

DR. WOODWARD GIVES REPORT

Work of General Secretary for
Five Years Meeting
Is Told

Dr. Walter C. Woodward, general secretary of the Five Years Meeting gave a brief report Wednesday morning of his work during the past five years. The complete report has been printed in the pamphlet containing reports of the officers and boards of the meeting and given out to all the delegates. Only a few of the high points in the work of the past years were touched on by the secretary in his talk. In speaking of the financial activities of the body, Dr. Woodward pointed out that at the 1922 sessions of the meeting there was a deficit of \$60,000, half of which was raised by the close of the meeting leaving a hang over deficit of \$30,000. This indebtedness was cleared a year later. At a meeting of the executive committee in May of this year, however, he stated, it was found that the body had again incurred a debt of approximately \$30,000. A fourth of this amount has been raised, it is said, and the meeting is now faced with an indebtedness of over \$20,000. Failure of yearly meetings to pay their pledges to the united budget or sums that officials of the meeting were led to believe would be paid by the Yearly Meetings is given as the principal reason for the indebtedness.

Dr. Woodward also called the attention of the delegates to the need for literature throughout the meeting as outlined in the printed report, the fact that this session marks the 25th anniversary of the meeting and reviewed briefly the achievements of the body.

One of the principal addresses to be given before the meeting this year was that made by W. O. Mendenhall on "The Mission of Christ and the Five Years Meeting." Quoting the scripture that is printed on the cover of the program, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He hath sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are bruised, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," the speaker urged a personal contact and communion with the spirit of God saying, "Is our society in such a position today, that, as a unit, we can look abroad in the world and say, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me—'. If we can," he said, "then we are at the beginning of greater achievements than those of the past. We can if we have this basis for the future, if we have not, then we are not prepared to say, 'The spirit of the Lord is upon me.' The Mission of Christ has been first in our history.

'Primitive Christianity Revived' is what the early group of Friends said and that is the gospel they spread—not Quakerism. It is only through immediate direct contact with the Spirit of God that we have any right to claim anything that comes to us under this honored name."

He paid tribute to the early Quakers urging that the essence of that early generation be caught and interpreted to the present generation. "We can not depart from tradition," he said "and certainly not from history, if we start from an ultimate unit that an understanding experience is the fundamental things, that knowledge of God and communion with Him is not thought of in terms of physical things. In these days of chaos, confusion, science and doubt, that vital communion with God is an anchor. No one can be lost who has the penetrating influence of God and the consciousness of his guidance.

The need for power and vision was stressed by the speaker who said that moral sterility follows each period of great intelligence and cynicism and distrust follows each period of great prosperity. In speaking of the Mission of Christ and the Five Years Meeting he stated that the meeting was only an instrument to carry the good news of the possibility of others to have the knowledge of God in their hearts. "It is evangelism," he said, "to spread the gospel. We come into meetings like this, not to tell one another how it is but to learn one from the other and to teach the implication of the experience—the experience of having the Spirit of God in our hearts." He urged that an illustration not a definition of the Christian life be given saying that the millions of the world were looking to the Friends to illustrate, not to define."

"Love is the greatest power in the world," he said in closing, "permanent victory is victory through sacrifice, let us make our organization an instrument of evangelism and teaching, let us secure that anchor, that power, and vision which comes through personal communion with God."

DR. DEXTER IS HEARD BY LIONS

Addresses by Dr. Walter Dexter, former head of the education department at Earlham college, now president of Whittier college, Whittier, Calif., and Dr. Edgar Stranahan, also of Whittier, were enjoyed, Wednesday noon, by members of the Richmond Lions club, at a meeting held at the North Nineteenth Presbyterian church. Both of the speakers are here attending the Five Year Meeting of Friends.

Dr. Stranahan discussed the problems confronting the world today stating that Democracy is not achieved by one revolution, but rather by evolution and that it is an art. "In as much as art is slow, Democracy must be developed slowly," he said.

Declaring that the forces that tend to throttle the individual and the ones which would set the individual up as self contained, must not be allowed to gain the upper hand, he said the ultimate of democracy should be based on a brotherhood of fellowship, religion and education.

Pointing to the various forms of self government which have been known to the world, he declared the United States fought for Democracy and is even now striving for world peace and Democracy.

He dwelt for a short time on political affairs in Indiana declaring recent uncoverings at Indianapolis to be attempts at "bossism" to the throttle the individual in the interest of a few.

Dr. Dexter emphasized the points brought by Dr. Stranahan, and urged a brotherhood based on religion, fellowship and education.