

Organizations for the Promotion of the Spiritual and

THE Y. M. M. I. A. was established in June, 1875, by President Brigham Young for the mutual improvement of the youth. It was designed to create in the minds of the young people, in the first place, an individual testimony of the truth of the Latter-day work; and then to teach them its magnitude and importance. Further, it was to develop the gifts within them, and teach them "all things commendable."

So that the field is large. It embraces naturally the cultivation of the intellectual man, the development of the physical man, and the training of the religious, moral and social man.

The associations have made some progress in all these directions. They are encouraging mainly behavior, suitable amusements, purity of actions and conversation, refinement of manners and improvement of customs, habits and conduct.

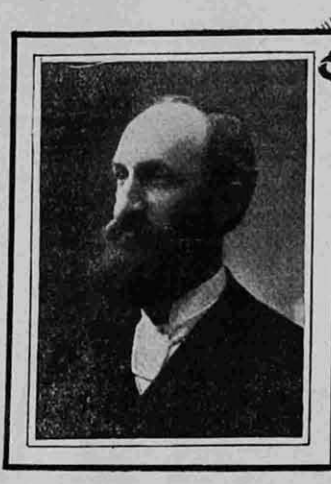
THIRTY-TWO THOUSAND ODD.

There are 32,000 associations with a membership of 32,225. There are about 2,500 officers, and a force of nearly 1,200 teachers or class leaders. Each association is divided into two classes, for the study of the senior and junior manuals. A manual is issued each year, and the subjects covered in the past 13 years embrace pretty much the whole primary field of theology—in-

cluding modern revelation, the Book of Mormon, spiritual growth and the history of the Church. For the present season, the senior manual treats on physical, mental and social manhood—the making of the man; while the junior manual is a continuation of Church history in biography. In the past 13 years about one quarter million manuals of study have been printed, distributed and studied. Other printed matter is the Improvement Era, now in its thirteenth volume. This publication has sent out free to the missionaries, in these years, over 300,000 copies of the magazine. It has done much good in circulating the writings of the Church to the nations of the world, and in this way has preached the gospel in the printed word. It is owned by the associations, has no organized capital, and is sustained by the loyalty of the members and officers of the organizations. For 17 years prior to the first number issued in 1892, the Contributor was the official organ.

M. I. A. SUPERVISORS.

The Y. M. M. I. A. is supervised by a general superintendency—President Joseph F. Smith, superintendent, Heber J. Grant and B. H. Roberts, assistants—and a general board. In each of the 61 stakes a similar superintendency and board supervise the associations of each stake. Then each ward has a president,



HEBER J. GRANT.

two counselors, secretary, and aids, teachers and class leaders. The associations meet weekly. The organizations of the officers are divided into committees that look after the manual study, the athletics and field sports, the music and drama, the social affairs, the libraries and reading courses, the conferences and conventions, the mis-



PRESIDENT JOSEPH F. SMITH.

tionary work, and the debates, literary contests and lectures. There are also agents to look after subscriptions for the Era, and to the collection of the annual fund which is 25 cents for each member, though this is in no sense a membership fee, as membership is entirely free. The teachings and all the work in all the departments are given



BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.

free. The halls, lights, and other accommodations for meetings and amusements are furnished at actual cost, but often entirely gratis. A reading course has been recommended in the past five years, and the associations are requested to encourage the reading of good books by their members. The formation of libraries

and reading rooms, and gymnasiums, is also encouraged; and lately considerable activity in this line has taken place. The officers recognize the fact that boys are partial to physical activities, and so have made some effort lately to provide healthful athletic sports and contests. Through these, the boys are led to recognize the other advantages—religious, social and ethical—that the organization offers the young men.

The Y. M. M. I. A. is becoming an attractive social feature for the young people in every ward. It has many precious advantages; it is the boys' own organization; they learn to express themselves in public; to respect the Church; to appreciate good literature, and the advantages of reading good books at home, and in many ways the association provides a general uplift in refinement and conduct. This will be better understood when it is remembered that the young ladies have a similar organization, with like aims in view for the young women, and the two organizations work in harmony in all things that pertain to conjoint interests, having only their class exercises separate.

ANNUAL CONFERENCES.

Besides the weekly meetings, which convene six months in the year, there are annual conferences in all the

stakes; and annual conventions in the fall, just prior to the opening of the season. The conventions are generally attended by members of the general board, and by all the officers of the stake and wards. Here the instructions are imparted for the season's work, and the conditions discussed and criticized. A general annual convention is held in Salt Lake City each June.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT.

The Deseret gymnasium, costing \$175,000, and modern in every respect, and ready for occupancy by April, is being erected in Salt Lake City, in which the general M. I. A. organization is interested. It is expected that first-class instructors will be obtained, and that teachers for outside organizations will here be instructed so that the wards in all parts of the Church may receive help for their athletic work—the thing most required and needed at the present time. But in the meantime, everything that can be done is being done to interest the membership in each ward, not only in physical culture, but in religious, moral, and intellectual development. The object is to induce all the young people to engage in this work as members, for the officers believe that there is no better place for any respect, nor any other organization in existence, more beneficial and advantageous to the development of the young than the Y. M. M. I. A.

Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Association



MRS. RUTH M. FOX.

THE Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association had its inception in the home of Brigham Young, 40 years ago. At this time, 1869, there was a departure from the simple pioneer life noticeable, especially among the women of the Church. Peace and prosperity had opened up the way for extravagance in cooking. Particularly on festive occasions there was rivalry among the housewives as to who should have the greatest number and variety of dishes. The young girls were procuring fashion plates from the east and were going to extremes in following the fantastic fashions then in vogue. President Young wisely thought retrenchment was necessary. That it might begin in his own household, he organized his daughters into a "Young Ladies' Retrenchment society" in November, 1869. Eliza R. Snow, who was present at this initial organization, was authorized to go about among the girls effecting organizations, the purpose of which was to encourage modest, plain and sensible attire and to educate the girls in the gospel of Jesus Christ. President Young placed the mission of retrenchment among the older women upon Mrs. Mary Isabella Horne. She became the president of the Sevier branch of the Ladies' Co-operative Retrenchment society.

The girls' societies, that is, the Junior branch of the various wards of the city, made their reports regularly at the sessions of the senior department.



MRS. MARTHA H. TINGEY, President.

The first ward organization was that of the Nineteenth ward. As the work spread outside of Salt Lake City into all the towns of the saints there was need for closer supervision, so the senior and junior branches of Retrenchment gradually separated, and stake boards were organized to supervise local associations. Mary Isabella Horne continued to travel with Eliza R. Snow and Zina D. H. Young aiding in the organization of the girls. The scope of the work widened; improvement was the general aim; and the specific purpose was the obtaining of a testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel.

When the young men of the Church were banded together under the title Young Men's Mutual Improvement association, a name chosen by President Young, he suggested that the name of the Retrenchment society be changed to Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association. With the adoption of the new title, and the stimulus of the broader organization, the membership grew rapidly and the work was broadened.

The general board, at first termed Central Board, was organized under the direction of President John Taylor on June 19, 1880, about 10 years after the genesis of the movement in the Lion house, with Elmina S. Taylor as president.

In the 25 years which Mrs. Taylor so ably directed the fortunes of these societies, changes occurred which, reviewed without the intermediate steps, would appear magical. As a result of Mrs. Taylor's close attention to the work, her executive ability, exactness

and wisdom, the mechanism of all the associations was soon improved. Order, system and thoroughness characterized them. By the assistance of the divine aid, which she continually sought, by devotion and unflinching equity, large wisdom in the selection of associate officers, and still larger love for the individual girl, she was enabled to build up a powerful, homogeneous organization in a quarter of a century.

YOUNG WOMAN'S JOURNAL.

The Young Woman's Journal has been and is today a great factor in the advancement of Mutual Improvement. The first number of this magazine was issued in October, 1889. For 11 years Mrs. Susan Young Gates, who was a prime mover in its establishment, was editor; and for the first eight years of that time she also attended to much of the business. Under the conditions which obtained at this period, almost superhuman faith, perseverance and sacrifice were required, on the part of President Elmina S. Taylor and the editor, in order to continue its publication. It frequently happened in its early history that the editor's own pen had to fill almost half of the 48 pages printed. Mrs. Gates deserves credit also for the encouragement of new writers. The foremost young women authors of Utah owe their beginnings to her inspiration. Mrs. Gates was succeeded as editor by Mrs. May Booth Talmage, who held the position near two years. She was followed by Miss Ann M. Cannon, who acted as editor about five years. Miss Mary E. Connelly is the present editor.

for. The associations have been the exclusive owners of this periodical for the past 12 years. In this time it has had great prosperity financially. The girls everywhere are loyal, enthusiastic supporters of their magazine and are proud of the high literary standard it is reaching.

OFFICERS OF Y. L. M. I. A.

The demise of President Elmina S. Taylor, which occurred Dec. 6, 1901, necessitated a reorganization of the general board. In April, 1905, Mrs. Martha Horne Tingey was chosen president, Mrs. Ruth M. Fox and Mrs. Mae Taylor Nyström, counselors; Mrs. Alice K. Smith, treasurer, and Miss Ann M. Cannon was retained as secretary.

Mrs. Tingey, in discharging the duties of this office, has won the love and allegiance of her fellow-workers near and afar off by her upright, devoted to duty and invincible faith in the cause which she represents.

Among the big helps to success in the Mutual Improvement association, perhaps the biggest is that of the guide work. Fifteen years ago it was introduced. For the first two or three years the guide work, or outline studies for the local meetings, provided by the general board, were printed in pamphlet form. Since then the outlines for all courses studied have been published in the Journal. This has produced system and uniformity in the 700 associations (consisting of 28,000 members) which are now pursuing the course. It is infinitely superior to the early custom of utilizing the meeting time by miscellaneous programs.

A further glance at the methods and features by means of which the work of today is being perfected, brings into prominence the convention work. Conventions are now held annually in the 61 stakes, and the aim is to make them training schools for the thousands of officers who attend. This work is planned and published by the general board, but is executed under the direction of the stake boards. This drilling in the technicalities of local procedure overcomes many of its difficulties and produces an intelligent activity in the varied phases of Mutual Improvement association work. Grading of the associations, which was done in recent years, conduces to the general improvement of the work.

The traveling libraries stimulate home reading habits by placing classical books in the hands of thousands of young girls. The pedagogical class work, the business-like management of the finances and the accuracy and precision in records, reports, and statistics are aids in the movement toward perfection; but the greatest glory of the Mutual Improvement work comes through its abundant spirituality.

Primary Association—Its Work and Endeavor



MISS MAY ANDERSON.

IN THE year 1878 Aurelia Spencer Rogers was inspired with the thought that something should be done that would assist the many boys and girls growing up to a better moral and spiritual development.

Many of the children in her home town appeared to have an undue amount of liberty, much time being spent on the street corners, where speech and actions indicated a lack of the training and education necessary to the growth of good character.

The parents of these children were all very busy providing homes, food, clothing, and in maintaining schools for their elementary education.

The Sabbath schools were doing much good, but throughout the week the boys and girls seemed to have no time or place where they could receive systematic moral and religious training. The idea which came to the mind of this woman was to gather the children together once a week and teach them to sing and pray; to be honest, kind, truthful and helpful in their homes and to each other.

The matter was presented to President John Taylor, who approved of the plan suggested. Eliza R. Snow was appointed to organize the children's meetings throughout the Church. The name "Primary Association" was chosen by Miss Snow for such meetings.

The work prospered from the beginning and from one small organization in Utah, it has been increased to 700 associations with about 8,000 women officers who are laboring for the moral and spiritual growth of more than 50,000 boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 14.

At this time there were no stake or general boards to systematize or supervise plans or programs. The officers who were appointed to provide had little or no training in the control or management of children but were filled with love and an earnest willingness to do the best under the circumstances. Exercises consisting of songs and recitations, with opportunities for the bearing of simple testimonies, prayers individually and in concert, the memorizing of such portions of scriptures as the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer; also the Word of Wisdom, Articles of Faith, etc., formed a large part of the regular program.

The value of the industrial side was not overlooked, and all the simple activities of the home and the farm were taught and encouraged. Many fairs have been held which were a credit to the promoters and the children who labored to produce exhibits of excellence and merit.

SYSTEMATICALLY ORGANIZED.

The Primary associations are now more systematically organized with stake boards, who look carefully after the finances and the accuracy of a general board which visits annually each stake and whose business it is to advise and encourage stake officers and keep up a systematic growth of the work generally.

When parents and officers understand the object of this association and are united by a common interest in the moral and religious training of the children, much good can be accomplished and a greater measure of success is assured.

The officers of an organization are supposed to know all the children of Primary age who reside in the ward where they live; to understand enough about the environment and home influences of each to be able to encourage and assist intelligently those who need help; to know why certain do, or do not, belong to the association. To gain this information local officers are supposed to visit, at least once each year, every home in the ward where there are children, to become acquainted with the parents, explain to them the value of the organization and obtain their sympathetic co-operation in the development of the plans for the local associations. Parents are invited to visit the meetings and when a child needs special help a united effort on the part of parents and teachers will often produce beneficial results.

The association meets weekly, the session usually lasting one hour. The

program consists of devotional opening and closing exercises. At each session the children are given opportunities to pray aloud so that confidence and ability in that direction may be acquired.

The children are divided according to age into five grades. After the opening services the children separate into the classes and a lesson occupying about 20 minutes is given. The subjects used in the classes are theological and ethical; the standard Church works are used as references by the teachers, and many moral stories are used to teach the aim of the lesson.

FOR A HIGHER MORAL PLANE.

Every lesson has a distinct aim in helping the children to a higher moral plane; the home is presented as the ideal place for the exercise of all the ethical qualities; the Church, the priesthood and places of worship are used as special lessons to increase a proper reverence and respect for all sacred things; the honor and glory of good citizenship are emphasized through special lessons prepared for and in honor of patriotic days and events; the glory of God and the divine mission of Christ are brought constantly before the children through the use of the Old and New Testament. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy might, mind and strength, and thy neighbor as thyself, is the underlying sentiment and motive of every consistent Primary work and lesson.

With the theological and moral training which these organizations offer a regular and definite effort is made to assist the boys and girls to overcome diffidence and backwardness, and to qualify them for positions of trust in the walks of life, in the mission fields and in the many offices which need constant recruiting in the various organizations of the Church.

SPECIAL GAMES.

The Primary association has another very important field in which it hopes and expects to do much for the benefit of its members. As the associations meet during the week an opportunity is offered through the social and play side of life. Many of our best educators and students of children claim that more may be accomplished through the activity of play for the betterment of children than any or all

other means which may be used. This truth is recognized by the officers who preside in this important work. Every association is instructed to prepare and give to the children opportunities of so frequently of late, offer inducements as well as encouragement for all the domestic and some of the finer arts. Libraries, stake and local, which contain books of interest for officers and children are being established throughout the Church, the desire being to place suitable reading within the reach of every boy and girl of Primary age.

THE CHILDREN'S FRIEND.

The Children's Friend is the organ of the Primary Association of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It contains special departments of interest for boys, girls and parents. It is the medium through which all necessary information and instructions are distributed to the associations throughout the Church. The lesson department is a very important division of the paper. Each month lessons are given for each grade which are carefully prepared for the teachers' use with suggestions, memory gems, stories, etc., on the aim of the lesson.

The Children's Friend has just completed its eighth volume, and during its existence it has been read by those for whom it is published, with favor and appreciation and Primary workers everywhere unite in declaring it a success; that it is in reality as well as in name The Children's Friend. The Children's Friend is published by the general board of Primary associations, whose office is now situated in comfortable and beautiful quarters on the third floor of the Bishop's building on north Main street.

McCONAUGHY-LOSEE

Lumber Company, Carry Select Building Stock.

If there is one lumber yard in Salt Lake City where particular pride is taken in the quality of stock carried, it is the McConaughy-Losee Lumber company, 648 South State street. If you desire an elegant line of finishing lumber to pick from, this is the yard to go to. Its entire stock is closely scrutinized, bringing it far above the average. A specialty is made of white pine finish. At this yard much attention is also given to even the common grades of lumber. Accordingly many building contractors, when they have a particular job on hand where best grades of lumber are required, do not hesitate to

place their orders with McConaughy-Losee; they feel assured they will get just what they want.

But above all, this company caters to the city cottage trade. In remodeling their stock, this cottage trade is ever borne in mind. So many many cottages are drawn on this yard for their entire supplies, knowing their wants will be supplied on short notice, and at most satisfactory prices.

All kinds of builders' hardware, Flint-kole roofing—in fact, everything in the building material line may be had here at wholesale as well as retail. The manager of the company is W. E. Losee, who is also vice president; the president is R. E. McConaughy, a well known business man; F. E. Losee is secretary.

EUROPEAN PLAN

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Because every customer who steps inside of F. A. Cooper's store is treated almost like one of the family, that establishment is prospering. It's business has branched out from that of a small concern, with a cheap stock, into one of the largest and best rural general mercantile establishments to be found in the state. Now its stock consists of a big assortment of dry goods, clothing, shoes, groceries, hardware, and, in fact, everything in merchandise. Everything in the store is first-class. The goods are sold at remarkably low prices.

Mr. Cooper, the pioneer storekeeper and miller, and owner of this well-known establishment, has been in business in West Jordan for many years, and has always been prominent in the affairs of this part of the state. He served as postmaster for 23 years. He was born in Godmanchester, Huntingdonshire, England.

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