THE work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during the year 1912 can best be grouped under the following heads: Organization, Legal Redress, and Publicity Work.

Incorporated May 25, 1911, the Association now has ten branches, ranging from New York and Boston in the East, to Baltimore in the South, and to Tacoma, Washington, in the West. Our membership is 1,100, which constitutes us the largest organization of the kind that has yet existed, and compares most favorably with last year's record of 329 members and three branches. Two new officers appointed during the year have added greatly to the efficiency of our work, Miss May Childs Nerney, the new Executive Secretary, and Dr. M. C. B. Mason, who has been appointed National Organizer. Ordained in the Methodist Episcopal Chruch in 1883, then a successful pastor in New Orleans and Atlanta, he has been, since 1891, connected with the Freedmen's Aid and Southern Education Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, acting as Corresponding Secretary for the last seventeen years. Dr. Mason was the first colored man ever chosen by the Church to such a position.

The work of Legal Redress falls under the following heads: (1) Executive, (2) Advisory, (3) The machinery for carrying out details. The Executive function rests with the Chairman of the Board of Directors acting through the Secretary. The Advisory function belongs to the Legal Redress Committee. The machinery for carrying out details includes investigators and counsel. Wherever possible we use both white and colored investigators.

Only a few of the more important cases mentioned in the detailed report of the Association's counsel, Mr. William M. Wherry, Jr., will be touched upon here.

In Winston-Salem and Mooresville, N. C., Richmond, Va., and Baltimore, Md., the Association has endeavored to test the constitutionality of segregation ordinances. In Winston-Salem, two colored men, the

Goldsmith Brothers, obtained an option on real estate valued at $50,000, and paid $100 down to bind the bargain. A segregation ordinance was immediately passed to prevent the purchase, and they were obliged to forfeit the $100, "because they had broken their contract." We promptly offered our services and urged that this be made a test case, but because of intense local prejudice, Goldsmith Brothers were afraid to press their suit and our efforts failed. In Richmond, counsel for our Association has had several conferences with the eminent white attorney who is handling the matter for a committee of colored people, which assures us that it will push the case and finance it. The Mooresville case was peculiarly sinister as showing the length to which those who would oppress the Negro will go, for by a city ordinance, a colored man there was forbidden to build a house on land he had owned for some years, on one portion of which he was already living. He requested our aid which was at once forthcoming, but because of the bitterness of public opinion here, too, the case was abandoned by the injured party. In Baltimore the local branch under the guidance of an able attorney, Mr. W. Ashbie Hawkins, has been fighting the segregation ordinance and it now looks as though there were good prospects for a victory for the colored people. Meantime, arrests for the violation of the segregation ordinance have practically ceased and when made the cases have been dismissed.

Early in 1912, it was called to our attention that the colored firemen on the Southern Railway were being discriminated against by a union of the white firemen so that the former were losing rapidly the good runs and even their positions. As a result of their conference with us and a series of meetings held in Knoxville, the colored firemen organized and sent an executive committee to confer with the officials of the Southern Railway in Washington. This committee was well received by the officials who made an agreement with them that no contracts of employment in the future would be permitted without due notice to the colored