fast. Now let us weaken two of them: First, the missionary teacher says, "Here is a grand chance for saving a young convert from being married, at her father's insistence, to an old heathen wretch. If I only had money enough to employ her as a Bible woman, what misery would be forestalled—since her father is but contriving to be rid of her support." In her earnestness to do good she writes to a society to send her the sum required. They have only been giving to the general fund, which to them is more or less nondescript; now they will do some specific good. So the board is left to struggle on, impoverished with the expenses of its large and, we reverently thank God, growing family, with our "steady streams" being diverted into many a tempting meadow. Who wonders that the missionaries feel sometimes that if the church does not arouse itself more thoroughly to praise God among the heathen, the very stones must cry out. Let us not blame them. But, dear friends, the piteous appeals come to this same "general fund" first. Your surest and most satisfactory way of covering these necessities is to teach us to expect large things of you.

Each Woman's Board assumes its own department of work, and is held responsible for it. Each should, therefore, be accorded the privilege of naming to its auxiliaries the work to be done by them, if these auxiliaries can not become interested in increasing the

"general fund," but prefer one distinct and describable object.

Is it not evident that auxiliary societies, which necessarily have limited knowledge of the relative importance of different fields and laborers, should not choose their own special objects? Many a faithful and successful missionary lacks time or skill to paint her wants in brilliant rose or sombre black, but should she on that account lack money to further her work that must come from the "general fund?"

In answer to a question, I will say we have not a single salaried officer in the Woman's Board. Salaries are paid to three assistants who are in charge of our rooms, bookkeeping and editorial detail work.

Not a few auxiliaries say that they prefer to send money directly to Room 48, instead of to their Presbyterian treasurer, on account of the added expense of two transmissions. In reply, allow us to say, many Presbyterian treasurers' hands make the work light enough at Room 48 to be compassed without adding another paid assistant.

May we make the following suggestions:

1st.—Let local societies send their money to the Presbyterian treasurer of their own Presbytery. The Presbyterian treasurers will then be able to forward to us a complete statement of the gifts, objects contributed to, honorary and life memberships, etc., with the money, at stated intervals.

2d.—Do all that you can to extend information and zeal for the whole work of

missions rather than limit interest to one woman or one country. Confirm those who try, year-by-year, to disburse funds according to the greatest needs, as seen from a central standpoint, and *only* ask for special objects when the interests of the society shall seem to require it. To keep 2,000 societies in possession of special objects of the required amount and descriptions, in this world of change, without errors not a few, is beyond the power of our service. A. R. H.

The following action of the Board of Foreign Missions touches directly the relations of our societies to the missionaries and the special objects in their work.

"The Board has been constituted by the General Assembly as the authorized medium for bringing the benevolence of the Church to bear upon the wants of the heathen world. By means of the information they receive, they are supposed to occupy such a position with reference to the missions abroad and the churches at home, that they can decide best as to the relative wants of each particular field, and the proportionate share of the beneficence of the church to which it is entitled. The securing of funds by individual missionaries for their work from churches, Sabbath-schools, and societies outside of the regular channels, ignores the Board in one of the principal objects of its establishment. Its tendency is disorganizing. If *one* missionary may make his appeal in behalf of his special work, *all* may with equal propriety, and the result be as unfavorable for missions as if an

army ignored its commissariat and dispersed to cater for its own supplies."

The proportion of a married missionary's salary, which is paid on account of his wife, and is therefore assumed by the women's societies, is in all our missions \$400 per annum.

For unmarried ladies the rate is as follows:

India	\$540.00
Siam	\$525 to \$537.50
China	\$500 to \$550.00
Japan	\$625.00
Korea	\$625.00
Brazil	\$700.00
U. S. Columbia	\$500.00
Mexico	\$750.00
Persia	\$425 to \$700.00
Syria	\$450.00
Africa	\$450.00

Native teachers and Bible-readers, \$50 to \$200. Scholarships, \$15 to \$100.

If no reply is received from societies to whom special objects have been offered within *two months*, the Secretary in charge will consider herself free to offer the same to other supporters.

When supporters desire to give up a special object, due notice should *always* be given.

WOMAN'S PRESBYTERIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS
OF THE NORTHWEST.
ROOM 48 MCCORMICK BLOCK, CHICAGO, ILL.