

July 20th, 1909.

Report of work done since December 29, 1908,

by Lula Martin McIver.

The opening session of The Southern Education Conference which met in Atlanta was given to the reports of the Field workers of the School Improvement Associations of the different States.

At that meeting the Field Secretary gave a condensed report of work done in North Carolina from September 1908. The School Improvement or "Betterment" workers held daily conferences during the session.

Since the first of January the Field Secretary has written by hand over seven hundred letters and a number of post cards, and has distributed many Betterment pamphlets. She has prepared report blanks, copies of which are enclosed, so that hereafter reports from county and Local Associations may be uniform and the amount of work accomplished more easily estimated. Each question asked in these reports can be answered by one or more Associations this year. She has prepared articles on Betterment work for news papers and magazines. She has made addresses on School Improvement work to the Woman's Club at Faison, the County Teachers' Association and the County Betterment Association, of Dublin County. She held two meetings at Yadkinville, Yadkin County, and organized a County Association. She visited and addressed the County Association of Beaufort. She organized associations at Madison, Lexington and Chapel Hill. She organized the County Association of Durham. She addressed the County Association of Guilford twice. She made an address on School Improvement at the commencement exercises of a school in Randolph County and organized an Association. By special invitation she has presented the work of the "Betterment" Association at the annual meeting of The North Carolina Academy of Science,

and has addressed meetings of the Daughters of Confederacy Social Service Leagues, Sabbath Schools and Sabbath School Conventions. She has had many conferences with individual workers. She has had at least ten invitations for every one she could accept. She has received such uniform kindness, courtesy and help from so many people and organizations, it would require many pages to name them all. The Editors, Doctors, School Superintendents, Teachers and Preachers have been easily interested and enlisted. We find that there is on the part of the best school officials a hearty welcome given our organization and most generous acknowledgement made of any service rendered. We find the men of the community easily aroused to the situation when it is presented and willing to do something, if it does not cost much. We find the women very willing to work, but timid about leading. We find the children always eager to work, and in some places they have worked wonders under the direction of a good leader, who is often the teacher. We find other organizations of a philanthropic and civic character asking our co-operation and gladly co-operating with us. We find the Betterment Association of other States looking to North Carolina for counsel and leadership.

Fifty-eight counties have reported associations. We have no report of the total membership. We have reported \$14,773.76 raised this year. This amount does not include amounts raised outside the Association, altho it helped raise a much larger sum and helped carry a number of special tax elections. It does not include the increased valuation of school property made by work and by contributions in kind.