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Devoted to the
interests of
La Mission Populaire
Évangélique de France

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The AMERICAN McALL RECORD

VOLUME XXXVI

JANUARY, 1928

NUMBER 1

HERE AND THERE

The attention of auxiliary officers and others interested is called to the change in address of the Philadelphia Bureau of the Association. 1713 Sansom Street is the new number.

The following figures for the summer of 1927 give an idea of the limitations under which the Paris Committee is working in trying to care for its children during the long summer weeks:

VACATION COLONIES	
	Children
St. Quentin: <i>Stade Coligny</i>	66
Nantes: <i>Bellevue</i> at La Bernerie.....	107
Faubourg St. Antoine: <i>Bellevue</i>	53
Ivry-Bicêtre: <i>Rayon de Soleil</i> at Fresnes.....	35
Marseilles: <i>Massot</i>	13
Paris-Bienvenue: <i>La Rayée</i> at Gérardmer.....	30
Paris-Pierre Levée: <i>Les Vallées</i> near Tours.....	39
Orphans: <i>Bonne Humeur</i> at Châtillon.....	62
Fives-Lille: <i>Colonie Maracci</i> at Aubengue.....	400
	805

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS	
	Children
Paris: <i>Bienvenue</i>	140
<i>Grenelle</i>	24
<i>Arcueil</i>	160
Fives-Lille: <i>Foyer du Peuple</i>	35
Nemours: <i>Foyer Fraternel</i>	42
St. Quentin: <i>Stade Coligny</i>	20
Esbly: <i>Foyer Fraternel</i>	52
Rouen: <i>La Fraternité</i>	75
	548

As one thinks of the hundreds of children unprovided for in the Mission's other plants and of the countless hundreds, not to say thousands, who might be drawn into the Mission's circle by means of these summer outings, one can understand the eager appeal of M. Chastand for a large children's home in the mountains or by the sea. There are unoccupied *châteaux* in France, surrounded by wooded acres, which could be bought and adapted for vacation colony uses for from \$7000 to \$15,000. Who will respond to this appeal?

Pastor Hirsch's famous mortuary chapel, at the entrance of the St. Ouen cemetery, outside the Clignancourt gate, has been taken over by the Paris Committee, entirely renovated and on successive Sunday afternoons is still receiving many of the heartbroken on their visits of remembrance to the tombs of their dead. As the auditors enter and leave quite unconventionally, the practice is to hold four or five quarter-hour services, with ten-minute sermons and hymns of consolation and cheer. The members of the Paris Committee and the directors of the different stations follow each other through the year in conducting the services.

Now and then, as in the story recently reported in the RECORD of the railway engineer, the ministry of this chapel results in remarkable transformations. Below is an example of the invitations handed out by the door keeper:

*A tous ceux qui souffrent
et qui n'ont pas de consolation,
JÉSUS DIT :*

« Venez à moi, vous qui êtes travaillés et chargés,
et vous trouverez le repos de vos âmes. »
« Je suis la résurrection et la vie. »



85, Avenue Michelet, 85 à SAINT-OUEN
CONFÉRENCE SUR L'ÉVANGILE
TOUS LES DIMANCHES
à partir de 3 heures 30 en hiver et de 4 heures 30 en été

INVITATION CORDIALE A TOUS

M. Claerhout reports successful meetings on the *Bonne Nouvelle*. The fall campaign began at Couilly, the increase in the size of the audiences indicating much interest. At last accounts the boat was making its way along the villages westward toward Château Thierry. M. Claerhout has recently made a special appeal on behalf of his work among the crews of the canal boats. As these boats pass, small parcels of literature, including Gospels and tracts, are distributed and are

apparently greatly appreciated. There is a great demand for French magazines and for illustrated papers. So the work of casting bread upon the waters continues.



INTERIOR OF "LA BONNE NOUVELLE"

A recent letter from Lille recounts the holding of meetings of great interest at the *Foyer*. "Many young pastors, a veritable brigade, came to Fives and awakened many consciences with their discourses on sin, the new birth, the abandonment of one's life to God. The meetings were marked by deep emotion, though free of hysteria or excitement. Large numbers were in attendance and many persons gave testimonies of what God had been to them. One of the meetings in particular gave one the feeling that he was witnessing a repetition of Pentecost."

The Paris Auxiliary reports that M. Marcel Dupré, one of the world's most celebrated organists and well known in this country, has kindly consented to give a recital as a McAll benefit in the American Pro-Cathedral, in Avenue Georges V.

Questions are often asked as to the need of continuing the Mission's orphan work. By way of answer, a significant letter was recently forwarded from Paris by Mme Roustain, the director of this work. The letter was written by a French pastor and is as follows:

I am taking the liberty of telling you of one of our families whose members were victims of the war and who are most worthy of interest. The father returned tubercular, having been gassed. He received a comparatively high pension from the government owing to the sad state in which the war had left him. He lingered until a few weeks ago thanks to his wife's devoted and unceasing care. Now the poor young widow is left with three children and no resources whatever but the meagre pension given by the government to war widows and orphans, about 144 dollars a year for the four. The mother is tired out by the prolonged care of her sick husband besides keeping her home and children always clean and tidy.

The children are not very strong, but are so well cared for that the physician who visited their father says he has reason to believe they have not suffered from the contagion of his illness. They are all very intelligent and Odette, especially, is remarkably bright. I have no better nor more regular attendants at my Sunday School. The father was a sincere Christian and his young widow, though broken down by her sorrow, is submitted to God's will and counts upon Him for the future. She has never asked help from anyone, but I thought that perhaps you would be able to find some "Marraines" for the dear little orphans and that is why I am making free to lay before you the situation of my poor parishioners.

When this letter was read at the recent Presidents' Conference, the three children were at once adopted by ladies from New York, Montclair and Plainfield. One may have the joy of following suit by writing to 1713 Sansom St., Philadelphia.

Mlle Savary recites the following incident as indicative of the spirit prevailing among the smaller children at *Pierre Levée*: "One day during the play in the court, a little fellow, a newcomer, was brought to me with his apron badly torn by another boy. The apron was an old one, but the child was quite broken-hearted as he exclaimed, 'Mother will never let me come back here again!' I repaired the damage as well as I could, but it was a sad-looking apron, nevertheless, so I said to the children: 'If all of you will contribute some of your *bons points*, we will go to the *vestiaire* and get a new apron for him.' Five minutes later two little girls came back in triumph with 75 *bons points* collected from the group and so our little friend, to his great relief, got a new apron. 'Voila,' I said to the children, 'that is being real brothers.'"

The *Ecole de Garde* at *Pierre Levée* had an enrollment of 75 pupils during the past year.

It was with some misgivings that the Paris Committee moved *Salle Baltimore* from its habitat of 40 years in *Boulevard Bonne Nouvelle* to its new home in *Boulevard Sébastopol*. Despite, however, the passing of Pastor Hirsch, the peerless orator, and the untimely death of Pastor Foulquier, always hailed by the boulevard audiences, the change of location has actually proved a blessing. Not only is the new *salle* more attractive in every way than the old one, but as one of the pastors who is an occasional preacher states, "there is something more living, more spontaneous in the services at *Sébastopol* as indicated by the quality of the singing, by the personal conversations following meetings, by the approval given *viva voce* and even by the questions and comments with which the speaker is sometimes interrupted. The old group is there, including the picturesque figures of former days, but there are regular newcomers and many more than formerly accept the invitation of the doorman to drop in."

So the old-fashioned McAll hall still has its use and place on the crowded boulevard.

Mlle Jeanne Merle d'Aubigné, Secretary of the Paris Auxiliary and liaison officer between the American Juniors and resident American students in Paris, has adopted the plan of organizing tours of the McAll stations and other places of social interest in Paris, such as the French Y. W. C. A., the Salvation Army Home for Women and the *Condordia*, in the Latin Quarter, in which live 200 women students.

Some of the girls whose studies keep them busy until six in the evening occasionally ask for a chance to see a characteristic working quarter. Such a group will be started with a visit to *La Bienvenue* and then piloted through the *Italie* section of Paris with its narrow, black streets; the neighborhood of the Gobelins factories and the Salvation Army Hotel for Men. If there is still time, such a run would conclude with a brief visit to the neighborhood of the Panthéon, in order to see the Latin Quarter in full swing.

An effort has been made to organize a Junior Auxiliary in Paris and at the invitation of Miss Patterson, a group of American girls met at her home for this purpose. The following from the minutes of the meeting indicates what was done and what is hoped for:

**THE JUNIOR PARIS AUXILIARY OF THE AMERICAN
McALL ASSOCIATION**

Its object is:

1. To interest young people, and in particular American students in Paris, in the *Mission Populaire* (McAll Mission) and all its religious, philanthropic and social work.
2. To give information to American students and travelers and visit all philanthropic and social work in Paris, and to give experience in social activities through practical work in the different McAll Centres.
3. To establish a closer relationship between American and French young people through the bonds of mutual service and good will.

Its officers shall be:

President	Mrs. J. W. COCHRAN
Vice-President	MISS LEET, American University Club
Treasurer	MLLE BERTHIER, American University Union
Secretary	MLLE JEANNE MERLE D'AUBIGNÉ
Ex-Officio	MISS J. PATTERSON, President of the Paris Auxiliary



CHILDREN'S GROUP AT THE "MAISON VERTE"

DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOLS

The story of the vacation colonies, now six in number, is a familiar one to the readers of the RECORD. On behalf of those groups, however, for which the Mission has as yet been able to provide only partially, or not at all, for a summer in the country, in the mountains or by the sea, there have been inaugurated, beginning at *Bienvenue*, Pastor Merle d'Aubigné's post, a number of Daily Vacation Bible Schools. Last summer such schools were held at *La Bienvenue*, Grenelle, Arcueil, Esbly, Rouen, Nemours and on the plateau outside of St. Quentin.

At the *Bienvenue* school, M. Paul Malan, son of the Mission's director at Nice and a candidate for the ministry, was in charge. He writes: "There was an average attendance of from 100 to 120 children. The discipline and training of these children is by no means simple. These little gamins of the streets constitute an unknown world. Discipline is an entirely different affair from that of the winter schools where the children are familiar with the Gospel story and the routine of the classroom and playground.

"One cannot look for the same results as in dealing with the children who have come regularly to the Sunday and Thursday schools. Nevertheless, much good is accomplished. Little by little, those who are the most difficult to manage become docile and take a genuine interest in the Bible lessons. At heart these street arabs of Paris are more mischievous than malicious. They are, indeed, wild and undisciplined and it would be foolish to expect to make model boys and girls of them at once. Yet, they soon come to understand the significance of the school and the elemental things they are taught. It is most interesting, not to say amusing, to see some of the boys bite their lips after uttering a filthy word which has taken them by surprise.

"There are many who cannot come in the morning, but when we open the doors for the afternoon session there is a veritable stampede of impatient little feet.

"The Bible lessons are followed with exceedingly good attention. At first it was difficult to keep order, but before

long even the most unruly 'came to time.' As I have already said, these rough little Parisians have good hearts.

"One day when I was more tired than usual because of the exceptional noise in the hall, I tried to restore quiet but without any appreciable results. I then appealed to the children on the ground of my fatigue for which I told them they were responsible and in a moment everyone was perfectly silent, not a word, not even a whisper. It is astonishing to see how these little novices in regard to religious things answer questions on the preceding lessons. Despite their restlessness and prattling, they nevertheless have heard what was said. They catch the significance of the parables quickly, sometimes with rather amusing personal slants, but for the most part with real understanding. One day I asked what kind of robe one should wear when invited to a wedding and one of the larger boys immediately replied, 'A new and pure heart.' Another answered, 'A communion robe.' At another time there was much confusion during the lesson on the laborers whom the master had sent at different hours into his vineyard. 'Was the master right or wrong,' I asked, 'in paying the same wage to all the laborers?' Half of them replied, 'Right,' the other half, 'Wrong,' supporting the opinion with the argument that it was not just to pay the same amount to those who had worked but a little while as to those who had worked all day. Some of the others insisted that if he had promised them a certain amount they had nothing to say. Still others, that it was not right in any case!

"As the first period of the school ended every one promised to be at the door the day of the reopening and they all thanked us heartily for what we had done for them."

M. Bertrand, of Grenelle, writes of his first experience in essaying a D. V. B. S.: "From the opening day the children came in large numbers and among these many who for the first time had entered our hall. Almost every day we saw new faces. The programme began with a short service, including hymns and prayer, and then the children went to their play. Those who wanted to eat in the court had brought their

luncheons with them. These we warmed up for them. The majority, however, inasmuch as they lived nearby went home to lunch.

"In the afternoon there were more children and more teachers. The hours passed between games, reading and classes in cutting and sewing. Sometimes we went for a walk in the *Bois*. In general, the spirit of the children was excellent and we were rarely obliged to administer more than the most simple discipline."

To this account Mlle Chéradame adds: "Despite the many incongruous elements among the children of our summer school, the atmosphere has been that of a large family and the total moral effect has been most marked, especially as the children who came to us were often cut off from any genuine affection at home. One of our worst cases was that of a girl of ten years, large and strong, with clear eyes and broad shoulders, but nevertheless a poor little thing brought up more as a savage than as a product of Twentieth Century civilization. When she came to us she was dirty, her clothes mostly rags, her hair in a tousle and her expression at once hard and suspicious.



GYMNASTIC CLASS AT GRENELLE

She was as capricious as a large untrained goat and excessively nervous. It was a question whether we could keep her in view of her probable influence upon the other children. But little by little even this wild child began to improve. After many efforts to get her consent she was given a bath. With the aid of the monitrices she was finally cleaned up and clad in decent undergarments plus an apron sent by the *vestiaire* of the Mission. Her face lost much of its animal look. She has a truly beautiful voice and singing interested her. It was not easy to guess what was going on in the mind of this child of the streets, but when her wild ways forced us to exclude her from the school for a number of days, this punishment turned out to be the one way of reaching her heart.

"Our life together develops a spirit of solidarity. For example, a little girl was without shoes and when the parents of another child, equally poor, learned this, of their own accord they sent two pairs of their children's shoes, knowing out of their own hard experience how difficult it is to buy shoes for children today. Many are also in need of handkerchiefs, but as these are so easy to make needles fly in the sewing class to supplement the supply. The boys are almost as good cutters as the girls and they made, hemmed and marked a lot of handkerchiefs, chemises and even a dress. They went so far as to darn their stockings and those of their families.

"Some of the boys made a chart of the journeys of St. Paul and this gave them so much pleasure that one of them said to me on a certain Saturday, 'How I wish I could come back on Monday to go on with the same task.' "

M. Le Goff, the director of the new suburban *Fraternité*, at Arcueil, writes: "It was not until the first of August that we opened our doors. Our work, accordingly, is almost too young to describe. Our first steps have not been taken without difficulty and yet we are growing. Basing our judgment upon our beginnings, we feel greatly encouraged and with the many conversations we have had with the heads of families in the garden city of Arcueil we are sure that 'there is something to do in this quarter of the suburbs.'

"In general our reception has been excellent, though we have not been free from criticism. The Communists, for example, cannot understand our having no political axe to grind, though at the same time they admit that what we are doing is 'beautiful.' We can only rejoice at the results of our first contact with the people of Arcueil. Our D. V. B. S. has functioned normally with an average attendance of 160 children. That, surely, is a good beginning. We have held a Bible school every day and this the children evidently greatly love."



GENERAL VIEW AT ARCUEIL

Mme Perrot writes from Nemours: "The exceptional situation of Nemours enables us to take our children daily into the woods, but our greatest encouragement is the insistence of their mothers that they should have the same opportunities as the boys and girls who come from Paris for their Vacation Colony outing. Our daily programme begins with the arrival of the children at half-past one. After a few moments' play we assemble them for songs and their Bible lesson. At three o'clock we start our walk and there are games and songs in the

woods until half-past five when we return to the *Foyer*. The half-hour before leaving for the rocks is spent in the large hall under the supervision of a trained teacher. At three long tables the girls cut and sew and the boys work over their stamp books. Our little Nemours children have never traveled and the stamps which they receive from friends and elsewhere teach them at once the geography and history of the countries represented. The beautiful forest where we spend our afternoons is a splendid sanitarium and preventorium for our little ones whose lungs are for the most part so badly supplied with air. In our poorly built houses there is far too little air and light to give our children 'a sound mind in a sound body' so essential to every healthy life. The mothers, veritable slaves of misery, work all day long to supplement the wages of their husbands. Our school numbered 44 children and just before it closed Mme Darley gave us all the treat of a drive in the forest."

The report from Rouen is written by M. Vuilleumier: "Our Vacation Bible School ran from the first of August to the thirtieth of September and from 1.30 to 6 o'clock every day of the week except Saturday. The children were divided into two groups, namely, those from 7 to 12 years and those from 6 years up. Of the latter the enrollment numbered 28 and of the larger children 47. Half of the children had never been to the *Fraternité* before. For the smaller ones a kindergarten was organized, as often as possible in the *Fraternité* garden. For the older boys and girls there were a Bible lesson, manual training, games and hikes every afternoon. The Bible lessons were devoted to the Sermon on the Mount followed by twelve lessons on the Saviour's passion. Questionnaires were conducted individually and yielded the most satisfying results. Singing, of course, played a large rôle in the schedule. Cards were given out both in the manual training classes and in the Biblical examinations and honors afterward distributed. In addition to the ordinary hikes, the children were frequently taken for the day into the adjoining Norman forest.

"As for the character of the children, in general their intellectual development is often very elementary and their education more than rudimentary. The mothers of three-fourths of them work in the factories all day long, leaving their children to the luck of the streets. The general indifference of the children in the manual training classes can be imagined as well as their want of sporting instinct in the games. Many of the families from which they come have not been legally constituted and a large number of them have lived in an atmosphere of the very worst possible moral examples. They suffer frequently from feeble constitutions, for alcoholism and



IN THE PLAYGROUND AT ROUEN FOLLOWING THE BIBLE LESSON

tuberculosis have made them the victims of a wretched heredity. From the religious point of view they have grown up in an indifferent, or formalist-Catholic, or free-thinker's atmosphere. This means that barring certain exceptions all moral and religious training must start at the beginning. Nevertheless, after two months' contact with these children, we can note a certain progress. Lying and scraps have become less frequent. They have gained some idea of who Jesus was and as to what should be the foundation of a religion of sincerity. Tiny editions of the Gospel have been given to them and as they have taken these home the message of the New Testament has penetrated for the first time into their families. These families have been called on with the result that after a certain time fathers and mothers come to our meetings."

"The D. V. B. S. of Esbly," writes M. Leleu, "grew out of an effort to respond to a wish expressed by the people of the

little town after the visit of the *Bonne Nouvelle*. Beginning in July with a few children the number increased to the end of the month and for July, August and September averaged 50. In mid-summer a little fête was held which pleased not only the children, but their parents. For three months Sundays and week-days alike the children came to play, to sing, to learn manual training and to receive Bible instruction. It is not difficult to imagine how different was the summer of these fifty girls and boys from what it would otherwise have been."



BIBLE SCHOOL AT ESBLY

All of which is good as far as it goes, but what the boys and girls of Rouen, of *Bienvenue*, of Grenelle, of Arcueil, of Esbly, of Nemours need is an opportunity to get away with their teachers into the country as do the favored children who spend their summers at *Châtillon*, *Fresnes-l'Archevêque*, *La Bernerie*, *Les Vallées*, *Gérardmer* and *St. Quentin*, in other words, in a Vacation Colony where for twenty-four hours of each day they may breathe the air of God's great out-of-doors and at any hour of the day and night feel the uplift and care of those who love them because they believe that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

SALLE CENTRALE
PASTOR ROBERT LORRIAUX

The conviction grows that our work is taking solid root in the *Salle Centrale* quarter. The Sunday and Thursday Schools, the *patronage*, the Christian Unions receive their accessions chiefly from those who began as little children. As such they formed the habit of regular attendance. Those whom we call our "little tots," who are brought by their mothers to our infant classes and who are our hope for tomorrow, increase in numbers. The co-operation of the members of the *Rue Pierre Levée* Church is generous and most appreciated. In a word, after our years of sowing we are beginning to reap the harvest.

For a year now, we have been opening the refectory from noon to two o'clock daily to the working girls and clerks of the quarter giving them the use of the kitchen to warm over their lunches brought from home. So popular has the place become that a veritable battalion of *midinettes* takes possession of the refectory every day. The aggregate number for the past year reached 12,000. It is a great joy to see these girls most of whom are very young thus sheltered from the rowdyism of the streets and cheap restaurants. Just what the spiritual result is going to be it is rather difficult to predict because most of the girls live at a distance and cannot attend our evening meetings. That there is a calculable moral result, however, cannot be doubted.

As for our church, the fact which gives us the most satisfaction is the number of catechumens who attend the courses in religious instruction on the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. For the larger part these young people come from the most irreligious surroundings, although a number of the girls are members of the Y. P. S. C. E. and made a special request to be permitted to receive the training which would qualify them for membership in the church.

DESVRES

A New Britain woman, whose son was killed in the Aviation Service in France, as a token of remembrance, on his birthday, sent to the Mission 25 dollars. This sum was given to a mutilated French soldier, Emile Chochoi.

Emile's story is as follows: As a young man, he lived at Desvres, in the *Pas de Calais*. Unfortunately, he was addicted to drink and for a time was the despair of his family. One evening he came into the Desvres hall. That night the speaker made a temperance appeal, but young Chochoi registered his contempt by breaking noisily away from the meeting. The words spoken, however, had not been in vain.

On another evening, between debauches, he experienced an awakening of conscience and began to come to the hall regularly. About a year later he was converted and his entire life was changed.

During the retreat of his regiment at the first battle of the Marne he was seriously wounded in his foot and being no longer able to walk fell into the hands of the Germans, passing many days as a prisoner in the *Château* of Soupir. Just as he was about to be transported into Germany, the French troops retook the *château*. Many of his fellow-prisoners were on the point of maltreating the German soldiers who, in turn, had been taken prisoners, when Chochoi intervened.

He went from hospital to hospital to have his foot treated. When at last he was able to return home he resumed his work in the Desvres porcelain factory, but the superintendent of the factory would not retain him inasmuch as his conversion had been due to Protestant influence. A little later on, reading in the McAll paper, *Le Bon Messager*, that the director of the Mission at Nantes had organized a school of re-education for mutilated men, he made his way to Nantes and has since worked in a factory there, having won both the confidence and regard of his superiors.

In the *Fraternité* he made the acquaintance of a young, Christian girl whom he married and with the help of a loan from the Mission erected a small house where he now lives. A baby boy has since been added to the family and his grandfather, another redeemed drunkard, is also a member of the household.

The gift referred to has deepened Chochoi's enthusiasm for the *Mission Populaire* to which, as he himself admits, he owes all his life's present happiness.

THE MAYOR OF NANTES TO M. CHASTAND

Apropos the inauguration of the new director of the Mission, M. Chastand, as recounted in the November RECORD, the following letter to him from the Mayor of Nantes where he had labored with such devotion and success for twenty years will give the readers of the RECORD a yet further idea of the high esteem in which this young evangelistic genius is held.

Mayor Bellaud, addressing M. Chastand as "My dear friend," writes: "Deeply regretting as I do your leaving Nantes, but recognizing the eminent post to which you have been called, I should like to express to you my very best wishes as you enter upon a work which is a fitting crown to your career. You have given most generously of yourself to the uplift of the disinherited and the downcast of Nantes. I am happy to think that your new duties will bring you from time to time again amongst us, when you will be reassured of the ceaseless gratitude in which your fellow-citizens here hold you. As the Mayor of the city I can never forget how your tireless efforts have contributed to the realization of the municipal ideals toward which I am working. From the outbreak of the war your unselfish and patriotic efforts contributed more than I can say to the care and re-education of our mutilated men just as, during the recent period of industrial idleness, the help which emanated from the *Fraternité* on behalf of the men without work and their suffering families was incalculable.

"I express to you, my dear friend, not only my own sincere gratitude, but the gratitude of the entire city. You have rendered a service more than remarkable to the city of Nantes."

PIERRE LEVÉE KINDERGARTEN

The infant class which comes every Thursday to listen to the Old Testament stories numbers from 30 to 35 children from 3 to 7 years old. It is fascinating to watch their eyes as they listen to Mme Vachon's dramatic recitals. They are all attention knowing that they are going to have a quiz the following week and that if their memories are sufficiently good they will receive *un bon point rose* (a red star!). Of course, they are not all angels. One chubby-cheeked little youngster

of three sits down on the floor and begins to unlace his shoes. Instantly another child of four crawls up on the bench and tries to jump on his back. Commotion! To keep order, I appoint a little girl of seven as guardian.

After the lesson is over we have songs and how the children of this age do love to sing!

Then comes the work hour and what wonders these children perform! The little girls hem handkerchiefs, the boys draw marvelous pictures with their crayons, the tiniest ones wind balls of cord and so the afternoon passes with surprising rapidity. When half-past five comes, they have literally to be pushed out, they are always so loath to go.

Even among these babies there is a true spirit of comradeship. Often a small delegation of them comes to me begging me not to punish one of their comrades. One day, very angry because I punished her little neighbor, a girl of five said to me, "I am going to tell his father on you and he will take away your violin." She was more vexed than the boy who was punished.

THE MANIFOLD DUTIES OF A NURSE-EVANGELIST MLLE GRASSMUCK

At the Nantes dispensary there has been during the past year a marked decrease in the applications for help, 648 as against 900 the preceding year. On the other hand, treatments in the people's homes have risen to 686 as against 354 last year.

I am happy to state that the hygienic condition of our children is greatly improved. The visiting physician has made this observation from month to month. Consultations have been necessary, more especially for troubles of the throat, ear, nose and teeth. In regard to the last, the children do not show a great deal of enthusiasm. The dentist chair has for them no particular charm.

The Thursday infant class consists of children from 3 to 6 and has so increased that we have had to divide it into two sections, Mlle Varlouud taking charge of the little girls and I of the boys.

The girls' Y. P. S. C. E. has also increased in numbers and interest. It is truly a "living" society. Topics debated

have been, "Can one always tell the truth?"; "Humor and Sincerity"; "What constitutes a good character?" The Bible topics studied have not always seemed to strike home, but for the most part the girls have followed these classes with interest.

House to house visits have occupied the largest part of my time. Poverty, alcoholism and tuberculosis are always in evidence at Nantes and this year the want of employment has increased all of these. No one who has not actually seen the wretchedness and suffering can get much idea of the misery with which I have come in contact on my visits. To cite a single case among many others: In a certain family, the illness of the father prevented his working for six months. The wife and mother sought to find something to do in the emergency, but worked only intermittently because the lack of employment affected the women as well as the men. For a number of weeks the only income of the family was the small wage of a child of 12 years and being Spanish they were not able to draw upon the charity organization society. After two attempts, I was able to get the father to a hospital and to send the three little girls to the country for three months, the baby of two years remaining with the mother. In this household every member suffered from hunger in the literal sense of the word. One day, when the children were not able to go to school and share in the school canteen, I actually saw them pounce upon the bread which one of the girls brought home only to have the mother take it away and put it into the cupboard until the young apprentice of twelve years returned from work.

In the midst of such suffering, however, it has been my privilege at least to help in some degree. By means of telephone calls and begging letters, I have been able to procure a little assistance and comfort.

The visits which have left the brightest memories are those made in connection with the work of the Blue Cross, visits made at any hour of the day and night, where I have been witness, alas, to many sad lapses, but also to happy resurrections through the vision and sense of the power of God. I think at the moment of one family in particular which lives in a garret, at the top of a ladder and which, through the resolu-

tion of the father, is on the way to a new life—a re-established home in which the little children will never recall the sorrows of their infancy.

FAUBOURG ST. ANTOINE AT "LA BERNERIE"
MME M. DRANCOURT

It becomes more and more difficult for us to make reports of our summers at *La Bernerie*. For, when our thoughts go back over the years, so many beautiful pictures present themselves, in our hearts and before our eyes, that we feel overwhelmed with material. We wish that the friends who read this short report might realize the physical, moral and spiritual good which these vacation months at *La Bernerie* accomplish. Our children all gain in weight, little pale and thin faces take on fresh color, eyes become bright and every movement more alert. The intelligence of some of the backward, or even abnormal, children improves. They become affectionate, expansive and one little girl of nine, who spoke very poorly and who never articulated certain syllables, got so that she could pronounce perfectly several words. You will get an idea of her speech when I tell you that one day she said to me, "Mata Tantou, la tate Tatitou," which meant, "Madame Drancourt, je viens chercher la boite (a fils) de Madame Jouve." (Madame Drancourt, I have been sent for the bottle for Mme Jouve's little boy). My husband, who has the most extraordinary patience with the smallest ones, improved remarkably the pronunciation of little Suzanne, who called herself "Tutanne" and her sister Lulu "Gugu." Little Lulu is ten years old, but looks like five. Her mother was a victim of alcohol and doctors who had examined the child declared that she would never grow up, nor would her mentality properly develop. But not only did she grow while with us, but she is not an abnormal child any more and everybody feels that the month spent in the open and among children who loved her and took care of her marks a point of departure for a new development which may continue normally.

A fine baby of eleven months started to walk during the summer holidays. That again was the result of my husband's indefatigable efforts. He always attracts the tiniest ones and each day would start his lesson over again.



"AND HE TOOK THEM IN HIS ARMS AND BLESSED THEM AND
SAID, FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN."
(M. DRANCOURT AT "LA BERNERIE")

What a lovely big family ours is! Every year we see it not only increase, but the love for one another and the feeling of helpful confidence are growing. This general good will gives us an impression of security. We do not have the same anxiety as in earlier years as to what the day may bring forth in the way of petty annoyances or little catastrophes. Now our small friends know exactly how to do their part of the work and show us so much affection that we have nothing to fear.

We had with us again this year M. and Mme G—— with their three children. Mme G—— supervised the kitchen and instead of rushing the cook at meal time, she would call her little corps of kitchen helpers together and quietly set them to work. Her husband and sons also made themselves useful.

An Armenian household, seeking refuge in Paris after the persecutions by the Turks and who happened into our Faubourg St. Antoine hall, asked to be permitted to come to *La Bernerie*. The young woman has deep religious feeling and her husband is sensitive and responsive. They have had great joy from living with us. They sang the hymns and listened attentively. Several days before leaving, he said to us, with great emotion: "I was a student at the American College, at Tarsus, and spent the most beautiful time of my life there. But here I have experienced again that same feeling of peace and happiness. It has so filled me that I have come to realize my mistakes toward my brothers from whom I am estranged, and I am going to write to them at once."

M. D——, who last year came with his wife and two little girls, has made even greater spiritual progress. His talk indicates that he understands and that he is on the road to salvation. His little Janine of five, whom we have known for the last four years, is a darling. I found her one day in the corner of the garden busy licking the butter off her bread. "But, Janine, now you will have to eat your bread dry." "Oh no, I will show it to M. Drancourt and he will give me some chocolate because there is no more butter on my bread!" One morning the butcher brought the meat for the day—sixty-odd chops which were laid on the kitchen table. A minute later Janine appeared in front of the table with our dog, Pataud, beside her. Pataud was licking his mouth! Interested, I asked, "Janine, I hope you have not given any of the meat to Pataud?" "Yes." "What, you have taken a chop?" "Yes, Pataud told me he was hungry." "But you naughty little girl, now you are going to deprive someone of his chop and besides you have taken something that did not belong to you. What can we do now! You must go without your chop." "Oh Madame, please buy another, Pataud must eat too!"

Again, it is Janine and a little pal who have revealed to me the change that has taken place in a Parisian workingman's home on Sunday mornings. They played house and had installed themselves in one corner of the room with the eleven-months-old baby. "Now you are the father and I am the

mother and Alex is our baby. Today is Sunday." Said Janine presently, "Dear, it is half-past seven and you must get up." "Oh, I have plenty of time." "No, you must go for some bread and some milk for the baby. You know, I get up first every morning during the week, today it is your turn to do the marketing." The "husband" went quietly away while Janine stretched out on the ground and took Alex in her arms.

I must tell you also the story of the wolf in the boys' dormitory! The biggest braggart among our rascals, who had boasted that he was afraid of nothing, ran from the dormitory one night yelling, "There is a wolf!" A mob of frightened little boys followed him excitedly to the kitchen shed where he picked up two knives and--hid behind the door. The cause of all this excitement was a bath robe carelessly dropped in the hall by one of the bigger boys. At midnight everybody in the small boys' dormitory was still trembling and poor little Roger of six clung to me until I had to hand him over to our good cook who put a bed for him in her room!

Life was never monotonous in our big household and the days passed quickly, what with bathing, hiking, games and special features for the larger girls, morning and evening worship, followed often by the study of one or more hymns. We became readily the confidants and advisers of these children and their parents. "Do you know," said a young woman who attends our meetings in Paris and who had confided her little girl to us during the summer, "that I came here with the feeling that I could get nothing special out of this life in common? But I have never lived in an atmosphere so full of life and joy and peace."

BARONNE HOTTINGUER

The Paris Auxiliary of the American McAll Association announces with deep sorrow the death of its Treasurer, Baronne Hottinguer. The RECORD extends its most sincere sympathy to Baron Hottinguer and to the President and members of the Paris Auxiliary in this incomparable loss.

**FOYER DE LA
MISSION POPULAIRE EVANGÉLIQUE DE FRANCE**

The November RECORD announced, as an immediate result of a visit of the boat, *La Bonne Nouvelle*, the opening of a new *Fraternité* at Esbly, on the Marne. The intensive life of this latest child of the boat work is indicated in the programme below. M. Leleu was a convert of M. Cooreman during the latter's ministry at Nemours.

Nous faisons savoir aux amis de la BONNE NOUVELLE les différentes réunions qui auront lieu à la Villa Vérez, Quai du Canal .

Garderie d'enfants, tous les jours de 4 h. à 6 h. jusqu'à la fin des classes.

École de vacances à partir du 1^{er} Août, pour les enfants de 4 ans à 14 ans, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, de 8 h. 30 du matin à 11 h. 30, et de 1 h. 30 de l'après-midi à 6 h. du soir.

Lundi, de 2 h. à 4 h., réunion pour dames (tricot).

Lundi soir, à 8 h. 30, réunion de jeunes filles et jeunes dames.

Mardi soir, à 8 h. 30, réunion, conférence sur l'Évangile.

Mercredi soir, à 8 h. 30, réunion de jeunes gens (jeux, discussions, causeries, etc.).

Jeudi, à 2 h. 30, réunion d'enfants.

Jeudi soir, à 8 h. 30, étude biblique amicale.

Samedi soir, à 8 h. 30, cercle de dames (causeries, lectures, etc.). Cercle d'hommes (causeries-débats, jeux, lectures).

Dimanche après-midi, à 2 h. 30, réunion récréative familiale, jeux pour tous, goûter, etc.

Dimanche soir, à 8 h. 30, réunion; conférence sur l'Évangile.

L'Agent de la Mission Populaire Évangélique,

R. LELEU

GRENELLE INCIDENTS

PASTOR BERTRAND

At one of our Sunday evening meetings we were surprised to see in the audience a distinguished Russian lady. She told us that our Gospel hymns reminded her of those she had heard at home and that she had come to our service to thank God for her daily bread (in all probability neither she nor her children had eaten during the day). Under her arm she was carrying a long French loaf. On further conversation we learned that in order to keep herself and her children from starvation, she had been doing housework, and even laundry work, for which she had received from two to three francs (8 to 12 cents) an hour. We were grateful to find her a "job" a little more in keeping with her rank and education. Later on, we sent her two beautiful little girls to one of the Mission's vacation colonies. She has now gone back to Russia, her heart filled with gratitude for what we were able to do for her. A letter from her states, "There is one terrible lack in Russia, namely, a Protestant church for which we long as the Sundays return. But then we have our dear Bible!"

A destitute woman came one night and for some reason particularly attracted my attention. "Who could she be?" She turned out to be an actress who had formerly filled a prominent rôle with "the Divine Sarah." Friends had brought her to our hall. Suffering from great physical depression, she had been thinking of suicide, but providentially one of her neighbors, a sculptor's widow who had attended Mme Dalencourt's mothers' meetings, said to her, "My poor dear! Don't kill yourself. I am going to take you to a Christian woman who will speak to you words of consolation as she did to me at the time of my greatest sorrow." So the ex-actress came to Grenelle. Our woman-evangelist has since visited her and reports that she has made such marked spiritual progress that she recently said, "How true it is that the last shall be first!"

One of the big Grenelle girls, who by her attendance and examinations had earned a Bible, on being asked, "What shall I write in your Bible, Solange?" replied, "God so loved Solange that He gave His only begotten son that she should not perish, but might have eternal life."

The children of the Grenelle Bible School decided to raise some money for the Armenians. They went about their scheme with profound mystery. They prepared a little drama to play before their comrades of the Thursday School, making all the costumes and arranging all the details by themselves. The theme of their play was, "The Devil, the Tempter of Children." He tried to make them lie, lose their tempers and disobey their parents, but at each assault he was repulsed by the verse of a hymn. Finally, having failed of success in all his temptations, he turned his back saying, "I am conquered!" The performance ended with a little girl of five years, clad in an angel's costume, singing, "I am the light of the world, said the Lord."

Ten of our catechumens of last year made their first communion with us. One of these was a Jewish girl of nineteen whose decision to become a Christian awakened violent opposition in her family. Shortly after the communion she wrote me: "My coming to the Lord's Supper is a great source of strength to me, for I feel that my sins have been pardoned and above all I have a vivid sense of the presence of Christ in my life. Pray for me. It is a difficult moment for me with my family, although, since I was a tiny child, I have been coming regularly to the *Mission Populaire* to hear the story of Him Who was crucified and in Whom, almost without stopping to think why, I have believed. From the moment that I got my first idea as to who Jesus was, I have prayed to Him as to God Himself. How can I tell you of the joy I have had since I first came to know Him! Our home, where alcohol is king, is a veritable hell. What have I not suffered from living in such a family. It is not enough for me to realize that Jesus is the Messiah. Each hour I need Him in an unbroken communion in order to repel the assaults of the Tempter. By uniting with your church I feel so much less alone! The members of the Grenelle congregation are now my family for I have been turned out by my father and mother. I have made the Saviour's words my own, 'Thy will, oh God, not mine be done!' The poor child ends her letter with this touching request: "I ask you one great favor, namely, that I may continue my relations with you. Don't leave me to myself."

STATISTICS OF THE MISSION AS OF 1927

NUMBER OF STATIONS

Paris and Suburbs.....	12	Automobiles	5
Provincial Stations	22	Vacation Colonies	6
Mission Boats	2	(Many children are sent to other places not belonging to the Mission)	
Subsidized Posts	5		

NUMBER OF MEETINGS

(Weekly)

Gospel Meetings	34	Y. W. C. A.	18
Sunday Services	7	Boy Scout Troops	11
Prayer Meetings	11	Girl Scout Troops	5
Mothers' Meetings	13	Blue Cross Societies	14
Men's Meetings	10	Junior Temperance Societies ..	9
Sunday Schools	18	Dispensaries	6
Thursday Schools	27	Restaurants	4
Ecole de Garde	7	Playgrounds	4
Y. M. C. A.	11	Courts	10

NUMBER OF WORKERS

Pastors	18	Not entirely paid by the Mission	50
Other Workers, Men	16	Nurses	5
Other Workers, Women	22		



MME COOREMAN WITH CHILDREN AT FRESNES-L'ARCHEVÈQUE

HOME DEPARTMENT

Plainfield The first fall meeting of the Auxiliary, held on November 9th, was addressed by the national President, Mrs. Kelley.

The Field Secretary The Field Secretary has spoken recently in Brooklyn, Bloomfield, Troy, Orange, Boston, Newark, Pittsfield, Springfield, Meriden, Hartford, Washington and New York. As announced in the November RECORD, Mr. Berry holds himself at the disposition of all the auxiliaries and urges them to procure openings in churches, at women's missionary societies and wherever else possible for the showing of his latest lantern slides.

Propaganda The Board's Publication Committee calls special attention to the new illustrated campaign leaflet, The McAll Mission in France 1872-1927, and to the revised Ten Questions Answered. Auxiliary officers and managers and all others who are personally interested in collecting funds are specially urged to send to 1713 Sansom Street, the McAll Bureau in Philadelphia, for copies of these leaflets for distribution in church vestibules, Sunday Schools, or wherever else possible, or to enclose in personal letters.

Frams A recent report shows that last year 291 were enrolled in the Children's McAll. At the Presidents' Conference, not only grandmothers but also aunts announced their intention to see that the small girls and boys dear to them are soon added to the list. The dollar paid in each child's name goes directly to France to be used in the service of the children of the Mission. A little effort on the part of each auxiliary would mean a list several times as long and a correspondingly larger sum for the *Ecoles de Garde* and the Bible Schools of the Mission.

Memorial Gifts The practice of making memorial gifts is happily growing among the auxiliaries. The Orange Auxiliary has collected the funds for such a gift in memory of Miss Codey, for so many years the Orange treasurer. The total was \$1125, a thousand dollars of which will

be invested, the interest to be sent annually to Desvres and the balance of \$125 is to be sent directly to the little northern city in which Orange has been so long interested.

Buffalo On November 19th, at the annual luncheon of the Buffalo Auxiliary, where covers were spread for 225 and the address was made by Mrs. Kelley, a campaign was started to raise a memorial fund in memory of Miss Anne Burrows, who for over thirty-four years was the beloved secretary of the auxiliary. The office has been filled by Mrs. Dorland, a former Sunday School scholar of Miss Burrows.

Relief Boxes The two best and most valuable boxes (worth over \$600) ever sent to France by the Association were dispatched from Elizabeth the last week of October. As per the new regulations, everything in these boxes was new and the contents included a number of Christmas toys.

Hartford A luncheon was given by the Auxiliary to its President, Miss Flagg, who told the story of her summer in France. Several substantial cheques were the immediate result of Miss Flagg's talk. She has also spoken to the delight of all who heard her to the Auxiliaries in Norwich, Philadelphia and Springfield.

Belvidere On November 5th, the Belvidere Auxiliary entertained the national President who made one of her customarily popular talks in the Second Presbyterian Church.

Montclair On October 27th, Mrs. Willard Church and Mrs. Kelley told the story of their visits to the Mission's new *Fraternité*, at Arcueil. Announcement was made of a plan to raise an endowment of \$6000 to insure the salary of the nurse at Arcueil where a dispensary was inaugurated last summer in memory of Mrs. Speers and Mrs. Dunlap.

New Haven The following brief letter from New Haven may be of interest to other auxiliaries:

At each annual meeting of the American McAll Association the Auxiliaries promise, through their delegates, a sum of money independent of the membership dues.

These membership dues, which maintain the regular work of the Mission, are collected by the church managers in February each year.

This extra money is used for various imperative needs so that the *Mission Populaire Evangélique de France* may function more effectively.

In company with others the New Haven Auxiliary has always "stood by," and has met this need by direct appeal to its members and friends for voluntary offerings.

Seventy-five responses were received from the fall appeal of 1926, which brought in the sum of \$1176. This included one gift of \$485, one of \$100, four of \$50, one of \$20, one of \$15, eleven of \$10 and fifty-four of from one to five dollars.

**Presidents'
Conference**

The Presidents' Conference was held on Friday, November 11th, in the home of the New York Bible Society, the usual enthusiastic delegation from Boston to Baltimore and from New York to Buffalo being present. The morning session was devoted to hearing stories from those who had been recently in France and the afternoon session was given over to the interchange of suggestions as to methods of work. The Juniors, who had held a meeting of their own in the morning, joined the Senior group for the afternoon and added much enthusiasm to the gathering. The following letter from *Pierre Levée* was read:

DEAR LADIES AND FRIENDS:

Our President, Mrs. Kelley, will hand on to you the messages which I gave her last summer, but I want to take the liberty of adding a few words to assure you that my heart and my thoughts are with you as you meet in your fall conference. Thank you not only for your zeal, but for your love for the McAll Mission which inspires it. Please pass on to all of those who support us the story of how miraculously their gifts are transformed. These gifts light the flame of happiness in the eyes of our children and in the hearts of their mothers as well as the flame of faith in unbelieving and despairing souls.

Our efforts this year will be especially directed to the strengthening of our positions and then still thanks to you we shall set our faces forward. Calls for help are never lacking. Only yesterday a working-man appealed to us to come to preach the Gospel in his quarter of the suburbs. He stands ready to tear out the partitions of his house in order to transform it into a hall for meetings.

On all sides the work of our posts is carried on with ardor and our encouragements are many. May God bless your gathering and direct your decisions. In cordial devotion,

Yours ever,
EMMANUEL CHASTAND

Easton Announcement was made at the Presidents' Conference that the Memorial Gift for Miss Laura Maxwell is nearing completion. Definite decision has not yet been made as to what department of the Mission's work it will be devoted.

Our Oncoming Juniors The Juniors are responding most enthusiastically to the call for additional efforts during the present year. At the last annual meeting, the goal for 1927-1928 was set for \$10,000 for Vacation Colonies. Practically all the auxiliaries report increased memberships to meet this pledge. It is the hope of the National Junior Committee that it will be possible to form Junior groups in many cities where there are none at present. If any of the Seniors are interested in forming such groups, Miss Elizabeth Congdon will be glad to co-operate with them.



FRESNES BARN WHICH \$1000 WOULD TRANSFORM INTO A DORMITORY AND
ENABLE TWENTY ADDITIONAL BOYS TO SPEND TWO MONTHS
IN GOD'S GREAT OUT-OF-DOORS

**RECEIPTS OF THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION
FROM AUXILIARIES AND CHURCHES**

October 6—December 5, 1927—\$13,459.97

MASSACHUSETTS, \$211.00	
Andover Circle	\$15 00
Boston Auxiliary	72 00
Lexington	42 00
Newton Centre	10 00
Pittsfield Auxiliary	36 00
Springfield Auxiliary	36 00
CONNECTICUT, \$6,613.00	
Hartford Auxiliary	\$723 00
Legacy, Mrs. Ludlow Barker..	5,000.00
Hartford Junior Auxiliary...	54 00
Meriden Auxiliary	56 00
New Britain Auxiliary	36 00
New Haven Auxiliary	701 00
Norwich Auxiliary	18 00
Windsor	25 00
NEW YORK, \$2,009.87	
Brooklyn Auxiliary	\$136 00
Brooklyn	16 00
Buffalo Auxiliary	36 00
Buffalo Junior Auxiliary	26 00
Jamaica	2 00
New York Auxiliary	1,606 87
Rochester Auxiliary	61 00
Troy Auxiliary	54 00
Utica	72 00
NEW JERSEY, \$1,254.85	
Belvidere Auxiliary	\$54 00
Bergenfield	21 00
Elizabeth Relief Depot	5 00
Montclair Auxiliary	169 00
Newark Auxiliary	46 00
Auxiliary of the Oranges....	765 35
Plainfield Auxiliary	136 00
Princeton Circle	22 50
Roebling	36 00
PENNSYLVANIA, \$1,438.16	
Chester Auxiliary	\$15 00
Easton Auxiliary	122 00
French History Club	15 00
Philadelphia Auxiliary	1,188 16
Rainbow Club of Wayne	28 00
Sewickley Auxiliary	36 00
West Chester Auxiliary.....	34 00
MARYLAND, \$54.00	
Baltimore Auxiliary	\$54 00
CALIFORNIA, \$5.00	
San Diego	\$5 00
OHIO, \$10.00	
Cincinnati	\$10 00
MINNESOTA, \$210.00	
Minneapolis Auxiliary	\$200 00
St. Paul Auxiliary	10 00
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, \$347.84	
Washington Auxiliary	\$347 84
DELAWARE, \$48.00	
Wilmington Auxiliary	\$48 00
Per American Sunday School Union	\$6 00
Per National Children's Auxil- iary	2 00
Per Needlework Guild of America	798 00
Per Sale Christmas Cards ...	452 25

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR REAL ESTATE

I do give and devise to the American McAll Association the following described property.

FORM OF BEQUEST FOR PERSONAL ESTATE

I do give, devise and bequeath to the American McAll Association the sum of dollars.

THE AMERICAN McALL ASSOCIATION

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Field Secretary for Juniors

MISS ELIZABETH CONGDON

c/o MRS. JAMES C. COLGATE, 270 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK

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President, MRS. EWART G. DAVIES, 350 N. FOURTEENTH STREET, EASTON, PA.

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