The Work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

in the

East South America Conference

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First Annual Report

of the

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
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What we are trying to do in South America

The South American Work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church consists of four boarding schools, a Christian social center and a Bible Training School.

Crandon Institute in Montevideo is our largest school, having an enrollment of about 250. In its new quarters it has accommodation for about 450 and we are hoping that this year will see a large increase in the enrollment. Crandon offers the children of Uruguay a kindergarten, eight grades of English work, two years of high school, and a normal course, with Bible, Spanish, and physical training taught in all grades and special classes in domestic science, music and other branches.

Buenos Aires school has a kindergarten, eight grades of English work, the corresponding grade work in Spanish, and a commercial course. Bible and physical training are taught in all the grades and music, sewing, etc., are specialities.

Colegio Norte Americano in Rosario offers kindergarten and the six grades of Spanish elementary work and a commercial course. Bible and English are taught in all grades. Special classes are given in music, domestic science and other subjects.

Gleason Institute in Rosario has a kindergarten and the first three grades of a Spanish elementary school. On Sunday an enthusiastic Sunday School meets in the building. This year public health work is to be opened up with a missionary nurse in charge. We hope that the institution which is new will have a rapid development along various lines of Christian social service, such as Bible classes for adults, Mothers' Meetings and Boys' and Girls' Clubs.

The Lima High School consist of a high school, a commercial course, an English elementary school of eight grades, and a kindergarten. The school is very popular, having a waiting list. It is housed in rented quarters which permit of no further growth, so that its most urgent need is for land and suitable buildings.

The newest Woman's Foreign Missionary Society institution in South America is the Bible Training School which was organized in 1922. It offers Spanish courses in Bible, evangelism, sociology, domestic science, etc. The school is conducted under the management of the United Christian Missionary Society and the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, each board carrying half of the running expenses.

More missionaries are needed for our South American work and these should be young women of culture and refinement, good presence and much physical vigor. Those who come to teach in mission schools not only should be college graduates, but should have experience in teaching; those who are to work in a social center should
have experience along that line: in other words, the missionary candidate should have both a well rounded education and experience in those lines of work in which she expects to participate.

We have need for one more young woman who is experienced in book-keeping and office work and could take charge of a commercial department.

Reading and otherwise acquainting oneself with South American peoples and problems is of much benefit to a missionary candidate. Anything which helps our missionary worker to a greater understanding and sympathy with the people in these Latin American lands cannot fail to be of assistance in winning for Christ its precious young womanhood.

Beside these other qualifications for which we are asking, the most important of all is a steadfast missionary purpose in coming to the field; a heart filled with love for Christ and a supreme desire to carry out His last command, "Go ye and make disciples of all the nations". If the candidate can spend some time in a good Bible Training School it will prove invaluable as a preparation for the Master's work in this mission field which lies so near our doors.

The following reports from the several schools will tell in more detail what we are trying to accomplish.

Carrie J. Carnahan, Official Correspondent.
Crandon Institute

Directora: Helen Gilliland.
Vicedirectora: Bertha Tuddenham.
Administradora: Jennie Reid.
Other Missionaries: Gertrude Wheeler, May Murphy.

For nearly 50 years Crandon Institute has been exerting a strong and uplifting influence on the womanhood of Uruguay. Her one hundred and odd graduates from the most representative families of the Republic, are occupying places of leadership in the life of the community so far as it is possible for women to do so. Some are teachers, others pastors' wives and still others are leaders in the movement to make Uruguay dry in 1925. One of the latter, Mrs. Isabel Rodriguez, is worthy of special mention. She is a gifted speaker who has been privileged to address large and important audiences. She was formerly Secretary of the local Anti-alcoholic League but since she was sent by the Government to represent Uruguay in the great world conference of the W.C.T.U. in the States, she is giving her time to general work. This is not all she does, for incidentally she is a pastor's wife, a secretary for the Centenary and has just been licensed as a local preacher—the first woman in our Conference to take this forward step. Among our students we can name the nieces and nephew of the President, daughters of senators and leading professional and business men.

Having had such girls in school it has not been difficult to secure the interest of their fathers in our cause which has meant more to our school than we can estimate. Among our kind friends is a senator who has given much of his time on the new building and a project for exemption from taxation, the Rector of the University who this year delivered our Commencement address, and the Minister of Public Instruction.

Though a large percentage of our students come from the well-to-do homes, it does not mean that those from the humbler families are excluded. We have a goodly number of such children and even poor ones who cannot afford to pay any tuition. Because of your generous gifts we are able to give twenty-five free scholarships.

The school offers a course of ten years, principally in English, in addition to the Kindergarten, but we take the students farther than our second year of High School in the States as shown by the fact that one of our graduates was able to rank as college Freshman immediately after leaving Crandon. The erroneous idea that a girl's education is complete at the age of fourteen or fifteen years, makes it very hard for us to keep our girls in school even until they graduate, so the only way we hope to secure a higher education for the girls is to offer them special work in Domestic Science and Physical Education. There is a good deal of interest shown in these subjects which will insure their
NEW BUILDING
attendance after completing the regular course. There is also a Normal department in connection with Crandon which in a few years we hope will not only mean much to our own school but similar institutions in the neighboring republics and even to the public schools of this land. Efforts are now being made to gain for our Normal graduates a State certificate and also to interest the national teachers in our Physical Education and Domestic Science courses. Through these channels we hope to be a blessing to the homes and schools of this country.

The year 1922 has been a red-letter one in the history of our school. The fine new building, which has been so badly needed for the past ten years was sufficiently finished so that we could open classes in it in the fall. This ample edifice not only adequately meets our needs but will stand for many decades as a magnificent monument of the sacrifice and foresight of the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society and at the same time eloquently speaks of the love they feel for their sisters of the Southland. Four hundred day students and fifty boarding pupils can be accommodated in her spacious halls and the time is not far distant when we shall reach these figures. Now with the three autos owned by Crandon, we can bring to school many little children who live far away and could not come to us otherwise. Some seventy children made use of these vehicles this year. These are a splendid investment for in a few years the total cost will be liquidated.

Of course the class of 1922 was the proudest one ever because it had the honor of being the first class to graduate in the new building. The auditorium was not ready, so a temporary platform was erected in the gymnasium and artistically decorated with bamboo and ivy. The six pretty girls in their dainty white frocks furnished what was necessary to complete a perfect picture.

This has been a red-letter year not only because of material blessings but the spiritual ones as well. Eleven of our girls united with the church and a number more attend the Sunday School regularly. Each year the number of those who decide to follow Christ is greater, for which we are very grateful. One illustration will suffice to show the transformation wrought in the lives of these girls. Maruja is from a large conservative family in very comfortable circumstances. After finishing her course in the public school she came to us and right from the first became thoroughly interested in her Bible work. At the close of her second year she given her heart to Christ; then she brought her sister and cousin. She has been with us only four years but has acquired English so rapidly and insight into the Scriptures so that for the past three years she has walked off with the Bible prize for the upper grades. She graduated this year but is coming back for Normal training so that she may teach in Crandon. Maruja’s people consented to let her and her sister join the church and she is even teaching a class in a mission Sunday School. She said to me one day ‘Oh my life is so different from what it would have been had I not come to Crandon’. It’s the same old story of a changed life but its all so new and wonderful to Maruja. We are profoundly thankful to the Heavenly Father for thus honoring our efforts and our faith is strong for 1923 believing that it will far surpass the splendid year that has just closed.
GRADUATING CLASS OF 1922.
(The girl in the upper left hand corner is Maruja, about whom Miss Gilliland writes.)
Escuela Americana para Niñas
Buenos Aires

Directora: Grace Barstow.
Vicedirectora: Blanche Rubright.
Other missionaries: Edna Brown, Miriam Whiteley.

To say that Buenos Aires school has been full is not sufficient; it has overflowed to such an extent that for the past three years a rented house diagonally across the street from the school has had to be used for class rooms and last year two houses were rented. These rented buildings provide additional dormitory and class room space, but bring the difficulties of taking the children back and forth across the street in all sorts of weather and of paying a high rent which we would rather see going into a building of our own.

A GAME OF BALL IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN.

The people of Argentina are now taking great interest in sports of all kinds and one of the most popular activities of the school last year was basket ball. Very keen was the competition between the two teams, the "North Star" and the "Spark", and when at the annual school pic-nic a small silver cup was presented to the captain of the North Stars, there was a general feeling of satisfaction at the result, since it was acknowledged that the North Star was the team
that had played the fairest. The Sparks with good humor said that they would be the winners next year.

Bible study is required of all pupils in the school and is generally liked in spite of the fact that most of the girls do not come from evangelical homes. One thing which helps the study of Bible to be agreeable is the making of note-books. Attractive paper, covers, ribbon, and Brown pictures in miniature of Bible scenes are furnished by the school and the various classes vie with one another to see which shall have the most attractive set of books. These note-books are often decorated so artistically that teachers as well as pupils are proud of them and would like to have them as keep-sakes.

A GROUP OF ALUMNAE

Each year a group of girls finish their studies, receive their diplomas, and go out from the school to fill useful places here in the capital city or in more remote localities. We have long been thinking of forming an alumnae association and looking toward this end we invited to tea one afternoon last year some of the alumnae who were living in or near the city. Almost all accepted the invitation and spent a most delightfull afternoon together. Of course they wished to go through the school to see the changes that the years had brought and many were surprised to see how balconies had been closed in to make piano rooms and every little corner had been used to make room for the pupils whose number increases every year.

One of the best things this past year was the series of meetings which Miss Hartung held in October with the boarding pupils. About fifteen of the girls came for personal interviews with Miss Hartung
and from that time till the close of school most of those fifteen met once a week for a little prayer meeting of their own. They seemed so much in earnest and we pray that they may be given grace and strength to be true little Christians whatever may be their surroundings this summer.

To inspire in our girls the spirit of service, teaching them that it is far better to serve than to be served, is our aim. One thing that helped along this line was the Camp Fire group which was organized in the school last year. The Camp Fire is a splendid organization for South American girls, teaching, as it does, love of service, glorifying manual work and encouraging out-door exercise and wholesome games. On Oct. 22nd the Camp Fire Girls gave an entertainment in the school garden. It had been planned for Columbus Day, Oct. 12th, but had to be postponed on account of the wet garden. The school does not have an assembly hall and the only other place where anything like that could be held is a class room. On the 22nd, however, the weather was good and everything went off fine. The second part of the entertainment was a chivalry play in five scenes called "The Knighting of Perceval". Maybe you are thinking that that is a queer kind of a play to have in a girls' school, yet King Arthur and his knights were present in person and right good looking knights they were. The knights all wore their Camp Fire ceremonial dresses with sweaters to represent coats of mail and had helmets, shields and swords that the girls had made and covered with silver paper. One very pretty part was at the end when the king and all the knights held up their swords and repeated together their vow to.

"Live pure, speak true, right wrong, follow the King:
Else wherefore born?"

It was a most suitable play for Camp Fire Girls to give and we are sure they will all have pleasant memories of the days when they were knights.

AN OUTING IN PALERMO PARK.
Colegio Norteamericano

Directora: Ruth Warner.
Vicedirectora: Ruby Hosford.
Missionary Teacher: Frances Strever.

"Influencia" is often a magic word in this country. And so when Colegio Norte Americano, the boarding and day school in the "Chicago of the Argentine" sought government recognition for the Spanish grade school, many thought it would be necessary to fall back upon the prestige of friends of the school to bring it about. But prayer is stronger than "influencia" and the school was accredited on its own merits and the matter arranged in an incredibly short time.

Besides the grade school which is taught by normal trained Argentine teachers, we have a kindergarten where children learn their first English and have their first good times; and elementary courses, some in English and some in Spanish, including commercial studies and domestic science. In addition, the school aims just as far as possible by means of special lines such as music, art, sewing, etc., to fill the girls' time and minds with all the useful, enjoyable activities that there is opportunity for, with the hope that those who are poor may be versatile enough to make their own way and that those who are in homes of wealth may not lead idle, empty lives.

The greatest handicap in the work of our school is that we have but five class rooms in which to distribute seven grades, a kindergarten, and various additional courses which we offer. Every hall and passage-way available has been pressed into service, the teachers are crowded into about the least the space possible, the boarding department has reached its capacity, and the school must either cease to grow or have additional rooms built on.

The formation of tennis and volley ball clubs has aroused real enthusiasm and not only is the exercise of value but the development of team work and the spirit of true sportsmanship are invaluable in character building.

The girls delight in getting up entertainments —fiestas—and display real talent in their efforts. During the year special events and national holidays were duly celebrated and the term closed with an exhibition of work and a big open-air program in the school "patio" or court, which was crowded to capacity. The entertainment was far too lengthy to have suited a North American audience but the Rosario folk who patiently stayed through were pleased by the ability shown by the girls and the artistic effects of the numbers.

The Bible is studied in school as regularly as any other subject, not merely however for information but also for "certainties to go by" that the pupils may learn what the Christian life really means to a girl. In September Miss Helen Gilliland of Crandon Institutte gave a series of evangelistic talks in the school and had personal interviews with all the girls who wished to talk with her about spiritual things. A number definitely accepted Christ. Though part of our girls come from evangelical homes, many have no spiritual help at all either at home or in their villages. If only you could realize how
TWO OF THE BOARDING PUPILS WEARING SCHOOL UNIFORMS
many towns do not even have a Sunday School. So the decision to serve Christ means much and the girls who have made it need your prayers. You will understand why we are so concerned to encourage the girls to remain in school for secondary work that they may not leave the school permanently when they are still so young to stand alone in their various social groups at home. How much would we expect in the States of an average girl of thirteen put down in community with no other Christian person near to encourage her?

We can trace the hand of God in the events of 1922 and while we give Him our heartfelt thanks for answered prayer and sure guidance, we trust the future of this work to Him, that in all things He may be glorified.

Gleason Institute

Director: Bernice Cornelison.
Missionary nurse: Josephine Packer.

Have you ever seen a yeast bud bulge out from the sides of the mother yeast, claiming sustenance from the parent, until enlarging, it is gradually pinched off to become a young yeast cell compelled to absorb its own food? In this way Gleason Institute began, has grown, and been pinched off to prayerfully seek its own sustenance.

During the thirty-five or more years that Colegio Norte Americano, through the zeal of its workers, kept up this second center of activity—a free day school and Sunday School for the poor—it was necessary to carry on the work in first one and then another undesirable rented building. This past year is the first full year that Gleason Institute has spent in its own modest but neat and pleasantly located quarters, the purchase of which was made possible by a bequest in the will of Mr. Gleason of Bickleton, Wash. To meet the needs of the community it seemed clear that the institution should develop as an evangelistic social service center, ministering to the physical, educational, industrial and spiritual life of the community. It was the vision of this opportunity for bringing the vital gospel to people who have so long been deprived of the open Bible that led faithful hearts to hold the matter before the Lord, asking for funds and workers. The gracious speed with which some of the answers have come seems an indication of His approval upon the development of such a community center. Specially manifest answers to prayer during the year 1922 are the ease with which the Gleason day school, along with Colegio Norte Americano, became incorporated into the provincial school system of Argentina; the arrival in December of Miss Josephine Packer, a registered nurse with some years of experience in public health work in the United States; the securing of faithful local workers to help in the Sunday School; and an increase in appropriations which will make possible the extension of the work along evangelistic lines.
Accomplishment in the educational department of the work during 1922 is recorded, literally, in the enrollment of 148 girls, 48 of whom were in the kindergarten. What influence the week day Bible study and the enthusiastic wholesome personalities of the four faithful Protestant, Argentine teachers may have had toward the building of character and the winning of souls among these children we hopefully expect the future to reveal. As yet there is no parallel ministry to the boys, most of whom, for lack of better occupation, frequent the streets, yielding to evil influences, and many do not have the discipline which even a secular day school would contribute toward the building of character.

A Sunday School for boys as well as girls has furnished the channel for evangelistic effort. Object lessons, accompanied by the distribution of suitable representative symbols bearing the scripture text, for each child to carry home; the distribution of picture cards and S.S. papers and a bit of temperance literature as well; a Christmas "fiesta" with candy for all and gifts (mostly supplied by you good friends in the States) for the 150 who had a sufficiently good attendance record; have all proven means of arousing and holding interest. During 1923 it is hoped to open new lines of service as the Lord leads and provides the workers for calling in the homes, holding evangelistic services and special Bible study classes.

Did you ask who would be interested to join Bible classes? That too the future must tell and your prayers are coveted that the industrial glasses may ever feed the Bible study groups. The anticipation is that when tiny children carry home scrap books they have made, older ones show what they have fashioned in special classes for making toys, aprons, fancy-work, and knick-knacks, sing at fiestas and services the songs they have learned in chorus groups, and relate the good times they have had during the hour set aside for games, in-
terest will be aroused. Then the older folk should respond to classes suitable to their needs and interests and thus all may be led into a willingness to study the Word which has prompted the service.

The public health work promises, by its very nature, to be the best interest winner of all and of it Miss Packer tells in her anticipatory which follows...

A new line of service is opening up both in Colegio Norte Americano and Gleason Institute. It is hoped that it will be possible to establish a system of a few fundamental health chores after the fashion of the "Modern Health Crusade". There will be in both schools an inspection for physical defects, a physician's examination of all boarding pupils and all other suspicious cases. It is hoped and confidently expected that this will lead to the establishment of a free dispensary in the neighborhood of Gleason Institute if space can be obtained. In the meantime many lines of service are carrying out a nurse's consideration, such as classes in "First Aid", "Home Care of the Sick", "Infant Welfare", the organization of "Little Mothers' Leagues", "Camp Fire Girls", etc. One needs only a glance at a Gleason assembly to bring them to their knees in prayer for the many cripples, the many with eye troubles, the little girls under ten years of age mothering small brothers and sisters in the absence of parents; overworked, underfed, undisciplined, untrained little humanity, starting life with no chance for education and social betterment unless given to them without charge. If results of medical work in other fields may be taken as an indication of what may be expected here, there is reason to believe that a method greatly used of God to demonstrate the elements of His message is being launched.

Instituto Modelo de Obreras Cristianas

Vicedirectora: Lois J. Hartung.

For many years the workers in Argentina felt the need of a place to train the young women who wanted to take up definite Christian service. The young men could be sent to the Theological Seminary, but there was no place for the young women. The Bible classes taught by some of the workers were beneficial, but of necessity, inadequate. Thus, constantly, the need of an institution where the young women could live, and study those things which prepare for greater usefulness weighed on the hearts of the missionaries, and was the subject of many a discussion and prayer. The Liga Nacional de Mujeres Evangelicas (National League of Evangelical Women) was deeply interested, but had no funds. Finally, through the cooperation of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the United Christian Missionary Society, the Instituto Modelo de Obreras Cristianas, (Institute for Training Christian
Women Workers) opened its doors in April 1922 to those who wanted definite training for service. Miss Zona Smith was chosen the Disciple representative and principal of the school, with Miss Lois Hartung of the Methodists, vice principal. With them works a Committee made up of representatives of the Disciples, Methodists, and Liga Nacional de Mujeres Evangélicas.

After a great deal of hunting for a suitable building, it was decided to rent two apartments as the first home of the school, and, although these have been inconvenient in some ways, specially since they were on different floors, they were in a location which has facilitated the obtaining of teachers, and on the whole have been quite satisfactory. The second year the school is to occupy a residence where there will be more room for classes and lectures.

Those in charge were not seeking large numbers, but were looking for young women who seemed to have the qualifications for Christian leadership. It was the first Bible training school for women established in South America. Since the idea that is being carried out is new in the country, it is necessary to proceed slowly, one step at a time, meeting the needs as they arise. The ideal is to have the girls live in the Institute, for only in that way can they take advantage of the full course.

The object of the school is to prepare the young women for evangelical work, but necessarily this includes all those things which will enable them to take their rightful place in their own homes, in the
church, and in society. Therefore, in planning the course a place has been given to those things which pertain to the home, as well as to courses in Bible and subjects necessary to church work. The students are supposed to have finished the sixth grade in the National Schools, but there is an opportunity given for some to do preparatory work before entering upon the regular course. This normally requires three years, but a shorter course of two years is also offered. In this first year, courses of domestic science, music, English, typewriting, and some preparatory subjects have been offered in addition to the Biblical studies of Introduction to the Scriptures, Life of Christ, etc. The instruction is all given in Spanish. English is taught, for there is such a lack of suitable literature for evangelical workers that it is highly advisable that all should learn to read English.

During this first year twelve have been enrolled and the year closed with nine in attendance. Some of these are doing work which will better prepare them for work in the Sunday Schools. A young lady who has done social service work among the poor took some work and was admitted to the last M.E. Conference although she has two years more of studying before she will be a recognized Deaconess—the first in South America.

One of the girls has been a worker in the local churches for four years. During this time she has visited the homes, doing Bible reading and trying to interest the women in the work of the Sunday Schools, Women’s Meetings, etc. At the present time, in addition to her school, she does some work among the children and women. Her primary class ranges in number from 30 to 50.

Another of the girls has been educated in the Rosario school for girls, and afterwards assisted in the mission kindergarten. She has done excellent work in the Institute.

A young minister’s wife attends the classes in order to get the things which will prepare her more fully for her duties. In addition to her school she has her home and church work.

Thus, altogether, the year has been very successful and all feel that the right step has been taken. Those in charge are putting forth every effort possible to make the Training School a success and are to be congratulated on what they have accomplished.