The
Hill Murray Institute
for the Blind:

In a temple court
Superintendent's Report
1933
THE HILL MURRAY INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND

Foreword

NOT much is required in the way of Foreword to commend this Annual Report to your attention.

A gentleman well known in the coast town of Greenock once said that he was struck with the number of people who were all trying in some little way to do some good. In the city of Glasgow one of the best and kindest of Christian workers met me lately and after referring to a generous, hard-working Christian gentleman whom he had met that day, declared: "I'm going away out to be kinder than I have ever been." As I think of that resolve and attitude I desire to commend them to every one of us. The majority of us at times would like to take something from the great pile of misery to be found in the world, and to add something to the pile of happiness. We may find a blessed opportunity in this Hill Murray Institute which I am now commending.

Of the Master Himself it was said that He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil." We are justified in thinking that the infliction of blindness may be classed among the devil's works. How tedious and tiresome must such a malady be! We may not be able entirely to remove it, but surely it is a joy to do something, however little, to ameliorate and relieve.

We are not suggesting that all our energy should be turned into this one channel of the Hill Murray Institute. We think of this as another and further opportunity: one we can take up heartily in the by-going without any interference with the main stream of our activities. The poet speaks of:

"The best portion of a man's life,—
His little, nameless, unremembered acts
Of kindness and of love."

And our support of this Institute might well find a place in that category. Charles Spurgeon was noted above all things for faithful preaching of the Gospel. Yet that primary labour still permitted him to have the Pastor's College, Colportage Work, an Orphanage, "John Ploughman's Talk," and many other good works, for his activities. In Scripture we are promised grace sufficient to make us abound unto every good work. And we are exhorted to do good to all men, especially to such as are of the household of faith. We ought to scatter seeds of kindness, and to scatter them with liberal hand, assured of a gracious harvest by and by. "But he that soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly." Nor let us be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. Then help a good cause.

Yours in blessed fellowship, JAS. E. HOUSTON.
The Superintendent's Report

1933

The year has left us with somewhat mixed feelings. On the one hand, the work as a whole has been wonderfully successful: there has been much to encourage us, and much to give us deep thankfulness. On the other hand, we have met with experiences which leave us sad and anxious.

I will deal briefly with the latter to commence with, as in some respects the results have had a marked effect upon the former. For some time past Mr. K'e (my chief Chinese assistant, who has been with me since work commenced at the Institute) has been far from well. Then he had to give up work entirely, eventually retiring into hospital. His condition, I am afraid, is very serious. Even if he recovers, I doubt if he will ever be able to do much in the way of work again. We all feel that this is a very serious loss to the Institute: it would be difficult to find anyone to replace him. His willing cooperation, unstinted service, and constant cheerfulness, are things really worth storing in one's memory. They have meant a lot to me in the past years. All the present male workers have passed through his hands. His help, encouragement, skill and knowledge have always been at their disposal.

Of course his absence has had an effect upon the work as a whole, especially in the shops which came more directly under his charge. When he was compelled to give up work, I found myself saddled with all sorts of problems and questions of detail which do not usually come in my province. I began to wonder if I ought not immediately to look for someone else, but I knew not where I should find such a person, willing and able to take on the work, even with a little training.

My experience here has taught me that in cases of doubt one ought to sit tight and wait for guidance. Once again I found this course justified by results. The way things have worked out to the present has exceeded my wildest hopes; and it all came about so naturally with excellent effect upon staff and workers. Our two sighted male teachers came forward, spontaneously and manfully, without any suggestion on my part; they have gradually taken over the extra work put upon me, so that all is going on smoothly and easily. (Since the above was written Mr. K'e has passed away).
LAND AND BUILDING

Through the great generosity of Mr. Sohtsuo King, one of the members of our local committee, we were able to take in hand the building of a large dining-room with kitchen and storerooms attached. This building, situated between the two schools, has been in use for some months; it is used by the boys and girls in turn every day. Its great advantages are that one kitchen and dining room, one set of utensils in both kitchen and dining-room, and a common kitchen staff, suffice for all in residence: also, the old kitchens and dining-rooms in the two schools are now available for dormitory and workroom use.

The new kitchen is a great joy because we have been able to arrange satisfactorily for the smoke from the fires to go up a chimney instead of having to use the old Chinese stove, where all the smoke came into the room. Of course the cooks were quite sure that the idea would not work; however, being compelled to use it, they have come to the conclusion that they would not go back to the old stove under any consideration.

CONCERNING THOSE IN RESIDENCE

We began the year with fifty-four in residence, of these 34 were boys and 20 girls. During the year one boy left the school, and 5 boys were admitted. No girls were admitted and none left. Several girls were accepted, but either through illness or lack of train facilities they have not arrived yet. Hence our numbers at the present are 58—namely 38 boys and 20 girls.

Of this number 13 boys and 9 girls support themselves in the various shops, one boy and one girl support themselves by teaching in school, the remainder 24 boys and 10 girls, are either doing the school or workshop course.

THE SCHOOL

The total number of those attending school is 32. Our experiment with co-education has proved such a success in 1932 that we repeated and extended the plan this year. The pupils were divided into four grades:

The highest grade 4 boys and 2 girls (these will finish the ordinary school course at the end of the year); Grade 3 contains 7 boys and 5 girls; Grade 2 has 8 boys and 5 girls; Grade 1 is really a kindergarten containing 3 boys.

The 4 boys in grade 4 will now pass into the shops as apprentices for a time, and will eventually come on the pay roll. The 2 girls on the same grade are doing excellent work with the kindergarten class.

We tried this class with a blind male teacher, but he quite failed to do anything with them. I must say that although the kindergarten class only contains 3 boys, they are a very mixed lot, and tend to be a great tax on one's patience. The 2 girls, however, stick at their very difficult job very creditably.
and two of the class at any rate are progressing quite nicely. Grades 2 and 3 are making headway with their school-work; the lads in Grade 3 have already had a year's experience in hand-work in the shops as part of their time table; Grade 2 will begin this experience in the coming year.

Our blind girl teacher unfortunately is in the grip of tuberculosis. She has to retire periodically into hospital for treatment. She is now in a home for such sufferers, and has been there for a long time. This, of course, interferes greatly with her share in the work, but I am glad to say that the 2 girls in Grade 4 between them have managed to take her place satisfactorily pending her return.

THE WORKSHOPS

Carpenter's Shop. We have been so full of work here all the year that we have hardly known which way to turn or what to do first. The number of people working in the shop remains the same as last year.

This year the painting of cane furniture has been very much in demand; of course it is not possible for our blind workers to do this under present conditions; so, in order to help along their sales, we in this shop have put on the required colours, and up to the present we have managed to cope with the demand in this direction.

I mentioned last year that we had taken into stock a quantity of hard wood grown on the compound. It may be of interest to state that we have from this material made frames for forty travelling chairs this year, some of which are now being used in many different parts of the world.

The blind worker in the shop is doing very well. He always keeps jogging along, well master of the work he is given to do. When looking at him work I sometimes think of the trouble he caused in other shops before I moved him into this one. He, at any rate, has found his niche in life, and he obviously enjoys it now that he has got there.

Loom Weaving Shop. This shop is always a source of wonder to our visitors. To see the blind workers setting up, threading up, and weaving through, some few thousand threads of thin cotton, each coming into its own proper place, is really rather awe inspiring, especially when one has seen the hopeless mess and tangle which can come about through careless handling. Another source of wonder is the speed with which they detect and tie up broken ends of cotton during the process of weaving. We seldom have to complain of flaws in the material which reaches the inspection table; and when one considers the history of any piece of work, remembering whose hands it has been through in the process of making, and remembering that from beginning to end the eyes of the person concerned have never seen any portion of it, one cannot but marvel at the result.
Individual workers are always full of interest to me. One has been the lad who weaves canvas in this shop. It is undoubtedly heavy work, and although he is one of our strongest workers, he was always complaining about feeling unwell. At this time his appearance was most melancholy, and the length of his never-smiling face was a sight to behold. The fact of the matter was that he eat his food too quickly, and in such quantities that he was suffering from bad indigestion. I recommended more careful eating, exercise and joyful work as a cure; eventually he did try it, and the result astonished him. He now works away smiling and happy; all the canvas we have used during the year and this is no small amount, has come from his loom. He turns it out regularly and consistently and I have not heard of any recurrence of his indisposition.

Our woven stuff is getting more and more known, we have stocked quite a number of hospitals with it during the year; and I hear it praised very frequently. I am hoping that the people who use it will increasingly announce its worth, so that as more weavers come on the pay roll we may be able to dispose of the extra output satisfactorily.

**Shoe Shop.** The workers in this shop have had a busy year. With the increase of younger and lively pupils, shoes tend to wear out quicker so that the calls upon the shop are ever increasing. However, the workers have more than held their own so far and there is no immediate need to add to their number.

As we have now a regular course of shoe-making for the lads in the school, I have definitely put the crippled lad, whom we trained for this work, on the staff, to give instruction in it, and generally supervise the shop. I am very thankful now that I did this for he has gradually taken over much of the work that Mr. K‘e used to do. As more lads will be taking this course in the coming year, this lad will find himself much more occupied in giving instruction than hitherto, and his years experience at the task will help him to cope with this added responsibility.

The two blind shoemakers, the mainstay of the shop, have gone on quietly and patiently with their task, always happy and always smiling. They take pride in the fact that the Institute is shod by them.

**Knitting Department.** Once again I write upon this side of the work with trepidation. It is not given to many men to understand all that goes on and to write about what one does not understand, does not enable one to do full justice to those concerned. The side of the work I do understand, is that of finance. Hence, when my books show that this department produced a very creditable sum of money in the way of receipts, I can say without contradiction that the girls must have worked remarkably well.
CHAPLAIN'S DEPARTMENT

In every other department the contents of my books are a very
great help, for by their means I am able to assess the profit or
loss on any particular work; they are also a guide on calculating
whether a particular department is pulling its weight or not.
Here, however, in this department they fail to help; for the
work done, the success or failure, cannot appear in a ledger
or show in a profit and loss account. It is only by the effect
upon individuals with whom I come into daily contact, that
I am able to judge the value of this work. The position is this:
we try to impart knowledge so that our pupils may take their
proper place in the world. We teach them to become self-supp-
orting by using the various gifts that each possesses. That
these gifts may be used aright, we make a study of the Giver

of those gifts, what He would wish, and what He would have
us become. In short, we attempt to build up character in con-
formity to the character of God, as manifested in the man Christ
Jesus. This is the root of the matter, for as we are compelled
to grow, it is just as well that we should grow in the right
direction, so that we can get the best out of life in order to give
the best we can in return.

What is the outcome of it all? We are not a collection of
perfect human beings; we have not as yet reached very great
heights in our character building; we are very human and prone
to weaknesses and failings; but when twelve of our older mem-
bers come forward of their own accord, as they did this year
definitely offering themselves to follow in the footsteps of the
Master, fully realising what this means, and willing to make the
great adventure, I am bound to acknowledge that God is truly
working among us, and that His blessing is upon the work.
Among the pupils at the present time 29 are now full church
members, most of whom are between 20 and 30 years old.
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

We have had a fair amount of sickness during the year; most of it was of a simple nature, which we were able to deal with locally. Some of our sick folk, however, have had to retire to hospital, where Dr. Chu gave them treatment and kept them for long or short periods as proved necessary. Three of the girls have had to go into a home for tuberculosis, where, I am thankful to say, they have shown signs of improvement.

During the cold weather at the end of the year we have had a constant stream of boys coming up for treatment for frostbite and chilblains. More than once I have counted 13 on this sick parade. The treatment has been so successful that as yet we have had very few open sores to deal with.

CONCLUSION

The prospects for the coming year look a little brighter than those that faced us a year ago; we, therefore, take courage and go forward.

One outcome of the past years' experiences has led to a little exchange of ideas between my wife and myself. We have repeatedly noticed how incapable most of our new arrivals seem to be of looking after themselves, especially those coming from country districts. They cannot wash, feed, or dress themselves properly; they do not know what bathing means, and their general appearance is always untidy and slovenly.

We began to wonder if this sort of thing might not be improved by admitting pupils at a younger age than our present regulations allow.

What has turned our attention more particularly is the fact I have had to turn down temporarily several applications on
account of the children in question being much under our age limit. We began to picture the admission of such children into a separate department; living in cottages under the supervision of one of our older blind girls as a sort of home mothers; all the cottages in turn being in charge of a really good-sighted matron.

Brought up thus in happy childhood, taught to be clean in person and surroundings; what an excellent start it would give a child when it reached the age for entrance into the regular school course. It would not shut the door against candidates within our present age limits; beginning, of course, in a very small way. I think the matter well worth careful consideration, for on our large property there is ample room to make the experiment. The crux is, of course, is there any hope of getting the funds to enable us to try it out?

Walter Canner, Superintendent

Mr. J. A. Slimmon, 2 Belmont Crescent Glasgow W.2, who acted as Superintendent in Peking during the absence of Rev W. Canner at home on furlough, and is intimately acquainted with the work and its needs, will count it a privilege to call on anyone who would like to hear more about this work.

REPORT FROM THE GLASGOW LADIES' AUXILIARY

On February 24th, 1930, in a cozy room in "Wilmore," the home of the late James Murray, Esq., the first meeting of the Glasgow Ladies' Auxiliary was held.

Mr. Slimmon, who works so earnestly in many ways for the advancement of interest amongst the home friends, gave us an idea of the work being carried on in Peking amongst blind boys and girls.

It has been our great pleasure to meet for prayer and discussion of the work in January. February. March, May and October of this year.

Then on April 26th, the Committee of the Y.W.C.A. again lent us their comfortable hall. There Dr Frank Knight, D.D., gave a most encouraging account of the work being carried on.

Friends were very liberal in their giving, and we were able to forward £11 18s. to the funds of the Institute.

Our circle now fully supports 2 children, and we are hoping to take another at the commencement of the new year.

We have been enabled to send out £118 3s. 5d. since the inception of the circle, this amount having been raised by holding sales of work and addresses from time to time in different Sunday Schools, etc.

We are hoping to have a lantern lecture, and sale early next year, and shall be most grateful to friends who will remember the needs of those dear little children before the throne of grace.
REPORT OF THE EDINBURGH LADIES' AUXILIARY

ON November 26th, a sale was held at the home of Mrs. E. R. Wilson, the President of the Auxiliary. The goods for sale were bought in Peking by Mrs. Canner with money forwarded by the Auxiliary.

As a result of this sale the Auxiliary was able to send to the Treasurer in Glasgow a sum which when added to money previously sent brought up the year's total to the amount required to support another child in the institute.

The unsold goods formed the nucleus of another sale in May 1933, in the home of Mrs. Allan, Hermitage Drive, to whom grateful thanks are due for all she did to make the sale a success.

Notwithstanding the committee's efforts, individual and collective, found the funds still insufficient for the fulfilment of the Auxiliary's promised annual contribution, and two drawing-room meetings were arranged. The first of these was held in November 8th at "Slateford House," through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Corsie. The chair was taken by the Rev. J. D. Liddell, who has since been called to higher service.

Mrs. Annie Cormack the speaker for the afternoon told of the work of the Institute up to date.

The year has seen changes in the personnel of the committee. In the spring the resignation of Mrs. E. R. Wilson, the President (owing to ill-health) was accepted with regret. Mrs. Cormack who has spent many years in China, was elected to the office. The office of Vice-President was filled by Mrs. Somerville (who also lived for years in China).

The Late Mr. Nairn Marshall

DURING the year that has gone, death removed from our midst Mr. Nairn Marshall, who served as a member of the Home Board for many years, and at the time of his death was Vice-Chairman. He was greatly interested in the work of the Institute, and was of great assistance to the Committee on its business side. His colleagues on the Home Board felt towards him a deep affection, and they are conscious of having sustained an irreparable loss.
### List of Donations and Subscriptions

For the Year ended 31st December, 1933

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donor/Subscription Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miss J. Brown, &quot;Mossgiel,&quot; Merrtinch Drive, Troon</td>
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<td>Miss M. C. Curteis, 19 West Mall, Clifton, Bristol</td>
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<td>Dr. and Mrs. J. Daly, 17 Park Circus Place, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Miss M. C. Dudgeon, 25 Kelvinside Terrace, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Mrs. K. C. Young, 9 Woodburn Terrace, Edinburgh</td>
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<td>Mrs. Graham Dow, Glasgow Ladies’ Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Mrs. M. D. Goldie, 53 Mount Park Road, Ealing, London, W.5.</td>
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<td>Mrs. M. G. Gow, 8 Gordon Street, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Miss M. D. Haig, Dollarfield, Dollar Saving</td>
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<td>Mrs. A. Grant &amp; Wylie, 113 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Miss E. L. Jenkinson, Ford’s Field, Crowsborough, Sussex</td>
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<td>Miss M. Lambert, 4 Gordon Road, Sevenoaks</td>
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<td>Mrs. I. Y. Manini, Lydall &amp; Sons, 37 John Street, Bedford Row</td>
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<td>J. Nairn, 16 Frederick Street, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Messrs. Walter Duncan &amp; Co., 137 West George Street, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Mrs. S. M. Russell, 150 Broadway, Portage la Prairie, Manitoba, Canada</td>
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<td>Miss A. Scrivens, “Millfield,” Old Town, Sussex</td>
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<td>Mrs. A. Douglas, 50 Manor Road, Edinburgh</td>
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<td>&quot;Two Friends,&quot; Miss Wishart, Dalkeith, Midlothian</td>
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<td>Mrs. M. Wright, &quot;Tulford,&quot; Tredagar, Monmouthshire</td>
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| Total Amount                                                             | £160 9 4 |

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**Per Rev. J. A. Slimmon.**

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<td>Miss Brown, 19 Mayfield Gardens, Edinburgh</td>
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<td>Miss Agnes Elliot, Brechin</td>
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<td>Mrs. E. Fischbacher, 63 Carlton Place, Glasgow</td>
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<td>Mrs. Graham Dow, Glasgow Ladies’ Auxiliary</td>
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<td>Misses, 24 Havelock Street, Glasgow, Glen</td>
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<td>Misses, 34 Manning Road, Glasgow, Gunn</td>
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List of Donations and Subscriptions
(Continued)

Glasgow Ladies' Auxiliary, Beardsen
Kidston, Mr. and Mrs. W. W., 22 Claremont Gardens, Milngavie
Mackarness, Mrs. G. E., 1 Polstead Road, Oxford
Meston, Rev. W M., South Manse, New Pitsligo, Aberdeenshire
Munsie, Miss, 6 Clifton Place, Glasgow
Maclay, Lord, Bothwell Street, Glasgow
Ramsay, Frank, 87 Stewarton Drive, Cambuslang
Ritch, Mr. J., 30 Buchanan Street, Glasgow
Russell, Miss S. J., "Craigielea," 33 Ormonde Drive, Glasgow
Service, G. W., 173 West George Street, Glasgow
Sloan, Norman, 190 West George Street, Glasgow
Sloan, D. F., 200 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow
Sloan, W H. P., 200 St. Vincent Street, Glasgow
Steele, Mrs., 60 Inglefield Street, Govanhill
Stewart, R. B., 88 West Regent Street, Glasgow
Stockdale, T. D., Burnbank Terrace, Glasgow, N.W.
Ritchie, G., Auchenhalrig, Kilmacolm
Workman, W T., Bothwell Street, Glasgow

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General
Per Rev. J. A. Slimmon

\[ \text{£160} \ 9 \ 4 \]
\[ 51 \ 15 \ 9 \]

Less Expenses

\[ \text{£212} \ 5 \ 1 \]
\[ 1 \ 8 \ 6 \]

\[ \text{£210} \ 16 \ 7 \]
## Income and Expenditure Account for Year ended 31st December, 1933

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<td><strong>I. ORDINARY</strong></td>
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<td>(b) Home Expenses:</td>
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<td>Printing and Stationery</td>
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<td>Secretary's Honorarium</td>
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**Glasgow 24th April 1934.**—We have examined this Account, compared same with Vouchers, and found whole correct.

THE HILL MURRAY INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND
PALICHUANG, PEKING, N. CHINA
Founder Rev. W. Hill Murray

HOME BOARD

Chairman
Rev. Jas. E. Houston, B.D.,
47 Monreith Road, Newlands, Glasgow.

Vice-Chairman
Alex. Orr, Esq., J.P.,
101 Wellington Street, Glasgow, C.2.

Secretary
John Grant, B.L., J.P.,
113 St. Vincent Street.

Treasurer
Robert Macfarlane, C.A.,
212 West George Street, Glasgow.

Rev. J. A. Fairley Daly, M.A., D.D.
Rev. W. L. Levack, D.D.
Rev. J. McBeath, M.A.
Rev. W. Jardine, M.C., M.A.
Rev. G. A. Frank Knight, D.D., F.R.S.E.

PEKING COMMITTEE

Chairman
The Rt. Rev. Frank L. Norris, D.D.

Superintendent
Rev. W. Canner.

Treasurer
A. J. D. Britland.

And others.

LADIES AUXILIARY COMMITTEES

Glasgow

Hon. President
Lady Campbell of Succoth, Garscube, Glasgow.

Vice-President
Miss S. J. Riddell, 6 Park Circus Place, Glasgow, C.3

Secretary
Miss A. B. MacLachlan, "Hale Carr.," Noddleburn, Largs.

Treasurer
Mrs. Graham Dow, "Fairmount," Ledgecamochoe Road, Bearsden.

Mrs. Cowan. Mrs. Arthur Taylor.

Mrs. G. N. Davidson. Miss Evelyn Weir.

Mrs. MacLachlan.

Edinburgh

President
Mrs. Annie Cormack, "The Cedars," 199 St. John's Road, Corstorphine.

Vice-President
Mrs. J. Somerville, "View Park," Bonnyrigg.

Treasurer
Mrs. M'Killop Young, 9 Woodburn Terrace.

Secretary
Mrs. J. K. Whitaker, 14 Braid Avenue Road, Edinburgh.

Mrs. Band. Miss Munro.

Miss D. Murray. Miss Niven.