

Woman's Auxiliary Arkansas Branch

November 1911.

Dear Arkansas Churchwomen:

The wonderful broadening of missionary work everywhere apparent and the new plans of our Missionary Board require a revision of the plans of the Woman's Auxiliary, especially as regards The Apportionment.

This year the Board of Missions, with a splendid confidence in the genuine devotion of the entire Church, has asked for an offering of \$1,300,000 to meet its appropriations. This sum is apportioned among the several Dioceses and Missionary Districts, according to their varying ability. The Diocese of Arkansas is asked for \$3,400; but upon this sum are applied the offerings of the Woman's Auxiliary and of the Sunday Schools. Last year the Arkansas Branch of the Woman's Auxiliary, including the Junior and Babies' Branches, gave for the apportionment, \$432.80, and for specials, \$128.20, a total of \$560.58. The Sunday Schools contributed at least an equal sum. Even if these offerings should not be increased, we may expect from them fully one-third of the sum asked from the Diocese.

But shall we not see a large increase? Not only may each parish branch be expected to redouble its efforts, but every mission and every isolated churchwoman is urged to contribute to this supreme object—the bringing of Christ's kingdom throughout the world. Every baptized woman and girl is, by virtue of her baptism, a member of the great missionary society, which is the Church. Upon every one rests the obligation of her Lord's command to "Go quickly and tell" the tidings of His love to all the world.

As to Specials.—While the aid of particular schools, Bible women, hospitals, etc., is a delightful thing, yet this year, considering the wide field covered by the careful appropriations of the Board of Missions, and the consequent large demands upon the whole Church, it would seem better that we concentrate our efforts upon the apportionment, at least until that be fully met.

But the United Offering must not be forgotten. For this is our thank-offering, our special gift of praise, over and above the apportionment, presented every third year, at the time of the General Convention, and used for the training, sending and support of women missionaries and their work. A portion is used for the salary of the heroic Bishop of Alaska; by it 160 women in fifty dioceses and missionary districts are supported. School houses, hospitals and homes for the missionaries are built. In 1910 this offering amounted to nearly \$250,000, of which grateful Arkansas women gave \$700.25. Toward the offering of 1913 we had accumulated \$356 at the end of the first year of the triennium. What shall we not see by steady work through the other two years?

These two objects—the Apportionment and the United Offering, constitute the primary work of the Woman's Auxiliary, which was created with this definite purpose, as an Auxiliary to the General Board of Missions; that is, to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society; and no other work can rightly be substituted for that for which it exists, and whose obligations must come first.

Our Diocesan Missions have their own claim upon us, including the support of missions and missionaries in Arkansas and of our one institution—the Helen Dunlap Memorial School. But for these the Diocesan Missionary Board will call upon the women of the Church individually, as well as upon the men; and for them the Woman's Auxiliary, as such, is not responsible, though all are urged to generous giving. As soon as the contemplated repairs upon the buildings of the Helen Dunlap school are completed, and the school re-opened, it is hoped that the pledges made last year for the Ellen H. Cantrell Memorial Scholarship of \$100 will be available, and that this may be always continued.

The officers of the Arkansas Branch for 1911-12 are: President, Mrs. J. B. Pillow, 718 Perry street, Helena; First Vice-President, Mrs. Mildred A. Dorsey, Newport; Second Vice-President, Mrs. Walter Graham Hall, Little Rock; Secretary, Mrs. C. L. W. Reese, 313 South Elm street, Pine Bluff; Treasurer, Mrs. Howard M. Ingham, Camden; Treasurer United Offering, Mrs. S. S. Faulkner, 503 Biscoe street, Helena; Directress Junior Branch, Mrs. A. A. Tufts, Camden; Directress Babies' Branch, Miss Matilda Jordan, Seventh and Cumberland Streets, Little Rock.

Note the Two Treasurers. All money for whatever purpose, except the United Offering, must be sent to Mrs. Ingham, who will give a prompt receipt and forward every contribution to its intended destination.

tion. But the United Offering must be sent as fast as accumulated to Mrs. Faulkner, who puts it at interest and makes it grow.

The offerings of the Juniors and of the Babies' Branch should be sent to their own Directresses, Mrs. Tufts and Miss Jordan, who will transmit them to their proper Treasurer. Only by careful observance of these instructions can we be sure of proper credit for our gifts.

The fiscal year closes May 1. All money to be included in this year's account should reach the Treasurer before that date. But it is better to make our offerings as early as possible. There is immediate need for funds to meet the appropriations. Let us perfect our plans at once, and *all through the year* keep up our work.

And while we do promptly and carefully this collecting of funds, let us remember that with this we need to combine other work: the STUDY of Missions and PRAYER. The regular reading of the *Spirit of Missions*, acknowledged as the best missionary periodical in existence, and systematic study in our Auxiliary meetings and in special study classes, will help us marvelously to see and do our work for the coming of Christ's kingdom. For this is not a matter we are at liberty to neglect. We have promised to "keep God's holy will and commandments all the days of our life." We cannot count our Divine Lord's last command to "Go, teach all nations" less binding than the ten given on Sinai. As His "faithful soldiers and servants" we are bound to glad obedience.

And PRAYER should sanctify all our efforts. Prayer is a dynamic force. It will develop our own spiritual life; it will bring blessing to the distant fields.

Moreover, let us look about us for workers. Let us try to interest every churchwoman we can find. The work is everywhere waiting. Who can tell what possible forces lie in the lives of our own children and young people? What missionary heroes may Arkansas give to the world? Let us look for them, bringing to their thoughts the Great Commission, and helping them to a response.

Faithfully,

Your Diocesan Officers.