THE WORK
OF THE W. F. M. S.
IN THE
EAST SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

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Seventh Annual Report

of the

WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

OF THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the

EAST SOUTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

1929

General Office;
Room 710, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.
Good News and Happy Greetings
From Folk
Way
Down
South.
Did you ever have your family almost double itself at one jump from eight to fourteen, or something like that? If you have—you can imagine how we felt at the beginning of this school year. Our family of last year which was eight girls, had now grown to fifteen in a few months. That meant first of all more room, as the house was too small. We were not ready to move, and were fortunate in being able to get three rooms in the adjoining house which we used as bed-rooms. Of course, too, we had to buy furniture. It was mostly second hand. Our dining room is more than crowded but we always have room for one more. We make room for visitors who so graciously come to see us from time to time. So if you are planning a trip to South America or know folk who are, tell them to be sure to come and
see us. We want you to know that we have a real Bible Training School in Buenos Aires. A school which merits your respect and heartiest cooperation.

Four young women graduated this year, one finished the work of the second year, while a splendid group of nine in the first year promise many workers for the future. The Young Women's Christian Association and four denominations: Scotch Presbyterians, Disciples of Christ, Waldensians and Methodist Episcopal are represented. The student body is composed of six nationalities: Spanish, Uruguayan, Chilean, Czecho-Slovak and Argentinean. The faculty is mostly North American. The school is a working project in international fellowship. In the Name of Jesus and with His Spirit in our hearts we are brothers and sisters in God's family.

You know something of the life in a Bible and Missionary Training School, so I do not have to tell you. But I want you to know that the girls have worked splendidly together, combining study and work and play,
the physical, intellectual and spiritual, which is necessary that they may be well prepared Christian workers. They must learn and then put into practice what they have been taught, including an ability not to become discouraged but always keep on when things do not progress as they wish. To obtain such a thorough all around preparation takes many, many hours of a teacher's time, and infinite patience and ceaseless prayer combined with a good working knowledge of the subjects she is teaching. The actual class room work is only a small part of what must be done. Personal work with the girls is the great privilege, as well as the greatest responsibility of the whole task.

The Student Volunteer Society has done splendid work this year sending out deputation teams to visit other cities and towns, as well as holding meetings in the churches here in Buenos Aires. With their enthusiasm and earnestness, they have interested many other young people in this glorious work.

Our four graduates represent four of the six nationalities mentioned. Maria Aguirre from Chile, will return to her work in the Central Office of Religious Education for South America as well as other activities for which she is responsible. Two of the girls, Marka Urban and Elvira Salomon, will go to Rosario to work in our Gleason Institute. Gleason needs many workers and while these Señoritas make their best contribution of loving service, Gleason becomes to them a practice school of applied sociology interpreting into community and social values their three years of Training School theory. The fourth, Helena Goldschmidt will go to Montevideo to develop a Social and Evangelistic center in one of the challenging districts there, working under the direction of our Central Church.

As I suggested before there is a tremendously increasing interest in the Training School, and in the work that young women can do in our churches here. There is a special awakening among the Waldensians, and we will have
increasing numbers of students from their church. Other
chames also are beginning to cooperate, making possible a
big central Training School - for all this part of South
America.

Help us all you can - we must soon have a home, a
building adequate for our needs. Then we will not have to
waste energy for lack of equipment but can conserve it
for the more vital things. We must have another Methodist
Missionary, a well prepared teacher, the work is much too
big for the staff we have, and the greater part of the
students are Methodists. All this takes money; it takes also
the personal interest of many people with the cause of
missions on their hearts. More than all it takes increasing,
fervent, and believing prayer, which you dear friends can
contribute. We depend on you that the Buenos Aires
Training School may meet the challenge of the Growing
Kingdom in South America.

IMA MAE BEISSELL.
The three graces in Evangelistic work might be called faith, hope and love. In Montevideo these graces have been garbed in flesh and blood and are known as Hortensia, Maruja and Helena.

Five years ago the writer was the only Evangelistic worker in Uruguay. Others with her dreamed dreams, prayed and had faith in the womanhood of Latin America. Faith in these women to respond to the call of their sisters for help to improve their social conditions, raise their status and intensify their spiritual life. Faith also in our Bible Training School to send forth such well prepared workers that these ideals might be reached. This faith has become Señorita Hortensia Droz. For the past two years she has been working efficiently in the Social Center of the Cerro, Montevideo. There she has ministered to the lowly, to whom
Providence has given little of earthly talent or treasure. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Smith, the missionaries in charge, enjoyed a United States furlough this year, while Señorita Hortensia stood in the "Cerro gap" with radiant smiling preparedness.

Next we had hope—which dreamed of a day when a National young woman of culture and deep spirituality should be found for the duties of Pastor's assistant for Central Church Montevideo. Central is one of our largest and most intellectual Spanish-speaking churches in South America. Hope was born when Señorita Maruja Ibarra finished her Bible Training last year and gave her self to this stupendous task. Not long ago Señorita Maruja took charge of a preaching service, she finished with a discouraging sense of failure. Later someone told her how tenderly that service had ministered to a friend with a troubled heavy heart. So hope sows the good seed of the Kingdom for consolation and new life.

Then, love took possession of us—love for a wee church located in a challenging section of the city where
institutional work could and should be done; where a shower of stones rain upon the roof outside while hearts within glow with warmth and joy as the message of Christ is proclaimed; where women gather in goodly numbers for their weekly meetings summer and winter; where women long to make Christ real in their homes and community; where little children flock to the Sunday School and Junior League attracted by a Gospel hymn, a bright picture or an interesting story of Jesus' life. Love for these people and a profound desire to seize this golden opportunity led us to pray for a full time Christian Worker and Señorita Helena Goldschmidt is our answer. She is beginning her new work this year of nineteen thirty. She is earnest, consecrated and well prepared. In January she became a Deaconess on probation in our East South America Conference. Love for Jesus' sake gives all in happy ministry.

What hath God wrought in five years? He has called three young women to his vineyard. They have left all to enter loving service for Him. Thank God! — He still calls. Thank God for those who hear His voice. May His blessing which maketh rich, be abundantly upon them.

HELEN C. GILLILAND.
Fifty years of service in His Name!
And those who were fortunate in being with Crandon in her fiftieth anniversary year, look back upon its history with a thrill of pride and anticipate the future with rejoicing.

Crandon began its service in Uruguay under the leadership of Cecilia Güelfi, an Uruguayan teacher. Trained under José Pedro Varela, the great educator of the country, and with every inducement to continue a career in public school work, she felt the need of a school in which the children of her faith could receive an education which embodied tolerance and high ideals. Throughout the entire city she worked, establishing schools until at the time of her death thirteen schools had been organized. Of the growth of these schools, their union into one large school and then the realization of a dream - the wonderful new building
which is now Crandon - there is no time to tell, save that
the work has gone steadily forward from 1879 to 1929.

The fiftieth anniversary year has been one to be long
remembered. Students and graduates were eager to share
in the rejoicing. Homecoming Day was such a happy one.
The enthusiasm of the girls was in itself proof of what
Crandon has meant to them. One of the very nicest parts
of the day was the presentation to Crandon of a portrait of
Srta. Cecilia Güelfi by her nice and namesake.

The Alumna Association gave a program in honor of
the cincuentenary and one of the interesting features was
the great Album with the directoras represented by the girls.
There was great discussion over the present directora, Miss
Jennie Reid, as to whether she was or was not herself, so
well did the girl reperesent her!

And in the spring there was the gymnasium festival
with its great birthday cake with fifty human candles! The
girls who were so honored were chosen because of their
record in the gymnasium. What a pretty sight they were - the
fifty pink candles ranging in size from the tiniest first
grader to the tall upper classgirls! We consider this fiesta
one of our greatest successes - not only because of the
loveliness of the pageant, but because once more Crandon
is leading the way in educational circles of Uruguay and
is showing what can be achieved in gymnasium for women.

And then there was the commencement which is always
so inspiring. The Minister of Public Education gave the
address and spoke so highly of the record which Crandon
is making and the influence which it is spreading. When
the awards for attendance were given, he expressed great
surprise that any girl should have had a perfect record for
two years - but imagine his amazement when a record for
seven years of perfect attendance without tardiness or
absence, was announced and the girl came to the front to
receive her medal.

Of deeper significance than the rejoicing over the fiestas
of the cincuentenary years is the realization of a fuller and richer spiritual experience which has come to some of the girls through the work of the daily Bible classes, the Sunday School and the Standard Bearers. The "Good Will Voyage" programs planned for the Standard Bearers for the year have proven helpful and interesting.

While we were celebrating our own Jubilee year we were ever mindful of and grateful to the beloved Women's Foreign Missionary Society in its 60th. anniversary year - counting as one of the highest peaks of inspiration the early Communion service on the morning of October 30th.

So have we come to the end of our fiftieth year, with hearts high and eyes upon the future, praying that Crandon's next fifty years may carry on the spirit of service and understanding in the knowledge and love of Christ - keeping ever before us those stirring words given at the close of the 60th anniversary: "Forward together; to know the Christ and make Him know."

JENNIE REID.
High School girls — Crandon outdoor gymnasium class
Gleason Institute has had the hardest, longest year of its life and the gladest, happiest year of its entire ministry. Difficulties came because of the rented athletic field we lost almost two years ago. After having a whole square as a play ground for our children, it seemed impossible to get them back into the Gleason patio. Our United States friends gave us sixteen thousand dollars for a new home. That amount of money would have bought us a place in China or India but how we planned for those dollars here in Argentine. Our Argentine friends of good business ability and love for Gleason spent days and months in land shopping. It was a tiresome task. When our money bought land we had no roof over our heads—when it bought a roof we had no land. At last another new house on the old athletic field took the place of the cottage which sheltered the kindergarten, we were compelled to take the school room...
from the girls of two grades to make room for the little children. The crowding was impossible and suffocating to our work and spirit.

Bishop Miller came just when we needed him most. He listened to our story of land shopping and saw our sad plight. He looked up and said, “Why do you not put on a second story? I have always found when doors are closed to moving the Lord wants us right where we are already at work.”

Many friends had been favorable to this idea from the beginning and when every one agreed with the good Bishop plans were made accordingly. The last of November we moved from Gleason while the contractors and builders took up their task of lifting the old building another story toward the sky. We have kept up all social activities at the “hired house”.

The patio with the over shading peach and lemon trees have sheltered the Sunday School and clubs and all services of community worship. The last Sunday in December Bishop Waldorf preached to our folk in this cathedral of tree and sky.

A scrap of the shed sewing school.
A near by shed has held the unused articles of Gleason furniture. The summer sewing girls did their work with the sun coming down mercilessly on the iron roof. Yet what pretty things they made and what happy mornings they spent together.

This year the Gleason day school has had the most and best girls in the upper grades. For the first time in Gleason history three of these girls asked for church membership. Señor Julio Sabanes, pastor of Central Church Rosario, gave us a week of intensive evangelism in October. They were days of real harvest, many fathers, mothers and young people decided definitely to follow Jesus way of life. Some forty folk have become probationary members of the church.

Our women have developed much in bearing responsibilities, they have been faithful in bearing the good news to their neighbors and friends, they are our best interpreters of the Gleason spirit and purpose.

The Christmas offering went to Gleason this year. The
only seats we possess are backless benches which began evangelical service in Colegio Norte Americano almost forty years ago. The good señoras decided to help Old Santa buy seats with backs, electric fixtures for the largest rooms and new black boards for the school. Every one in the community brought some offering. There was real sacrificial giving until the sum totaled more than three hundred pesos.

For sixteen months we had Baby Dorita Lucia Dossena in our home. We wanted very much to keep her for a normal chance in life. In December her parents took her back into the sickness and want and misery from which we had brought her.

She was a bonnie, wee thing, a perfect health baby, running up and down our patio, clapping her dimpled hands in high glee. We are grateful for every day we had her in our home and care. We are grateful for the kindly friends whose faces are wet with tears because of our loss. Some of them never knew us until she humanized us in
their midst. Knowing all we know now we would do the same again to meet the need of a little child.

In the language of one of our boys “Gleason is a great, big nice place”.

We know its real bigness is in spirit and purpose but it is a good place to work for the growing Kingdom. Many friends have worked with us this year making large contributions of real devotion. Deaconess Maxima Villalba has completed five years of ministry at Gleason. We are profoundly grateful for this generous giving of self. The Gleason task challenges on toward another year. Our enlarged plant brings larger opportunity: Truly the Lord hath done great things for us where of we are glad.

WINNOGENE CECILIA PENNEY.
My dear Friends:

What do you think of this smile? Do you realize it is one of the results of your own Colegio Norte Americano?

The owner of the smile, little four-and-a-half-year-old Celia, lived with her poor old grandmother in a hovel near
the river and ran the streets with her little brother. She was almost a total stranger to soap and water. Bereft of her husband when Celia was a wee thing, the little mother did what she could for her babies by working in a Sanatorium, though she was able to see them only twice during the month.

At last, realizing the handicap Celia would be under for life unless her surroundings were changed soon, the mother appealed to the missionaries for help, offering one-third of the poor salary she earns to help feed and educate her baby. We took her — though it is the first tiny one we have ever taken as a boarder — and after some good baths and particular attention to her head, her generous disposition and mischievous black eyes made everyone her friend. Now she passes her days happily and may times we hear her little voice in song as she industriously wields her little broom or washes her dolly’s clothes. One song we perhaps hear oftener than any other is a pretty hymn in Spanish, “Tengo un Amigo, Cristo el Señor”, or, in English, “I have a Friend, Christ the Lord”. Surely the Master is working through you and through us to give this little one the more abundant life He has promised to all.

Not only with the tiniest ones have we had a happy year — and we had the largest kindergarten we have ever had — but the older ones have shown a beautiful spirit and we feel that their eyes are opened more than ever before to the value of service to others. Under the direction of Miss Ethel Margaret Waldorf we have been able to organize two groups of Campfire Girls, something we have long desired to do. In view of the fact that many of the girls come from homes where servants look after their physical needs, perhaps more problems arise here than at home; but the girls have responded in a fine way. As a definite application of their lessons in service — which are also taught in their Bible classes and in all our daily contacts — they visited the baby ward of Centenary Hospital. Seeing the great need of things for the poor babies they
Commercial girls in the garden at C. N. A.
decided to give an entertainment to raise money for their benefit. A neat sum was realized and this year the girls will be busy making the little clothes so much needed. One part of the entertainment given was a Campfire play setting forth the ideals of the organization, and ending with a Ceremonial meeting. The parents were much pleased and meeting Miss Bortell afterward one father heartily congratulated her and the School saying he wished he had many daughters to send.

In a prayer group the girls of the large dormitory have had the past year, one meeting a month was dedicated to the study of some missionary field. During the year we had a visit from Miss Beulah Reitz as she was on her return journey to Africa. Her stories of the Work and other information found in the Friend created in them the desire to help someone more needy than themselves. They each have the equivalent of eight cents gold a month for spending money — church and Sunday School collections, car-fare, outings, etc., — and they decided that what they had left at the end of each month should be put into a little savings bank with the purpose of sending it to Miss Reitz. When school closed we found over seven dollars and a half in the bank, and while it is not much in itself, it represents a beginning for our girls and we hope that coming years may show a still greater advance in interest in their world sisters.

Early in December Miss Bortell left on her much deserved furlough in the homeland. While she is greatly missed, we consider ourselves fortunate to have with us this year Miss K. Mamie Donahue who spent twenty months in Lima High School, Perú. Besides her ability as a teacher she brings to our aid much experience in the same problems we must meet. So, all working together, praising God for the success of the past year, we press on into the New Year with courage and confidence, trusting in Him "who doth go before us".

Yours in His Service,

FRANCES E. STREVER.
C. N. A. Kindergarteners "Plaging the game"
Mrs. George A. Miller with Dorita and Isabelita in the Rose Garden — Rosario.