THE

South Indian Missions Association

formerly the

South Indian Missionary Association

The Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth and Final Report, 1921—22 and 1922—23.

The hopes expressed at the end of the 24th Annual Report that the old S.I.M.A. when affiliated with the Madras Representative Council of Missions might be able to find a new life and usefulness in connection with that body have not been realized. It is now quite evident that there is no place which the S.I.M.A. can longer fill and no work left for it to do. A leaflet issued by the secretary so long ago as June, 1913, after the Hill Conferences of that year, discloses that this end was even then contemplated. It has however survived for ten years, but must at last decease. Its functions have all gradually been shred from it, and its duties and responsibilities taken over by other societies, chiefly, if not wholly, by the organization of the M.R.C. That Council has been able to accept the functions by reason of its ever extending scope of activities and its connection with the National Missionary Council now the National Christian Council. "The old order changeth yielding place to new"

The history of the S.I.M.A. may be stated in a few words. The first steps towards founding it were taken in June, 1896. In November, 1897, it was fully organized and rules adopted.

Its objects were (1) To promote amongst Missionaries fraternal feeling and interchange of information and views regarding mission work. (2) To provide means of consultation and united action in the interests of mission work. The officers of the Association were an Honorary Secretary and a General Com-
mittee of eleven members. This committee was enlarged at various periods. In its first five years it gathered a membership of 450, which increased to 580 in the year 1913-14, when it reached its maximum.

Amongst the enterprises which have been initiated and carried on by it were the following:—

1. A Standing Committee of missionary educationists formed in 1898.
2. An Examining Board for the conducting of examinations of missionaries in the vernacular, to which was added in 1912 or 1913 the study of Hinduism.
3. A Board of Arbitration in matters of difficulty between missions.
4. Literature Committee.
5. Lantern Slides Exchange.
11. Temperance.
12. Language School.


There can scarcely but be some regrets at the passing away of the old. This fact was evident in the spirit of tenacity, almost to be called obstinacy, with which so many of the earlier members clung to the Association through its later years, and would have saved it had there been a possibility of doing so. But that hope became clearly not achievable. The S.I.M.A. gradually parted with all its sub-committees except one. The Hill Conferences did not feel the need of its unifying efforts; and the M.R.C., itself undergoing a change, had not reached a state in which it could make use of the S.I.M.A. as a popular interpretation of its activities to the general public of missionaries, missions and churches,
So, perforce, the S.I.M.A. had no fate left for it, but to vote that it cease to exist, except as a memory, and in its continuance of activity under another agency. Of the 63 members still remaining faithful, 33 voted unanimously that its life should end. The others did not vote. It was also voted that the Madras Representative Council of Missions be asked to take over (1) the work of its remaining sub-committee, that on The Disabilities of Indian Christians, and the publishing of a Hand-book on the subject. This book is still under preparation by ex-judge Dewan Bahadar W. L. Venkataramiah and Professor S. C. Mukerji; (2) the sum of Rs. 1,500 set aside from its funds for this purpose; (3) the floating balance at the end of the year 31 March, 1923; (4) its almirah and some of its records.

The executive of the M.R.C. has agreed to do so. The sum of Rs. 1,500 has been transferred to the Treasurer of the M.R.C. The cash balance with me, Rs. 96-0-0, has also been handed over to him, and is for the present set aside as a separate item in the M.R.C. accounts. The almirah and some records have been sent to the Secretary of the M.R.C.

And so the S.I.M.A., after 26 years of varied life and usefulness for God's Kingdom in South India, has ceased as such to exist. The regrets at its dissolution are tempered by the remembrance that it has done a vast amount of very useful service during 26 years, that actually it has been developed and not destroyed, and that its labours have not stopped but are now being carried on even more fully and effectively than ever, and continue to expand with the extension of churches and missions through a stronger and larger and wider Council.

G. H. MACFARLANE,
Honorary Secretary and Treasurer.

Mylapore, Madras,
31st March, 1923.
### S.I.M.A. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**February 28th 1922 to March, 31st, 1923.**

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Audited and found correct

EDWARD B. ROSS.