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MONOGRAPHS

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AMERICAN SOCIAL ECONOMICS

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XVII

Young Men's Christian Associations of
North America

BY

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ROBERT R. MCBURNEY
1837-1898

GENERAL SECRETARY NEW YORK CITY ASSOCIATION, 1862-1898
MEMBER AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, 1866-1898
AMERICAN DELEGATE TO WORLD'S CONFERENCE, 1878-1898

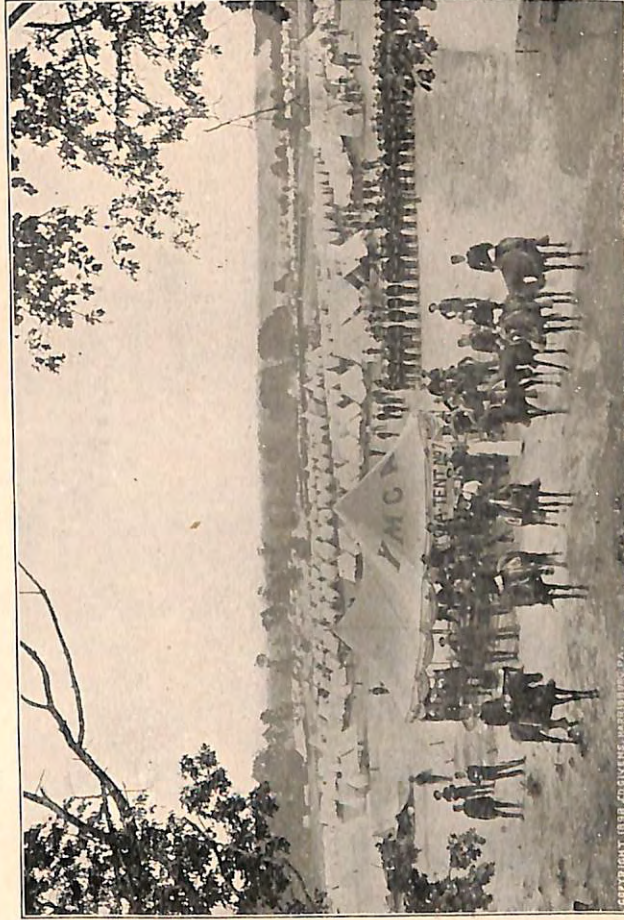
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SCENE AT CAMP ALGER, WASHINGTON
ASSOCIATION TENT NO. 7 IN THE FOREGROUND

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THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF NORTH AMERICA

INTRODUCTORY PERIOD (1851-1866)

The Young men's Christian associations in the United States and Canada are an outgrowth of the London society of the same name founded in 1844. The first organizations were effected at Montreal and Boston, the former on the 9th and the latter on the 29th of December, 1851. Nothing was known of the Montreal work in the United States for more than two years. The Boston association, however, soon gained publicity through the press, and copies of its constitution coming into the hands of young men in Buffalo, Washington, New York and Baltimore led to similar organizations in those places during 1852, and in many other cities during the year following.

The first effort toward affiliating these scattered societies came from Washington. The project was started during the summer of 1852, but it was nearly two years later that the first delegated gathering met in Buffalo, June 7, 1854, the year preceding the first world's conference, at Paris, and just 10 years and a day from the founding of the parent society in London. The call had been sent out to 32 associations; 19 were represented by 37 delegates, one of whom represented the two Canadian associations at Montreal and Toronto. The business proceedings culminated in the passage of a series of resolutions recommending a voluntary confederation to be composed of such societies as should ratify the agreement, and providing for a stated convention and a central committee. No legislative functions whatever were allowed, the local societies being left independent in every respect. February 20, 1855, the central committee issued a circular announcing the ratification of the resolutions by two

thirds of the associations, thus formally bringing into existence the Young men's Christian confederation of the United States and British Provinces.

During the next six years there was a gradual growth in the number of organizations. Conventions were annually held; communication both by correspondence and visitation was maintained with the associations of other lands, and there was a commendable activity among the home societies. There was little uniformity in methods, and much that was crude from the present standpoint; yet in the larger cities there was a real work for young men and practical experience was solving many problems and determining principles that later were to dominate the entire work.

At Paris, August 20, 1855, occurred the first world's conference under the name *Conference universelle des unions Chretiennes de jeunes gens*. The secretary of the American committee, through whose efforts chiefly the confederation had been established, was actively instrumental in bringing about the Paris meeting. He also suggested the system of international correspondence adopted by the conference. An American delegate presented a series of resolutions looking toward a union of the associations of all lands, and which led to the adoption of the historic Paris basis.* The American associations have continued to take a deep interest in these conferences, have for many years sent large delegations to attend them, and cooperated earnestly in establishing the present world's committee. At New Orleans, April 11-16, 1860, occurred the final gathering of the so-called American confederation. The attendance was large and many representative men were present. Nothing in the proceedings foreshadowed the coming dissolution, but one year from the day on which the convention assembled the first gun of the civil war was fired and the exigencies of that conflict made it im-

*See "Paris declaration," page 26.

practicable to hold a general convention either that year or the next. A special convention of the northern associations, however, was called to meet in New York city, November 14, 1861, to consider systematic Christian effort in the army. At this meeting the United States Christian commission was formed, an organization unique in the history of warfare — ministering to both the physical and spiritual needs of men. Receiving the cooperation of the general public it sent out during the war (1861-1865) 5000 Christian helpers to the camps and hospitals and distributed over \$5,000,000 in money and stores. The southern associations did much in the same direction but not in any such organized form. Inevitably the associations were seriously affected by the war; the young men in great numbers entered the armies and such organizations as did not disband, neglecting the home field, gave their effort chiefly to army work.

In the spring of 1863 the central committee, then located at Philadelphia, issued a call for a general convention to meet at Chicago in June. The war had practically broken up the old confederation and notices were sent to all known associations in the northern states and Canada. The sessions of the convention were occupied mainly with the work of the Christian commission. A series of resolutions, however, directed attention to the greatly neglected home field and led to the presentation of a strong paper on work for young men at the Boston convention the following year. At the Philadelphia convention, in 1865, direct work for young men was taken up in a series of practical topics, a part of the last evening session being devoted to that discussion. This was the beginning of what soon became the leading feature of these gatherings. But the Albany convention of 1866 marked a new epoch. An annual day of prayer was recommended — since recognized by a world-wide observance; the calling of state and provincial conventions was provided for — the first step in that system of auxiliary supervision now covering the continent; the execu-

tive committee was located in New York city, where it has since remained; work by and for young men was so forcibly insisted upon as the one distinctive purpose of the organization that this principle has since dominated the work.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE WORK (1867-1899)

I General organization

The general organization consisting from 1854 of the confederation and its central committee was modified and strengthened by the action at Chicago in 1863. The conventions continued to meet annually till 1877, when they were made biennial. The individual associations have always been entitled to direct representation in the convention. Since 1869 this has been based on the active membership. Since 1866 the executive committee — incorporated in 1883 as the International committee of Young men's Christian associations — has had its headquarters with a working quorum in New York city. The committee is composed of 45 members, leading business men representing all parts of the continent. The act of incorporation created a self-perpetuating board of 15 trustees to hold all endowments and real property coming to the committee. The committee is further strengthened by an advisory board and by a corresponding member in each state, province or group of its North American constituency and in many foreign countries.

The first employed agent of the committee was engaged for specific work in the west in 1868. Late in the following year the present general secretary was secured. The international force has been increased with the exigencies of the growing work till the list of field and office secretaries now numbers 56, of whom 18 are in the work abroad. Many of these men have by long and careful service become experts in their several departments and have been important factors in promoting and directing the American work. The scope of the

international committee's work as it stands to-day may be outlined as follows:

1 Supervision and extension: a) of the entire American field; b) of departmental fields such as the college and railroad work; c) of work in foreign lands.

2 Secretarial: securing and recommending trained officers.

3 Buildings: advising regarding location, plan of construction and business management of association buildings.

4 Finance: securing funds in aid of state and local fields in emergencies and for its own work.

5 Conventions: arranging the international meetings, aiding state and departmental conventions and sending representatives to all.

6 Correspondence: many hundred thousand letters and circulars are sent out and received annually.

7 Publications: the present list comprises several hundred pamphlets and books.

8 The week of prayer is observed annually through the systematic effort of the committee.

9 In time of special public calamity the committee often acts as an agent — cooperating with the local associations — in receiving and dispensing contributions for the relief of young men.

Supplemental to and patterned after the international are the state and provincial organizations. They had their origin in a resolution of the Albany convention (1866). Four conventions were held the first year with such results as brought them into general favor. Systematic organization soon followed in the form of an executive committee or an incorporated state association. In 1871 the first employed agent of a state committee was put in the field in Pennsylvania. There are now 34 of these organizations in which 49 states and provinces participate; their executive committees number 770 members, with some 52 traveling and office secretaries. The 1899 Year

book reported 31 state and provincial conventions in which 969 associations were represented by over 6000 delegates. Many states are subdivided into districts, each of which has its executive committee and an annual conference. In several states there are county organizations with traveling secretaries and systematic work for young men in the smaller towns and country districts. Many of the states have a system of corresponding members representing sections where no associations exist, and who stimulate work for young men and often bring those removing to larger towns into affiliation with the association through letters of introduction.

It is generally conceded that the finances of the international and state organizations are economically and judiciously administered. The annual expenditures of the former have grown from less than \$600, reported to the convention of 1866, to \$163,773, reported to that of 1899, exclusive of \$28,872 for the foreign work. The expenditures the same year for state and provincial work were \$133,310, and 959 local associations reported cash paid out for current expenses, \$2,453,778.

The Paris basis of 1855 was ratified the following year by the Montreal convention. But although the American associations as a body were eminently evangelical in spirit and in practice, the so-called "evangelical test"* was not adopted till 1869. This action brought the associations into still closer relations with the great mass of American Christians. The loyalty of the organization to the church has never been seriously questioned. That it is an interdenominational body occupying a position *auxiliary* to the church, which has a prior claim on the sympathies and efforts of its members, has been not only affirmed and reaffirmed at the conventions but practically illustrated in the work itself.

The first association building was erected in Chicago in 1867. During the following 10 years 22 more were added, including

*See "Portland resolutions," page 26.



MONTREAL



BOSTON

BUILDINGS OF THE FIRST TWO NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATIONS



SCRANTON, PA.



DAYTON, OHIO

TWO BUILDINGS TO BE ERECTED IN 1900

one in New York costing nearly \$500,000 and so adapted to the work as to be really the first distinctive association home. The era of more rapid building development, however, began about 1884. During the year 1899 nearly 40 buildings were erected, some of them as additions to or to take the place of former structures, and nearly as many more buildings are assured for the present year. Among the later buildings are many fine structures, comparing well with other public buildings in their respective towns and thoroughly adapted to the requirements of the work. The typical association home has an attractive entrance leading to a central reception room in which are the business offices and through which only there is access to the various rooms and departments. These consist of reading room, library, parlors, amusement room, rooms for officers, sometimes both a large and a small assembly room, educational class rooms, physical department, including gymnasium, bowling alleys, baths and dressing rooms, apartments for boys' work, kitchen and janitor's quarters. Most buildings for the city associations are so constructed that some part, usually the ground floor, may be rented out. Recently it has become customary to provide dormitories for young men in the upper stories of the buildings. There are now nearly 400 buildings, valued at more than \$20,000,000.

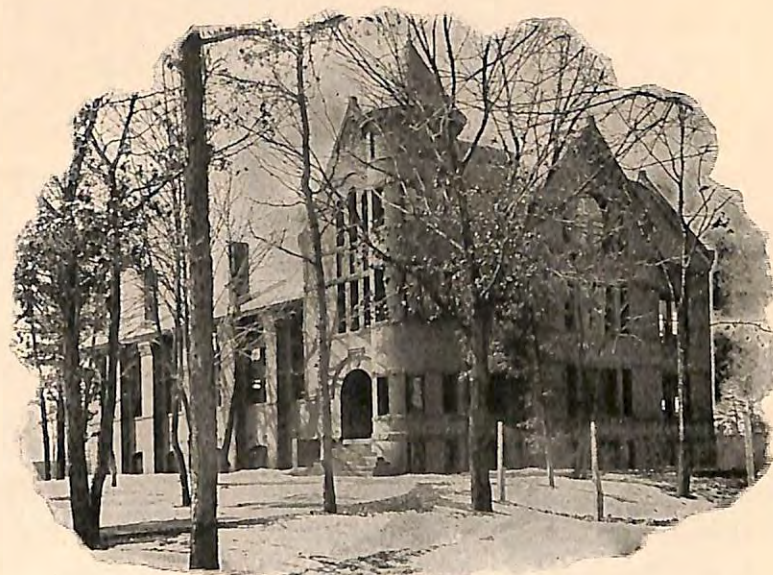
The associations in a few large cities always employed a supervisory officer at the rooms, but the number did not begin to increase rapidly till about 1871. In this year some 12 or 15 of these officers met together and organized the Association of general secretaries. At the sessions of this organization which were held each year, till they were made biennial in 1898, papers have been read followed by thorough discussions of every phase of the qualifications and work of the general secretary, and later of the physical director and other employed officers. For many years these meetings offered the best opportunity for receiving instruction concerning the work. As the number of employed men increased these secretarial con-

ferences were organized in connection with the different states or groups of states. The present number of employed officers is 1275, and the organization of new associations, except in the smaller towns, is not encouraged unless provision be made for salaried supervision.

The growing need of men with a more thorough and technical preparation for the work has led to the establishment of two training schools, one at Springfield, Mass., in 1885, and a second at Chicago, in 1890. The former has secured spacious and attractive grounds in a suburban quarter and has erected suitable buildings for its work; the latter is advantageously located in the new building of the Chicago association, and has grounds and buildings for a summer school on a beautiful lake within easy reach of the same city. The students of both these schools receive not only theoretical, but practical training in every branch of the work.

The international committee soon after its removal to New York, in 1866, began to issue occasional pamphlets giving helpful information about the organization and its methods. Its list of publications now covers every phase of the various departments, includes a hand book of 500 pages, which is used as a text-book in the training schools, many excellent courses of Bible study, and three periodicals — *Association men* and *The intercollegian*, published monthly, and the *Foreign mail*, a small quarterly — representing respectively the general work and the student and foreign mission departments. The *Year book*, made up from carefully gathered statistics with reports of officers and corresponding members, has become a considerable volume, and the published proceedings of the international and state conventions are filled with practical papers and discussions relating to association work.

During the early period of the organization the number of associations and the membership fluctuated greatly, but of late years the advance in the number of organizations and membership has been on the whole conservative but steady, show-



GYMNASIUM



DORMITORY

BUILDINGS OF SECRETARIAL TRAINING SCHOOL
SPRINGFIELD, MASS.



THE DINING HALL



THE TENNIS COURTS



THE EXAMINATION ROOM



THE ATHLETIC FIELD



THE GYMNASIUM



CENTRAL DEPARTMENT
THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO



THE SECRETARIAL INSTITUTE AND TRAINING SCHOOL OF YOUNG MEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

COMPLETE COURSES FOR SECRETARIES, PHYSICAL DIRECTORS AND EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS
IN CHICAGO. SUMMER SESSIONS AT LAKE GENEVA, WISCONSIN

ing naturally some falling off during the periods of special business depression. The 1899 *Year book* gives 1429 as the total number of associations in North America, 1233 of these reporting an aggregate membership of 228,568.

II Local association

The typical American association may be thus outlined:

1 Membership: a) active, Christian young men who constitute the working force; b) associate, young men who join chiefly for the varied privileges. More than one half of the membership is of the latter class. Thousands of non-members in every city also come within the helpful influence of the organization.

2 An incorporated board of management, with officers and a system of working committees. The membership of these boards and committees aggregates 35,000.

3 A paid executive officer, fitted by Christian and business character, tact and technical training to supervise and develop the workers and the work. One or more assistants and in the larger associations a numerous staff are required.

4 A specially constructed building or the best rented quarters obtainable as an association home.

5 Organized departments, each under the supervision of a standing or department committee with its necessary subdivisions: a) business — general supervision, finance, membership; b) religious — Bible study, evangelistic and devotional meetings, religious literature, invitation, visitation, personal purity, temperance, and specially emphasized personal work; c) educational — library, reading room, educational classes, literary society, lectures and practical talks; d) physical — gymnasium, outdoor athletics, cycling, boating, swimming, rambling, all under trained instructors; e) social — an attractive resort, good companionship, healthful recreation and entertainments; f) free employment and boarding-house agencies, and other forms of practical helpfulness for young

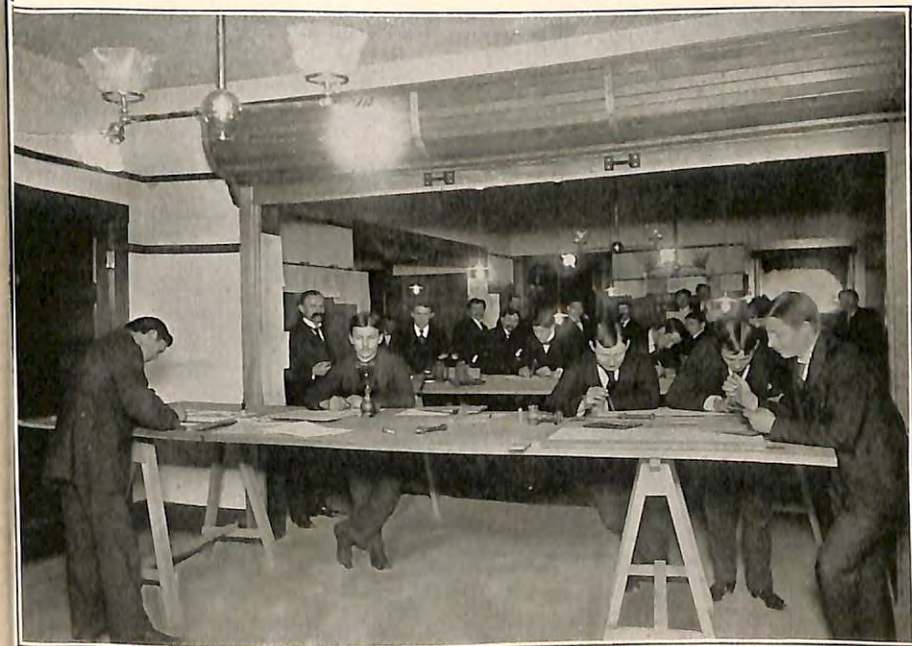
men; g) a work for boys along such of the above lines as may be found practicable.

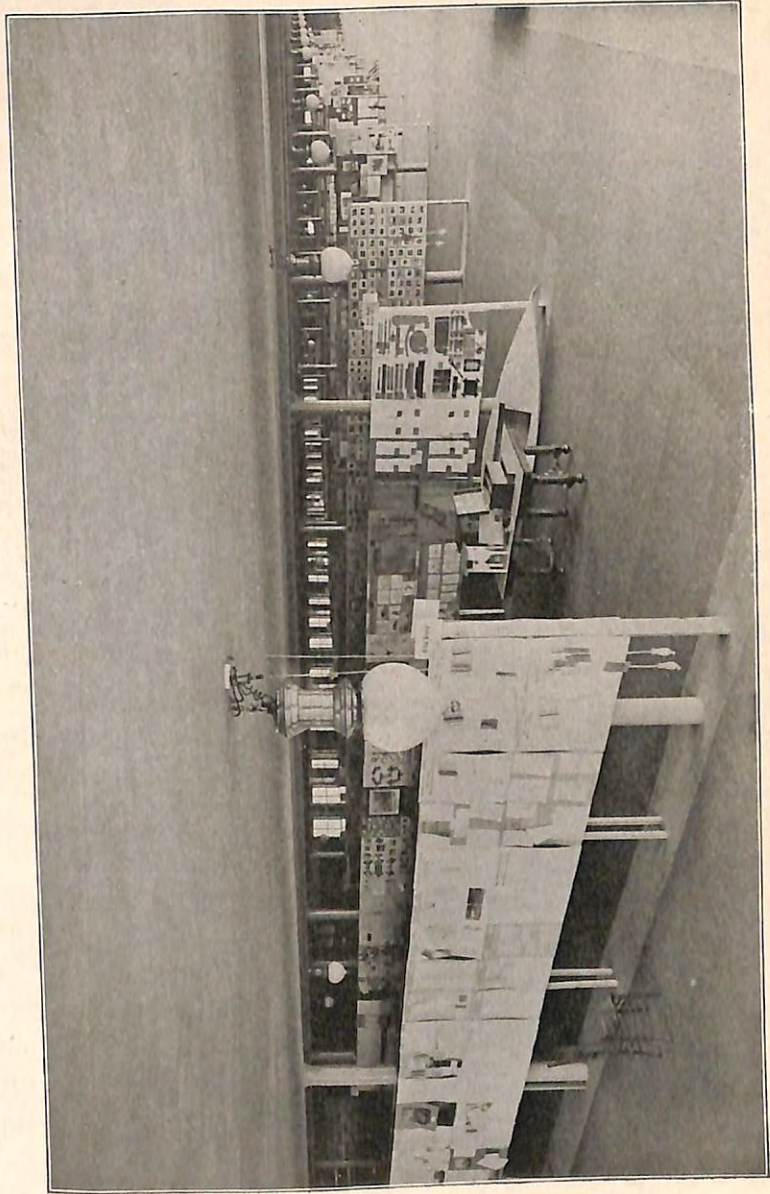
[The supreme interest and effort of the American associations has always centered in the religious work.] No matter how much their scope has broadened by the multiplication of other agencies the directly religious features have been accorded their rightful first place and have absorbed the best thought of the best workers. And although these agencies are used because of their intrinsic value and as directly helpful to young men, yet it is sought to make each in an unobtrusive, reasonable way, auxiliary to the spiritual work.

Among the religious agencies the young men's meeting is conspicuous. Held by nearly every association, usually on Sunday afternoon, if — as it should be — an earnest, bright and attractive service, it is attended by many non-Christian young men, thousands of whom are through it led into the Christian life. Last year nearly 60,000 such meetings were held, with a total attendance of over two and a half millions. In 1866 but 13 out of 59 associations reported Bible classes; in 1899, 794 associations reported 38,578 Bible and training class sessions, with a total attendance of more than 450,000. The Bible or workers' training class differs materially from the evangelistic class. Its membership is confined to Christian young men and its primary purpose is to fit them by a definite and systematic training to help others. The Bible is studied with special reference to its use in evangelistic meetings, in personal dealing with inquirers, and in building up young believers. A very practical feature is systematic personal work by the members, who are thus enabled to report actual cases for the consideration and systematic cooperation of the class. The scope of the class sometimes broadens to include general Bible study, cardinal doctrines, church history and methods of association work. Effort is now being made



PHYSIOLOGY

MECHANICAL DRAWING
TYPICAL EVENING CLASS WORK



FOURTH INTERNATIONAL EDUCATIONAL EXHIBIT -- GENERAL VIEW
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH., 1899

through the Bible study department of the international committee to unify and raise the standard of Bible work through uniform graded courses covering a series of years and adapted to the different lines of study employed by the associations.

Educational agencies have been in use from the beginning, but, in 1892, an international secretary was placed in charge of this department, since which time there has been a substantial and most encouraging growth. Nearly 1000 reading rooms, supplied with the best periodicals, and 800 libraries with a half million volumes, serve to attract and develop young men. Lectures and practical talks in their various forms are well utilized, more than 5000 being reported the past year. Two hundred associations conduct literary societies. Congresses, topic clubs and various other forms of educational society work are reported in increasing numbers and quality each year. The most substantial growth has occurred in the educational class work, which is now conducted in 350 associations and has developed into a strong unified movement for standard evening school work in which each season 1200 teachers give instruction to 25,000 different young men. Fifty subjects are taught, in half of which there are standard courses of study outlined by an international board of examiners. The high standard of these courses is maintained by annual examinations of a rigorous character. Many colleges of North America are in sympathetic and cooperative relations with this movement, so that when a student finishes one of the association courses his certificate is accepted at its face value in lieu of the entrance examination. Several associations have recently received gifts and special endowments for the development of this particular work, ranging from \$100 to \$50,000. At a recent international convention an exhibit of the educational department was a most attractive feature, the scope and character of the work done being a surprising and gratifying revelation.

In 1883 less than 50 associations reported gymnasiums, but the new buildings which about this time began to multiply, afforded better facilities for this feature and stimulated its growth. In five years the number increased to 237, and in another five to 500. These figures, however, are less significant than the improvement in the quality of the work itself. To-day the work is largely on a scientific basis and under the guidance of Christian physical directors, most of whom have received a technical training. An important duty of these officers is to select and train men as leaders, such leaders becoming valuable assistants in the conduct of the physical work. Many associations have athletic grounds and other facilities for summer work, and thus maintain a hold the year round on the members interested in the department. The associations strongly urge a system of all-round training as opposed to that for expert athletic work in one or more specialties. Physical health, needed physical recreation and a symmetrical building up and training of the body for one's life work are the direct objects sought, and form an essential contribution toward all-round Christian manhood.

In 1896 an organized movement in the form of an association athletic league was started in the interests of "clean sport" — being an effort to carry the principles of personal honor and Christian courtesy into the conduct of competitive games. The league has succeeded in raising the standard of athletics throughout the associations, and by its affiliation with other bodies has materially changed the moral tone of amateur athletics generally. [The physical department has proved an attractive entrance door to the association; it offers an advantageous field for social contact and often yields the most encouraging results in the work of personally winning young men to Christ.] Often a gymnasium Bible class is conducted, composed of members of the department and taught by the physical director.

The importance of the social element has been fully recognized; no department can expect success unless pervaded by its kindly spirit. Effort is made to render the association rooms as homelike as possible by attractive furnishing, music, unobjectionable games and the companionable supervision of a reception committee. The association building by affording more ample accommodation has greatly promoted the social element. Many entertainments are provided for the members, great tact and ingenuity being often displayed in adding new and pleasing features. For the past year nearly 5000 such entertainments are reported. Most of the association buildings and some rented rooms are provided with kitchens and facilities for serving refreshments. Often a tea is served in connection with a committee meeting, adding a pleasing social feature besides being a convenience to those living at a distance.

Under the title of "Information and relief" the association hand book classifies a number of useful features. Statistics of the employment bureau appear first in 1875, when 35 associations report this agency. In the 1899 *Year book*, 338 associations report more than 13,000 situations secured. The Boston association during its first year began directing young men coming as strangers to the city to boarding places where they might "find a quiet home pervaded with Christian influences." This line of effort has been followed in most of the cities. One practical result is that the young stranger is brought into immediate contact with the association. Visitation of the sick is a valued agency and is specially called for in the railroad work, the last year's reports showing nearly 13,000 such visits in that department alone. Relief work is confined to young men. Much is done in a quiet way by the secretaries, who become qualified by experience to exercise the needed discrimination. In large cities an extended work of this character can not be carried on judiciously, except as a separate de-

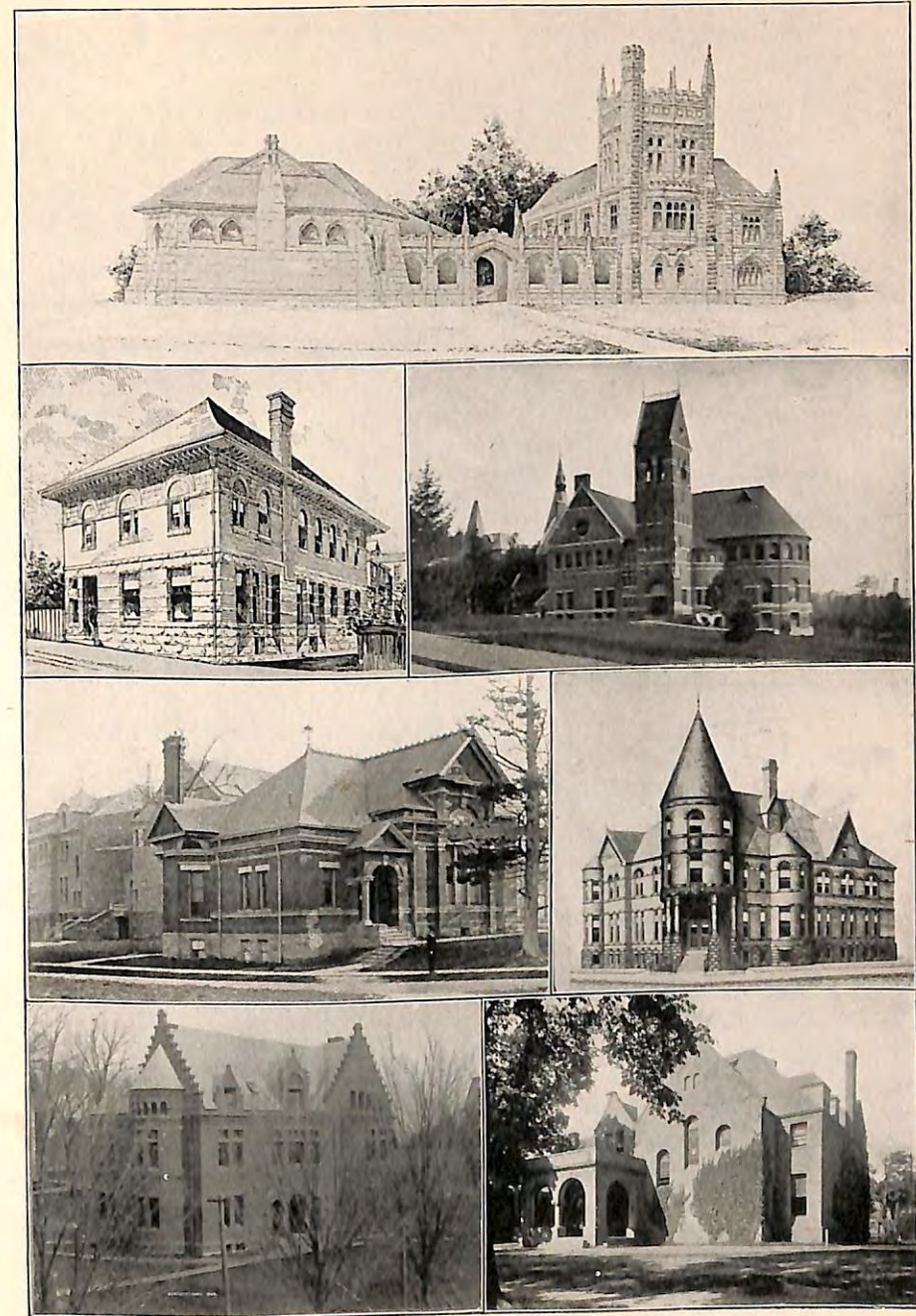
partment. The Bowery branch of the New York association is almost entirely occupied with this work. Its last annual report shows 34,799 lodgings and 100,450 meals given, 3843 situations secured, and an average daily attendance at the rooms of nearly 1800.

For many years some attention has been given to special effort for boys. Many associations conduct a thoroughly organized and broad work of this character. In the 1899 *Year book* nearly 300 associations report definite work for boys with a membership of over 19,000, an average daily attendance of 6000, 15,000 volumes in boys' libraries, 12,800 using physical means, 4470 religious meetings with a total attendance of 157,721, and 2937 Bible class sessions with a total attendance of 48,009. Boys to the number of 1209 graduated from this department into the association proper, and experience teaches that many of the most valued workers are those who come into the association through the boys' department.

The women of America have always been interested in this work for their sons and brothers, and the potent influence and earnest effort peculiar to their sex could not well be dispensed with. Of late years their aid has been given systematically through organizations styled auxiliaries, or by means of a committee appointed in the same way as other committees of the association. Their help is required specially along social lines. The latest reports show that this work is organized in connection with nearly 500 associations.

III Work for special classes

The present intercollegiate movement began in 1877. A few college associations had been in existence for some years, but



JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

CORNELL UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
YALE UNIVERSITY

REPRESENTATIVE STUDENT YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS

there was little activity or uniformity in methods and no inter-collegiate relationships. But in this year a college secretary of the international committee was placed in the field, and the progress of the work has since been continuous. There are now 550 student associations with a membership of more than 30,000. These include nearly all the leading institutions — colleges and theological and medical schools — which are knit together by a unique system of correspondence, visitation and conferences. The work follows definite and thoroughly outlined plans and is recognized as the most potent factor in the religious life of the colleges. Forty theological institutions representing all the leading evangelical denominations have recently become affiliated with the movement. The international supervision has increased with the growing work till 10 men are now employed, their work being classified as follows: executive and office three, Bible study supervision one, visitation six — three for the colleges in the east, the south and the west, and one each for the three special fields, the theological seminaries and professional and preparatory schools. Many state officers also give more or less of their time to the supervision of this department in their several fields. Four student summer conferences are held — in the east, south, central west, and on the Pacific coast — to promote the study of the Bible, association methods and foreign mission work, while in special conferences presidents are trained for leadership and other members for deputation visiting, to supplement the work of the traveling secretaries. At the summer conferences of 1899, 381 institutions were represented by 1187 students, a larger number than in any previous year. The Bible study work of this department is very strong. A four years' cycle, with specially prepared courses is in operation, and 10,500 students were enrolled in these classes during the past year. Many convenient buildings are being provided for the college associations and more than 30 paid general secretaries give their time to the local supervision.

There have been many important outgrowths from the student work, among them the following:

1 The student summer conference at Northfield beginning in 1885 and since duplicated elsewhere in this and other lands.

2 The student volunteer movement through which more than 1500 have already entered the foreign field, chiefly as missionaries under the various church boards. The traveling secretaries of this movement visit the associations throughout the field, while the educational secretary fosters mission study classes, in which there are over 4000 students.

3 The later movement of the Young women's Christian association.

4 The introduction of the association into schools in mission lands.

5 The foreign work of the American international committee.

6 The World's student Christian federation, organized in 1895, and through which at the present time the Christian students of the world — including 11 national and international student organizations — are brought into helpful relationship and made a potent force for combined moral and religious action.

7 The introduction of the English Bible as a department of study in colleges.

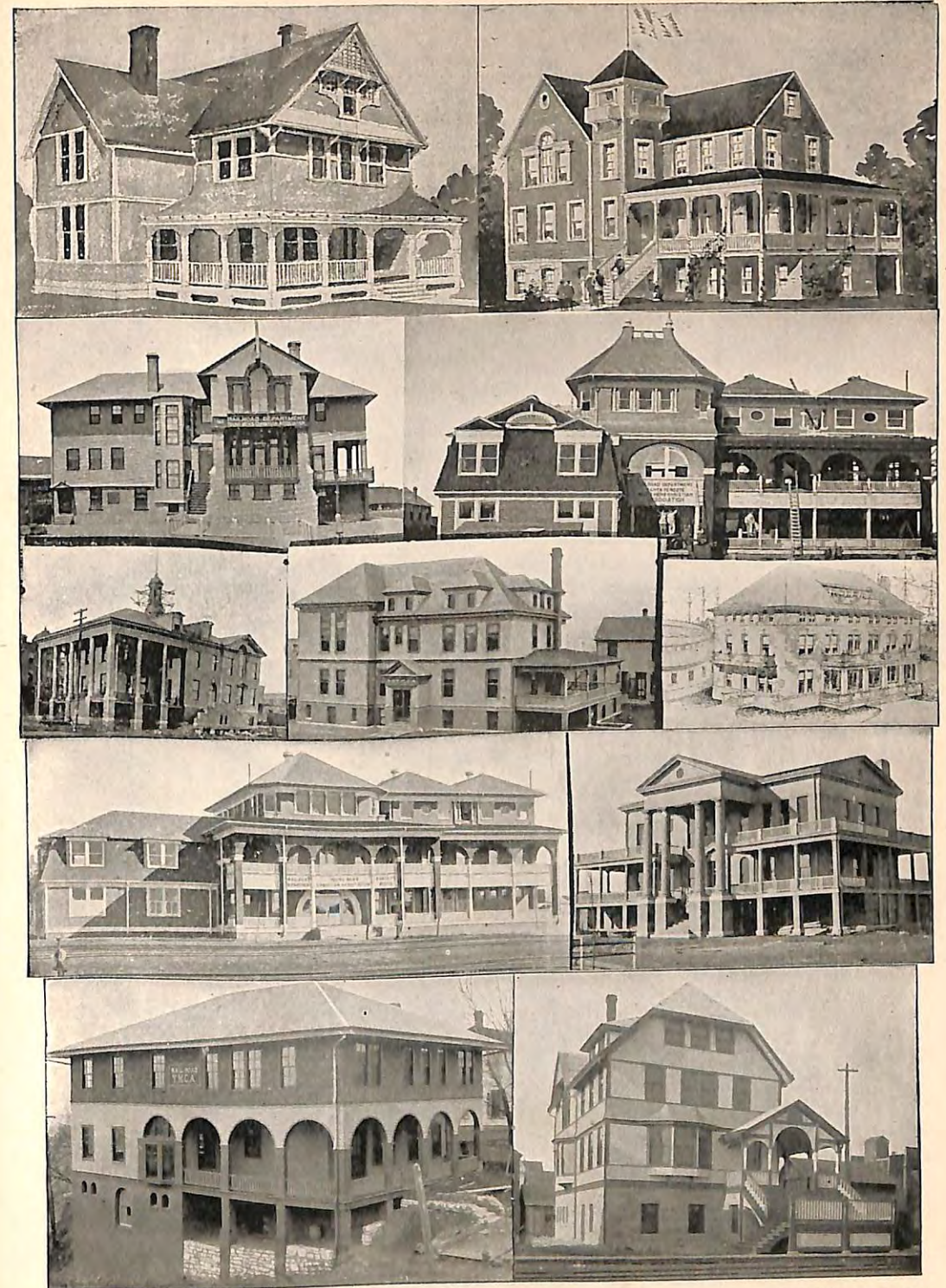
8 The attraction of college students in greater numbers into distinctly religious callings, including association work.

9 Promotion of individual Bible study and a greatly increased religious activity among college students.

10 Many publications designed to aid students in Bible study and religious life and work.

11 Affiliating the great body of Christian students so thoroughly with the association and religious work that their interest continues during after life.

12 Enlisting in the cause of missions many who, as future leaders in thought and men of wealth, will be able to greatly promote its welfare.



PORT HURON, MICH., SARNIA, ONT., same design
 DECATUR, ILL.
 TEXARKANA, TEX.
 TEMPLE, TEXAS.
 POPLAR BLUFF, MO.

ARGENTINE, KAN.

SMITHVILLE, TEXAS
 CLEBURNE, TEXAS
 W. 72ND ST., NEW YORK
 MONETT, MO.
 DU BOIS, PA.

THE TWELVE RAILROAD ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS ERECTED IN 1899

13 Through this agency during the past 22 years between 35,000 and 40,000 students have been led into the Christian life and over 5000 into the Christian ministry.

The present work for railroad men began in 1872. Many previous efforts had been made by railroad companies for the mental and moral betterment of their employees, but the libraries and reading rooms were little frequented, and in no case proved a permanent success. The association work in question had its origin in a religious awakening, resulting from services for railroad men held in the passenger waiting room at a railroad center. It was first proposed by Christian railroad men and conducted by members from the city association and the pastors. The converted men were earnest in their efforts for their fellow employees, and in order to furnish a suitable resort and a place for religious meetings convenient for the trainmen, the railroad officials, in concert with the city association, secured and fitted up a commodious room in the passenger station. A competent man was placed in charge to welcome the men and exercise general supervision. Thus quietly was opened before the associations another door of vast and practical opportunity. Success attended the effort and soon led to the adoption of similar means at other places; but being largely dependent for financial support on the railroad companies, who act purely from the stand-point of business interest and experience, the growth of the work was naturally slow during the experimental period. In 1877 the number of branches had increased to 19, a traveling secretary of the international committee was employed, and the work made more rapid advance. During the past two or three years, however, there has been more marked progress than ever before. In many cases the work is being taken up by systems, the companies asking for the establishment of associations at various division terminals, placing the secretaries on the corporation

pay-roll, and often contributing the larger part toward an association building. During 30 days near the close of the past year eight new and fully equipped railroad associations were opened with new buildings free of debt, costing over \$75,000, 75% of the amount being contributed by the railroad companies. The force of international secretaries for this department has been increased to six, and is still unable to keep pace with the demands for organization and general supervision. There are now 151 railroad associations, but as these are placed at terminal or focal points, where each is a center of influences, covering a large area, the department is not adequately expressed by the number of its organizations. The present membership is 32,000; 4061 are serving on committees, 168 general and assistant secretaries are employed, 55 buildings are either owned by the associations or set apart for their use. Besides the ordinary association agencies certain distinctive ones are employed, such as the rest room, where trainmen can sleep within easy call, baths at all hours, lunch counter, temporary hospital, instruction in first aid, visits to sick and injured, and a railway library from which books may be drawn by catalogue anywhere on the line. Memberships are usually reciprocal, entitling the holder of a ticket at one point to the privileges at all others. The association is highly prized by the employees to large numbers of whom it is a real home. To many also it offers the only available religious services, through which numbers have been led into the Christian life. Many are saved from intemperance and kindred vices, and in some localities evil resorts have been driven out by the withdrawal of the trainmen's patronage. As a single instance, a saloon keeper made the complaint that his income had fallen off from \$3000 to less than \$700 a month since the opening of one of these buildings. The work has the hearty commendation of leading railroad officials on the roads where it is in operation, and many of them are among its most earnest supporters. The belief in its utility is practically shown by ap-

propriations toward its support (not including sums given for buildings) of over \$175,000 a year. The United States interstate commerce commission designates it as "a work commending itself even on the most practical grounds of pecuniary self-interest."

American cities are cosmopolitan in their population and the associations are thronged with young men of foreign birth, who are heartily welcomed. In some cases it has seemed advisable to attempt a separate organization for certain classes of non-English-speaking young men, but it is becoming more and more the practice to assimilate these different elements with the American branches.

Work among the Africo-American young men was urged by southern delegates at the international convention in 1876. Three years later an international secretary was placed in charge of the work. The growth of this department has been along conservative lines and full of difficulties, but there are now in existence 65 associations, 48 of them being in institutions of learning.

Since 1877 work has been attempted among the Sioux Indians, where about 50 associations have been organized and much good is being done. A young man of the tribe, who has had a three years' course of training in the Springfield secretarial school, is in charge.

The broad and flexible methods of the association adapt its work to all classes of men and to every variety of condition. Besides its many-sided city work and the special departments already outlined there are many other fields less important only because less in extent or less fully developed. Effective work has been done among the thousands of young men in the lumber districts, specially in the upper lake region. At the state and provincial militia encampments well-equipped association rooms are improvised in tents; the soldiers are attracted by the home papers, books and magazines, music, par-

lor and outdoor games, conveniences for letter-writing and social entertainments; religious literature is distributed and earnest religious services are conducted. The result in an improved camp morale is such as to win the hearty approval and cooperation of the officers. Commercial travelers — a numerous class and mostly young men — are granted special membership tickets, honored reciprocally in nearly all city associations. Special effort is made in many cities and sections in behalf of firemen, sailors, miners, artisans and mill men. Also in many towns the male wards of hospitals and prisons are systematically visited, religious services being conducted or personal conversation held with the men. The associations as a rule are on the alert for opportunities, where they may be helpful to young men, and seek to adapt their methods to every new problem of rational endeavor.

Mention has been made of the part taken by the associations in the army relief work during the civil war of 1861-1865, and also of the work conducted by many of the state committees in the militia camps. When the late war with Spain broke out another door of opportunity was generally and at once recognized. Letters and telegrams began to pour in at the international office urging immediate action, and three days after the president's first call for volunteers a meeting was held to formulate the work. The nucleus of an army and navy committee was formed, one of the field secretaries was detailed as its executive officer, and within one week Washington had been visited, the cooperation of the government authorities obtained, and men and equipments were on their way to the front. The state committees with few exceptions also took up the work, and did at the state camps what the international committee essayed to do in the national ones. Within two months' time there were in operation no less than 40 regimental and brigade tents, with good all-round association equipments, and



ASSOCIATION ROOM, MILITARY HOSPITAL No. 1, HAVANA, CUBA



LIBRARY



CORRESPONDENCE ROOM

ARMY ASSOCIATION INTERIORS, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO

in charge of 60 trained secretaries. Never before did the association so measure up to a grand opportunity and so demonstrate the adaptability of its methods and the thoroughness of its organization.

The work was maintained through the campaign, tents and secretaries following the troops to Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, as many as 90 tents being in operation under the supervision of 175 secretaries. The tents were large and airy, generally 40 by 60 feet in size. Facilities for correspondence were given free, nearly 4,000,000 sheets of letter paper with envelopes being furnished, for some time at a cost of \$1000 per week, and ice water at an expense of \$100 per day. An organ and song books were placed in each tent, papers and magazines were kept on file, games of skill and recreative entertainments were provided and Bible classes and gospel services were held. Sixty thousand Testaments, as many of the *Army and navy song books*, 10,000 *Medical rules for camp life*, and tons of tracts, books and magazines were distributed. The tents were open at all times for the use of the army chaplains and services were frequently held by evangelists, a section of the army and navy committee under the chairmanship of D. L. Moody, furnishing a large number of these workers. Such meetings were often attended by from 500 to 2000 men, and large numbers were led to accept Christ as their personal Saviour.

The association workers were untiring in their efforts and won the universal respect and good will of both officers and men. In the field they were found even on the firing line with their first aid packages, and rendered valuable service to the sick and dying in the hospitals. Many of the secretaries themselves suffered from sickness and several sacrificed their lives in the work.

For the sailors a similar, though less extensive work was carried on, particularly in the large naval rendezvous at Key West, where a building was opened and fitted up as an asso-

ciation headquarters, and many of the warships were visited by the secretaries.

The hearty approval by officers and men of the association's work in the army and navy during the campaign of 1898, and urgent requests for its continuance and extension, led to its being made a permanent department of the international committee. Associations have been established during the past year at various points occupied by the troops in Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, and many auxiliary organizations formed in the regiments in the field. Associations have also been organized at many home army posts, and the work is received with general favor. By request of the War department the international committee sends representatives with many of the troop ships to the Philippines, and with them a supply of stationery and reading matter for the use of the men en route. Large quantities of such material are also shipped to the associations in the distant fields, more than 25 tons having passed through the international office during the past year, besides that sent direct from other sources. A generous friend of the work has donated a large number of books, which are arranged in traveling libraries, containing about 50 volumes each, to be circulated among the army post associations. Some 20 such libraries are already in use.

A thoroughly organized work is also being carried on in the navy. A general Naval young men's Christian association has been formed with prominent naval officers on its supervising committee, and membership tickets are issued which entitle the holders to privileges in any naval branch, and in the city associations in the principal seaport towns. A naval branch with attractive rooms, restaurant and dormitories has been opened in rented quarters near the New York navy yard, and it is expected to soon supply its place with a commodious building, erected for the purpose. Auxiliary associations are also being formed on many of the warships.

The introduction of the association into Christian colleges in foreign mission lands, beginning with 1884, and chiefly through the efforts of teachers formerly identified with college associations in America, created strong ties between these associations at home and abroad. And as experience proved the success of the transplanted college work, the question also arose regarding the needs of the young men of the cities and the adaptation of the ordinary association methods to them. This thought, which all along had been in the hearts of the leading association workers in America, was first given to the public at the Northfield student summer conference of 1887 in an appeal from a veteran missionary for men to inaugurate the work in India. Later, a formal request for such action came to the American committee from a representative body of missionaries on the field. The question was also favorably discussed by the world's conference at Stockholm in August, 1888. In December of that year an American international secretary started on a round-the-world tour of inspection as the representative of the world's committee. The international convention of 1889, formally authorized the sending of secretaries of the American committee to foreign mission fields for the purpose of establishing model associations at certain strategic centers and training native Christian young men to carry on the work. This was to be done in cooperative harmony with the resident missionaries of the various church boards. In accordance with this action two men were commissioned as secretaries, respectively, for India and Japan, both starting from New York, October 2, 1889, and taking up the work, the former in Madras and the latter in Tokyo. This line of effort has been continued by the committee till its foreign work department has now 18 men in the field, six having been sent out during 1899. In Japan the foundations for a strong native work are being laid, more particularly among the student class. Tokyo has an excellent city association, with capable Japanese supervision and an attractive and commodious

building costing \$60,000, while a well-adapted building for the student work has been erected and opened during the past year. India and Ceylon are thoroughly organized and have a substantial and growing work. They number at least 125 associations with more than 6000 members. They own several exceptionally fine buildings, that at Madras costing \$66,000, and the student building in Calcutta \$75,000. In China five men are located at as many centers, at one of which a suitable building has been erected, and the general outlook is very encouraging. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has a thriving association, which occupies an excellent building, recently erected for its use. This fruitage is very largely from the sowing, and much of it the direct result of the planning and labors of the American committee.

PARIS DECLARATION

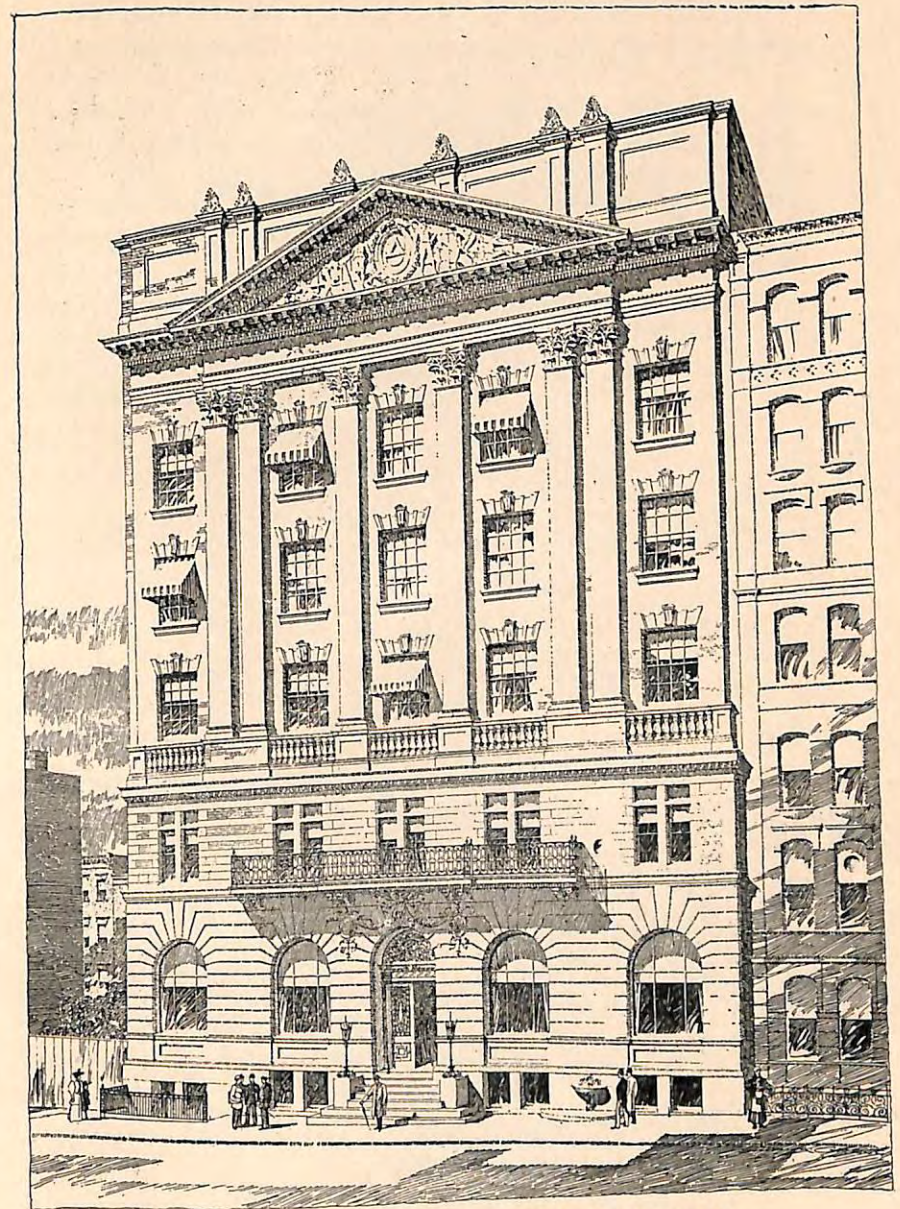
(Adopted by the World's conference in Paris, 1855)

The Young men's Christian associations seek to unite those young men, who, regarding Jesus Christ as their God and Saviour, according to the Holy Scriptures, desire to be His disciples, in their doctrine and in their life, and to associate their efforts for the extension of His kingdom among young men.

PORTLAND RESOLUTIONS

(Adopted by the International convention in Portland, Me., 1869)

Resolved, That, as these organizations bear the name of Christian, and profess to be engaged directly in the Saviour's service, so it is clearly their duty to maintain the control and management of all their affairs in the hands of those who profess to love and publicly avow their faith in Jesus, the Redeemer, as Divine, and who testify their faith by becoming and remaining members of churches held to be evangelical. And we hold those churches to be evangelical, which, maintaining the Holy Scriptures to be the only infallible rule of faith and practice, do believe in the Lord Jesus Christ (the only begotten of the Father, King of kings, and Lord of lords, in whom dwelleth the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and who



WEST SIDE BRANCH, NEW YORK ASSOCIATION

was made sin for us, though knowing no sin, bearing our sins in His own body on the tree), as the only name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved from everlasting punishment, and unto life eternal.

Resolved, That the associations organized after this date shall be entitled to representation in future conferences of the associated Young men's Christian associations of North America, upon condition that they be severally composed of young men in communion with evangelical churches; provided, that in places where associations are formed by a single denomination, members of other denominations are not excluded therefrom, and active membership and the right to hold office be conferred only upon young men who are members in good standing of evangelical churches.

