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The Work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society

in the

East South America Conference

Nineteen Twenty Five

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Fourth Annual Report

of the

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY
OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the

EAST SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

1925

General Office:
Room 710, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

50 Years in South America

The golden bells should ring this year for our work in South America. A little more than fifty years ago one of the South American missionaries wrote to the women in the home land saying, "The women here are as inaccessible to the instruction of male missionaries as are the women of India and China". Our brave W. F. M. S. accepted the challenge and Miss Denning and Miss Chapin began work in Argentina in 1875.

What has been accomplished in this half century? — Our hearts swell with pride and thanks to God when we read the splendid reports of the work of the year just passed. Have we finished our work in this field? No, God's work is never done. Our eyes fill with tears when we think of letting go our hold so valiently striven for, so hardly won in the very heart of the country, the great city of Buenos Aires where dwell almost a quarter of the population of the republic of Argentina.

The women of this south land are awakening and asking for their rights, are feeling the need of a better preparation. The challenge is renewed! God grant that we may have the courage to accept it for the second half of the century.

R. C. H.

Singing National Anthem - Rosario Celebration

Colegio Norte Americano

ROSARIO DE SANTA FE

Directora — Alice S. Webster.

Vice-directora — Frances E. Strever.

Other missionary — Pearl Bortell.

Colegio Norte Americano celebrated her fiftieth birthday this year. The formal celebration took place in May. There were three days of festivities, when the friends of the school, young and old congregated in her halls and patio to honor C. N. A., commemorate past happy days, and wish her a happy future. There was heard many an expression of appreciation of what the school had done for those who entered its halls or came within the circle of its influence. More than one of the younger generation spoke of the hundredth anniversary and wondered if any of them would be able to attend it.

The patio was a picture well worth seeing, with its columns wound with ivy, flags of many nations floating from the galleries, potted plants and shrubs (lent by the municipality) arranged in pleasing groups, and everywhere happy faces.

The first night was the formal opening with prayer and speeches by the leaders of Methodism in South America. The second night there was a program by the pupils of the schoool. It was very interesting to hear the little Spanish speaking first grade children sing "Bye Baby Bunting" and those of the second grade sing "Jack and Jill" with a small boy and girl dressed like the picture in the reader and carrying a real pail. The third grade in crepe paper dresses of rainbow hues sang a rainbow song. All these little people had smiling faces and looked proudly satisfied, for were they not speaking

English. This is the thought of nearly every mother er father who brings a child to our school. Then too there were beautiful living pictures — in which the latin girls excell — a sketch by the older girls in Spanish, singing by the whole school and a recitation by a little third grader, who takes lessons in elocution. The last afternoon was given over to a tea for ex-pupils of the school. Then the patio was, almost as if by miracle, transformed from a concert hall to a daintily decorated tea room where reminiscences were exchanged and future plans discussed. All felt that it would be advantageous to get together more often, and then and there an alumnae association was formed. We are hoping that this will develope into something fine and big, a real power in this Republic.

Birthday festivities have been not the only thing considered during the year. Our reason for being here has not been forgotten, the gospel message has been proclaimed. Miss Gilliland came to us for a week and gave a series of interesting and helpful talks and object lessons to the girls and teachers. As a result a number of the girls declared their decision to live a Christian life and they, with some of longer experience went every day to the room of one of the teachers for noon-tide prayer. They also have had a prayer meeting every Monday after school. Sunday afternoons they met to talk about the Christian work in other lands, thus forming a bond of thought and prayer between themselves and girls of other countries, for kindly thought and prayer cannot but be felt in some way around the globe.

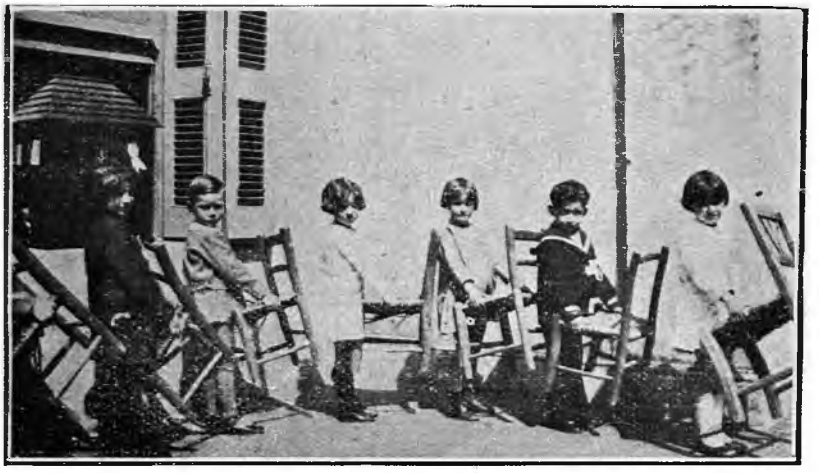
The people of Rosario are not much interested in the kindergarten, and our attendance is very small in this department. The parents think that if the children are not learning to read and write it is not worth while sending them to school. For this reason we have published a little book on the purpose and aims of the kindergarten, making it as attractive as possible with bright colors and illustrations. We think it has done some good for our enrollment is coming up, little by little.

"I see you"

This year the total enrollment has been more than ever before, 176. We are hoping that we can surpass this number in 1926. Since we are teaching more English we are drawing more English speaking children, which we think is a big advantage for our Spanish speaking girls. It is good for both classes to be together.

This year for the first time we tried student government with the boarding girls. They elected their own committee of five girls, who with one exception were the cream of the school, thus showing that girls have good judgement when given a chance to show it. This one girl, a problem for the teachers but popular with the girls, came to us after an escapade and said that she was not fit to be on the committee. This was a big step forward in her life, coming as she did from a home with far different ideals than those found in the homes to which most North American children are accustomed. Many of these girls have never seen the inside of a Sunday School until they come to us.

We are hoping, praying and working with the end in view that these girls of Argentina may develope strong Christian characters that will enable them to serve their God and their country.



Carrying chairs - C. N. A. Kindergarten

C. N. A. uniforms

Gleason Institute

ROSARIO DE SANTA FE

Directora — Bernice M. Cornelison
Missionary nurse — Josephine Packer

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us". I Sam .7:12.

The theme of the song my heart is singing to you dear friends at home is "God's Gift to You". By you I mean You; you who are reading; you who have contributed of your funds ,of your prayers, of your heart love to Gleason Institute; you who are at home because God has not asked you to come here. But God has given you a precious group of folk to do the active service here for you. It is of them I long to tell you. How to make you realize adequately, accurately and with a poignant appreciation what they are, individually and colectively, to this Evangelistic Social Service Center that you have established!!!

As I run through the list of eleven salaried and twenty unsalaried nationals who regularly and faithfully give of their time to the Gleason Institute evangelistic services, clubs, Sunday Schools, chorus, day school, medical or dental clinics, I see in God's Gift to You, representatives of numerous nationalities. They are Italian, English, Scandinavian, Scotch, German, French, Spanish, Irish, Swiss, and the most recently added to the list is Jewish.

Four denominations contribute to this team who carry on for you: Methodist, Catholic, Baptist and Anglican. The convert from the Jewish faith has become a Methodist.

From varied walks of life they come, with their numerous talents and multiple personal characteristics.

Gleason Workers

There's the retired railroad man who with steady zeal rejoices in giving his whole time to studying the Word, preaching the Gospel and teaching Bible Classes whether it be in a school, the home, or the church that the opportunity presents itself. The customs official is an active layman, spending practically all his free time giving messages or making plans for the advance of the Lord's work. Of his substance he gives to his church till it hurts. Another in spite of long hours of labor and the attraction of a newly founded home finds it possible to give some evenings to preaching. Another who spends his days in the office never fails to be on hand punctually for the service that depends on him, and always with willingness helps out in the unexpected crisis, whether it be in Sunday School, Junior or Senior Church. Yet another, gives unstintedly of out-of-office-hours for Young People's work, Sunday School, church music and work with boys. The dentist is on hand at 7 A. M. twice a week in your institution and works two hours before going to his own office for the day. The doctor who charms all babies comes once a week, after his own office hours are over, and helps heal suffering bodies which is a means to reaching suffering souls. The normal trained teachers submit to their course in learning patience in the class rooms while the forty or fifty Kindergartners put their teacher and her two assistants through an even harder test in the open patio — the only place inside the walls large enough to accomodate a Kindergarten of such size. It takes tolerant, loving hearts, working for the good of the children to put up with the inconveniences caused by the lack of space. Not even dismayed nor saying they "have enough of it with day school", practically every teacher is at it again on Sunday, in the Gleason Sunday School or in some other locality.

There are students, too, among these, God's Gift to You. A number of them are from your own Colegio Norte Americano. One is the Jewish convert. Another is daughter of a Salvation Army Worker. The father of

another has for years been a teacher in our Methodist schools. Still another is sister of one of the young National pastors.

The housewives in the group number four. A small number, perhaps, but when a housewife in Argentina takes time to teach hat-making, or painting to a class of girls in a club, or to go visiting in the homes of the women who attend Women's Meeting, or regularly prepare a message for the weekly devotional meeting, it denotes a true interest in the work being done.

"How", you ask, "was this veritable army of workers assembled for this work which was established four short years ago?"

I answer, "God's Gift to You". You prayed God to bless the work you had begun in a far clime. We here saw the need for a worker, first for one activity, then for another. We prayed. One person volunteered. A pastor found us another. An accidental telephone connection resulted in an afternoon tea engagement. The tea table conversation revealed a willing heart with a hunger of five years standing, for a channel through which to give forth in active service its desire to teach the gospel. And so they came, one and another as the Lord saw there was need, it has seemed.

My friends can you fathom the love that prompts these men and women, young and old, who here where your hands cannot reach, are thus helping you to win souls for the Master? Ah, how you ought to love them! How you must love them!! Yes, I am sure. You have caught the vision. How you **do** love them!!!

Graduating Class 1925

Instituto Crandon

MONTEVIDEO

Directora — Carrie M. Purdy
Sub-directora — Mrs. Bertha Tuddenham
Administradora — Jennie Reid
Other missionaries — May Murphy, Mrs. Effie Hagar, Esther Hagar, Alice Irwin, Ina Lee Foster.
Contract teacher — Helen Sugars

"I carry Crandon always in my heart". "I shall never cease to be a pupil of Crandon". "Crandon has

shown me the way of a faithful fulfiller of duty". "The atmosphere in which I have lived within Crandon's walls has been a great influence in the formation of my chacracter". With such words the girls of Crandon express their love for their school. Whether the school be called an educational institution with a spiritual emphasis or a spiritual institution using the school room as a means to an end, it is one and the same thing. Through the means of education they arrive at the higher things of life. Not creeds, nor words, nor performance of specific duties, but everyday living — honesty in the class room, sincerity in the treatment of others, a spirit of equality and kinship among the girls that meet in the same halls — that is what our missionary program must be.

In a land where we must consider those of all Christian faiths as brothers it is unwise to mention the differences between the Roman Catholic and Evangelical religions. However, when the question is brought up it must be answered. A girl of sixteen, her first year in Crandon, said to one of the teachers, "Do you know, I want to be a Protestant". "Yes? And why?" the teacher asked. Her answer was most gratifying for her only contact with Protestantism as it is lived has been in the school this past year. "Because", she said, "your religion is so simple and so sincere. There is no mystery about it. You don't have to believe anything without knowing why you believe it". That the first year along with learning to live the sincere, simple gospel will surely lead to a definite Christian experience the second or third year.

A little girl of eight comes into my room in the evening and on Saturdays to entertain and to be entertained. She loves to pick up my Spanish Testament, saying that she must learn to read well so as to read to me when I am old and cannot read for myself. One evening we were talking about prayer. "What prayers do you say, Margaret?" I asked her. "Oh, the'Our Father' prayer and Santa Maria", she answered. "But don't you ever say any prayers of your own?" "No, what would I say? I

tried to give her some idea of what little girls might ask of God. "But would God pay any attention to me?" she seemed to doubt it. After assuring her that God pays a great deal of attention to children's prayers, I went on with possible petitions. "You could ask God to make Miss S. a good teacher". "Does God know your name"? she asked. I told her what I asked of God. "you Pray that in English? "Yes, why?" "Well, God won't understand it". An amusing story, the alert mind, the quick answers, but at the same time pathetic, pathetic in that children who are raised as Christians, rooted and grounded in the Christian faith, take such things for granted, while there are those — thousands of them — like Margaret who have no basis of Christian teaching on which to build Christian character. What a multitude of twisted teachings and insincere formality we must try to overcome, putting in their place the sincere, simple teachings of Christ as they may be lived by girls of this country.

The school year just closed saw Crandon filled to capacity. The total enrollment reached 418. Of these 340 were Uruguayans, 26 Argentines, 19 North Americans, 10 English, 7 Brazilians and 16 of other nationalities. Graff Hall, the assembly hall, is comfortably filled at chapel time, which comes three times a week. Every nook and corner of the building is being used. This last year the teacher's parlor had to be converted into a class room to accomodate the commercial department. Already we are looking forward to a new building, a dormitory, so that the present building may be used entirely for classes.

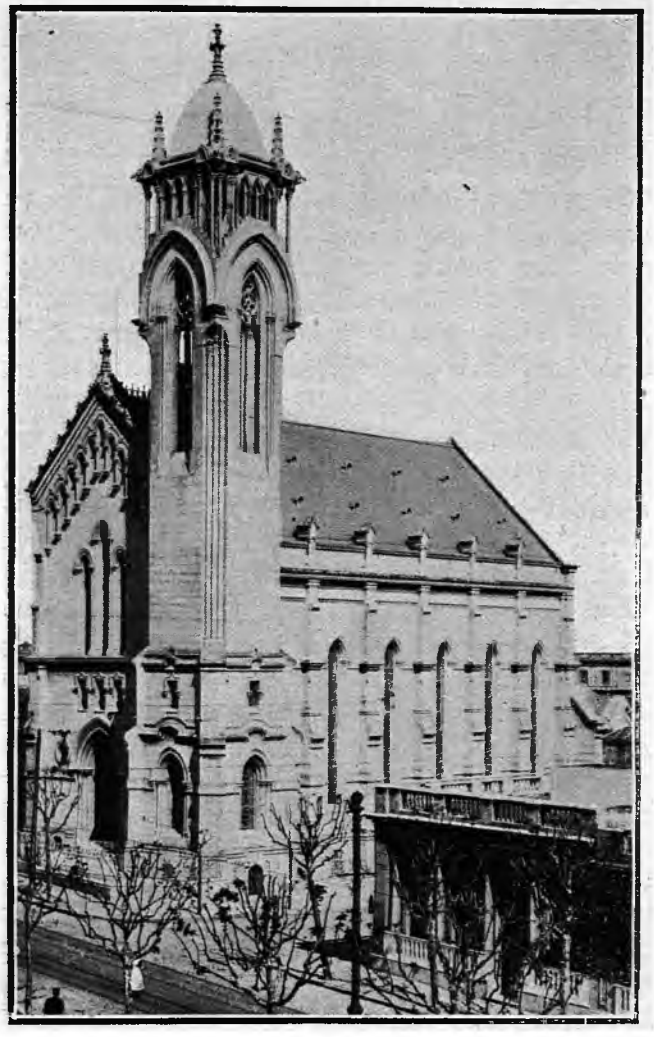
The financial campaign that had been dimly present in the minds of us all for so long was finally organized and carried through to a very decided success. The aim of the campaign was twenty thousand dollars, gold, which was needed for a wall along Garibaldi street, and for the paving of the side street, for a well that had lately been drilled on the grounds, for the piping and pumping of

A Class in the Commercial Department

the water, and for equipment in the different departments of the school, thus releasing local funds, which otherwise would be used for these items, for the liquidation of Crandon's debt to the W. F. M. S. in the States. Those who helped with the campaign — about seventy people who gladly donated their time for the week—were organized into ten teams. Each day at noon the teams met to lunch together and to report the outcome of their day's work. It was amazing to see how these friends of Crandon worked — calling at homes and offices, many times making several calls before finding folks at home. We did not know that Crandon had so many friends. It was so interesting to see the amount gradually climbing toward the 20.000 mark. More interesting still were the testimonies of gratitude and esteem for the school, that the campaign brought forth. One mother said, "The reason I haven't three daughters in Crandon is that I have just the two". Not only in the home land is there a deep interest and loyal support of our mission school. When those on the so-called "foreign" field give so generously, no matter what their religious faith may be, surely it signifies that the school has won a place in the hearts of those people.

Our boarding department has grown until it is its own advertisement. Of the nineteen departments of Uruguay, eleven were represented among our boarders last year. The total enrollment in this department was forty six, girls of from seven to twenty years of age. More and more a family feeling is developing among teachers and pupils. Most of the girls have chosen some teacher that has become her very own". No one knows the influence of a teacher with a small group of girls that she gathers about her, the quiet talks, the confidences, the companionship, the interest nearest the heart of the girl — these make our school what it has been called by one who knows, "A model as a school, as an element of culture and as a home for Uruguayan girls who are desirous of obtaining an education".

Salón "Crary" - Class in Domestic Science



Central Church - Montevideo

Evangelistic Work

MONTEVIDEO

Evangelistic worker — Helen C. Gilliland

The year 1925 should be underscored for it marks the beginning of evangelistic work by our Society in Uruguay. The opening came through a request of Central Church, Montevideo, to the society asking that Miss Helen Gilliland become its missionary and give her time to developing work among women, children, and young people.

For a year Miss Gilliland has experienced the joy of pioneering and believes there is a great field open for the development of Christian leadership among the women of these lands. Here is the story in her own words:

"Just now our Christian women are waking up to the consciousness that they are capable of rendering a great service to the church and that it is imperative for them to act. Seven years ago it was impossible to find a woman who would lead a meeting. Several years ago in Central Church a League of Evangelical Women was organized which holds its weekly meetings and has done much to deepen the spiritual life of the women and offer them opportunities for service. This League now has societies in practically all of our churches in Uruguay and it is one of my tasks to visit these various groups in the city and in the interior, stimulating them to greater activities and planning the work for them.

"This League in some respects is an ideal organization because it includes all the women's activites and prevents multiplying organizations. Recently the department of missions was added, so once a month the leagues will study a chapter of your book "Ming Kwong" which

must be translated into Spanish, and will contribute to the cause of missions.

"One of the big things done by the women of the League this year was to hold in Montevideo their first Congress, which proved a great blessing spiritually to all who attended. Delegates were sent from the various groups and for the first time in the history of Uruguayan Methodism (fifty years), the women had their say. It was thrilling to hear them present their topics in an able fashion and even carry on public discussions afterwards. The pastors were amazed at what their women could do and began to ask publicly why the men did not organize a similar Congress.

"Our leagues are taking an active part in the attempt to unite all the Christian women of Latin America by means of a prayer circle. Monthly letters with interesting news items and topics for prayer are sent out and already we have three hundred women in this little Republic who are praying intelligently for the evangelization of the Continent. Next year we hope to organize group meetings for prayer and Bible study.

"Another interesting phase of the work has been the developement of young women's missionary societies. A year ago there was one with a membersip of 30; now we have three, totaling some 100 members. This year for the first time, they sent money to a foreign land and it is gratifying to see their interest in others grow.

"Perhaps the most gratifying episode in this year's work took place when a bright, attractive girl, who was converted a few years ago in Crandon and has been teaching there since graduation, informed me that she was going to give up her occupation in the school to become a missionary and dedicate all her time to the church. It meant a great struggle for her to arrive at such a conclusion because her family, being of another faith, are not in sympathy with her plans and it is contrary to custom for a girl to leave her home to study or work elsewhere.

"We thank God from the depths of our hearts that He has heard our cry for national workers and that He is touching the hearts of those, whom Nature has richly endowed, to enter His service".

Cradle Roll and Mothers' Meeting in Poor district Montevideo

Instituto Modelo de Obreras Cristianas

BUENOS AIRES

Directora — Ruth E. Fish (missionary of the Disciples church)

Vice-directora — Ina Mae Beissell

The Bible Training School in Buenos Aires finished its fourth year in November with its first graduating class.

During the year there were seven girls living in the house and several who came in for a few classes each week. With Bible Classes, religious education, history of the church, studies of sociology, home arts, typeing, book-keeping, music and recreation, besides practical work in the local churches, the girls keep very busy. It takes the new ones a few months to learn how to study and live according to a schedule, but with a little time and patience the adjustments are made, and once the girls are accustomed to the regular life, they do not care to go back to the old way of living.

Of the three graduates one is a Methodist and two are of the Christian Church. The Disciples girls are both from Buenos Aires and are now working as pastor's assistants in the local churches. Our Methodist graduate is again working in Rosario, in Gleason Institute, what we would call an "Institutional Church". She will have a busy and useful life in that section of a great city. She has Kindergarten, clubs for girls and mothers, and also does calling in the homes.

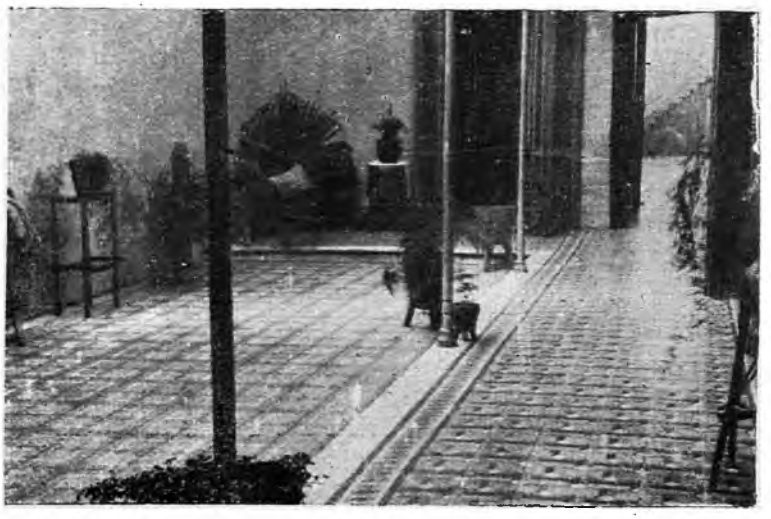
This is the first year in the history of the Institute

Graduating Class 1925

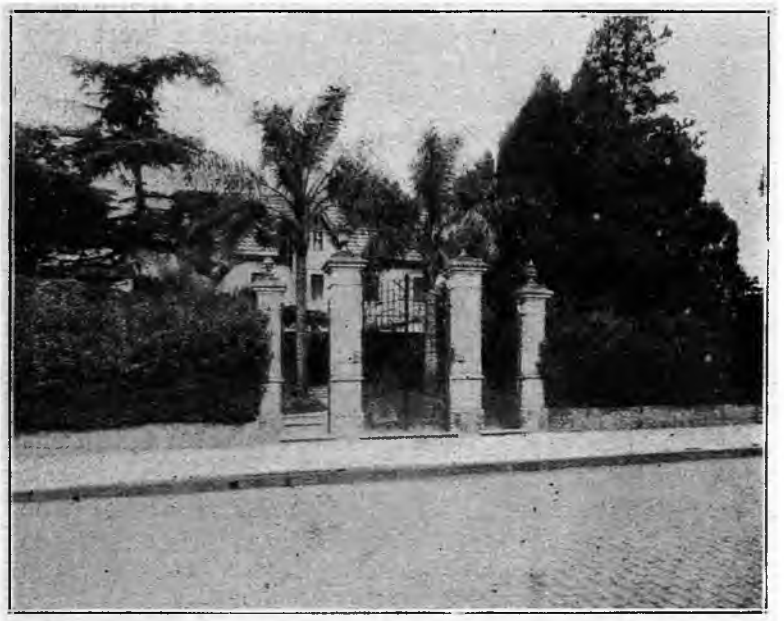
that there has not been a farewell for one of the missionaries. Having the same teachers should be a great help in the next year's work.

Although the school is new and has not many students as yet, it is gradually getting a hold on the hearts of the people. At first there was much opposition, especially on the part of those who did not feel that women needed education or should have the place of a paid worker in the church. Now, many are in favor of the Institute and it is gaining more friends and students each year. Those who opposed it had to be taught by practical example the value of a trained woman worker. There are always some young women who have a great desire to come, but opposition or unfavorable conditions in the home prevent their attendance.

Pray that the way may open for all those who should be here, to come and get the training they so much need in order to go out and win the women and girls of this great country.



Patio Bible Training School



Entering Buenos Aires School

Colegio Americano para Niñas

BUENOS AIRES

Directora — Grace Barstow
Vice-Directora — Blanche Rubright

Other missionary — Ruby C. Hosford

With the year 1925 Colegio Americano para Niñas in Buenos Aires completed forty years of its existence. The enrollment was 120. Of these, 30 were in the boarding department. Every bed was filled and for lack of space a number of names had to be placed on the waiting list.

The women of Argentina are not behind those of other countries in their desire for higher education. In response to an increasing demand for secondary work in

a good school where the parents could safely place their girls when they had finished the grades in the provincial schools, and that girls finishing the grades in our own school might continue with us, Miss Barstow last year incorporated in the school program the first year of Liceo work, which is very like our High School work. Last year three girls enrolled in this course. This year five enrolled. A number of those finishing the grades this year have signified their desire to continue their studies by takng this more advanced work. Many parents have expressed their satisfaction at the step taken, for you can understand how hard it is to get a seat in the fiscal Liceos when you consider that there are only three in all Buenos Aires.

This year the Spanish Department faculty was strengthened by the addition of Sta. Velia Iches, one of our own girl graduates, who has now completed her Normal course and is beginning the fulfillment of a long cherished desire to teach in her loved Alma Mater.

The closing program was held in the school garden and was a delight to everyone attending. On this night 13 girls received diplomas. Of these 8 had completed the grades and 5 the commercial course, which consists of two years work after completing the grades.

The spiritual phase of the work of the year was stimulated by a happy combination with the Bible School program. The girls from that school alternated in taking charge of the Wednesday evening devotional meeting. All plans were made for Miss Gilliland to come for a week of special meetings as she did in Rosario, but the serious illness of Miss Barstow made it impossible to carry out the plan.

Doubtless you all know of the very serious illness of Miss Barstow and the grave operation she had to undergo. God heard our prayers and she was spared to us. Her recovery was almost like a miracle. She was able to finish out the last weeks of the school year in actual service.

The long illness of Miss Barstow and the additional illness of Miss Rubright, her working partner made the year a difficult one but the remaining teachers and the student body as a whole rallied loyally to the task and the school closed in good shape with unusually bright prospects for the coming year.

When we were contemplating with joy and thanksgiving the heroic victory and the apparent future, you can imagine the shock it was to receive a cable saying that the school was to be closed.

Miss Barstow and Miss Rubright left for the homeland early in December. We are praying that they may soon be restored to full strenght and vigor to continued service for their Master.

Let us all pray that God's will be done in regard to the future of work in Buenos Aires.

Leaving Buenos Aires School