

lopers, for whom so little—nothing to speak of—is being done.

A home for them is urgently needed, and would be hailed by them with great thankfulness. A home, in some central, healthy situation, in which they would not feel entirely bereft of all comfort in their affliction. It need not be a grand home,—there is little chance of that,—only a plain comfortable one. It is believed that £2,000 would be enough to begin with on a small scale, to be added to as the funds are supplied. The applicants for admission, alas! will no doubt far outnumber those the mission can provide for, for many a long day to come, unless indeed the Lord should miraculously open the hearts of His people. The means have not as yet been forthcoming to justify the mission in beginning on even such a small scale. Some money—a very little part—has been subscribed towards this £2,000; and yet it is wanted so urgently! Will not the Lord's people pray that the amount may soon be furnished towards this, most undoubtedly, needful object!

It is believed the Europeans in India would help forward such a project, in behalf of their afflicted friends.

If such accommodation were provided, it is believed it would require little for the support of the lepers themselves. Many of these European lepers have sufficient means to live on, lodgement being secured to them. Some have private means, others pensions, or retiring allowances, where they have been in government employ and obliged to leave it when incapacitated for further service on becoming lepers.

Not only would they probably require little from the Mission, but they might, some of them, find occupation, in the work of the Mission at little cost to it. The Mission has already some such on its staff of workers, two gentlemen and one lady, Miss Reed, one of their most efficient and highly esteemed missionaries, doing a noble and most successful work at Pithora, both for the bodily and the spiritual welfare of the poor lepers who are under her care.

In his address at Chicago last summer Mr. Bailey said:—"European lepers—our own kith and kin.—Yes, it is only too true that there are many such in India, and for them one's heart aches indeed. We have three such, one lady and two gentlemen, in connection with our asylums; and I know of one European who has two sons afflicted with the disease, and who does not know what to do with them. A large central Home is urgently needed for such cases, but as yet the Leper Mission has not received sufficient funds to enable it to embark on this new scheme."

In 1896 in "A Glimpse at Indian Mission Field and Leper Asylums," describing a visit to the J. J. Hospital, Mr. Bailey writes:—"Here I found four Eurasian lads (two Protestants and two Roman Catholics). One of them was a very awful sight to look upon, but indeed all were bad enough. The poor fellows seemed cheered by my visit. I had an interesting talk with them, and had the privilege of pointing them to the Saviour. I afterwards sent one of them a bible, he having given me a promise that he would read it. I heard through these men of the death of two European lepers whom I had before known in the hospital; one of them (who will be known to some of our readers as the subject of a leaflet 'Rejoicing in Hope'), bore, they told me, a good testimony to the last. This man, I remember, told me he was glad he had become a leper, as it had been the means of leading him to the Saviour."

In the same publication Mr. Bailey, in writing of the Monagar Choultry and Government Leper Hospital, says that of the inmates, "Thirty-six are classed as European (Eurasian in reality, though some may be pure Europeans)." Dr. Thompson told me of a European soldier who was a leper, and who had set fire to his sleeve in lighting a cheroot, and did not find it out till his poor arm had been dreadfully burnt, so great is the anaesthesia in some cases."

Again, writing from Bangalore: "The doctor pointed out one man and said, 'that is a very good man, and he always appears to be happy, whenever I come.' I spoke to him for a few moments, and found out that he

was a Eurasian and a Protestant. The poor fellow did seem quite happy, but told me he was greatly annoyed by not being able to feel the ground under his feet, in other words, he had no feeling whatever in his feet."

From the same book, under heading "Calcutta," Mr. Bailey writes: "Before breakfast I spent about an hour and a half in the leper asylum, and had a very interesting interview with poor Miss J.; I read and prayed with her, and she seemed very grateful for the visit, poor thing."

In "The Lepers of our Indian Empire," Mr. Bailey, in describing the asylum at Dehura, writes: "Outside the asylum, and a little to one side of it, are two small houses, the larger one, more in the style of a bungalow, with two small rooms and a bathroom, is occupied by Mr. J., a European leper. He is now in his forty-sixth year, and was at one time in a good situation in a Government office, but about nineteen years ago he developed leprosy. After visiting London to consult the best physicians, he has now given up hope of being cured, and having wandered from place to place, has found at last a place of rest here, and a kind friend in Dr. McLaren. The good doctor has had this little house put up for him, and has placed him in charge of the asylum as overseer; and so he has not only found rest but also occupation, and something to give him an interest in life—the life he has still to live. Mr. J., having been in Government employ, has a small pension, enough for his wants—his house being provided for him—and so requires no pay for his services. Poor fellow! it is pitiful to see him go about on his crutches, looking so sad and lonely. I sat with him for some time, and spoke of rest in Christ."

Again, from the same, "I have been much struck on this tour by the numbers of European lepers one now hears of in India. I myself have met and conversed with several, and it becomes a growing conviction with me that the time has now come when a large central home should be established in some healthy part of India, where such sufferers from among our own kith and kin might find a refuge and a retreat. I know of some distressing cases at present which might at once be placed in such a home. One poor fellow, writing to me lately, says, 'God grant that your mission may see their way to opening out such an institution for the benefit of their own countrymen, for up to this it is only natives who have been provided for, to the exclusion of Europeans who have been left out of all calculation! Such a home once started would become, I believe, to a great extent self-supporting, as in many instances European lepers would be able and quite willing to pay for their own board. Should this meet the eye of any one who would like to help on such a noble institution, I hope they will write to me on the subject. It is a work in which Europeans in India would, I believe, gladly help.'"

The following extract is from "The Occasional" of last September, under the heading "European Lepers." In the report of the society for last year, mention was made of the need that there is to do something for lepers among our own 'kith and kin' in India. Since then the secretary has been making inquiries in India. A lady well known in Calcutta writes telling of several cases of Europeans in Calcutta that sadly need to have something done for them. This lady says of them: "Nearly always abandoned by their relatives, they have the saddest of lives, their feet often so sore that they cannot walk, their fingers gone altogether with only the palms left of their hands, they can do no work, their eyes often so sore that they cannot bear the light. I should like to see a home where Europeans and Eurasians could be entertained."

At present the only place for European lepers is the asylum for natives, and some of the latter suffering from the most loathsome form of the disease! There are European lepers who would die of starvation rather than occupy an asylum with natives. Here is a typical case—K. B. tied the leper asylum, but could not stand it. She lives by herself in a small house in a narrow lane. She was apparently cured by Count Matter's medicines; she had not a sore last September, and now she is in a terrible state. Her fingers

and toes were all distorted, and she wants to begin the medicine again, but it is very expensive, and I am not sure that it does any real good. Her relatives never see her, but a brother-in-law pays her rent, and she receives twenty rupees a month from a lady in England."

A Eurasian leper, a Mr. B., lives in a mat hut with a wife and child!

In reply to a letter of the Secretary of the Leper Mission, which appeared in the Indian papers, a European writes telling of his two sons who have become lepers, and says: "The announcement made in your publication that something is being done to care for these poor unfortunates, comes like a ray of sunshine out of the great darkness which has come upon me."

It is hoped that some temporary arrangement may soon be made for these two poor lads.

One good friend has kindly given £210 to the European Home project, but as yet there are few other responses. And as late as 2nd March last comes a letter from Mr. Stark, C.M.S., Calcutta, in which is the following: "A sad case that I must bring to your notice, is that of Will Russell, a European lad of about nine years of age, who was brought a year ago from a Roman Catholic school and left in the asylum. He has just a little swelling in his ears, otherwise his body is quite clean. Poor boy, something ought to be done for him; it is sad to see him in the asylum. Poor lad, indeed! Only nine years old! what a life prospect he has before him! We have all some little ones about us—sons or brothers it may be—children of like tender years. It is Will Russell, the little lad of nine years, who has been stricken—it is of God's mercy that our own are spared to us. But is not Will Russell ours too!—one of God's poor whom we have always with us!—one of the Saviour's little ones such as He took into His arms to bless! Shall we thrust the thought of him from us, as if it were no business of ours!"

Two thousand pounds are sorely needed. Let all God's people who know of the need pray that He would send a gracious answer to this appeal.

## Church News.

### In Canada.

THE Presbytery of Maitland will overture the Assembly regarding the settlement of vacant congregations.

Mr. E. A. MCKENZIE, B.A., graduate of Montreal College, was licensed by the Presbytery of Maitland, April 18th.

Rev. M. R. TALLING, B.A., London, gave an interesting and profitable address to the Y.P.S.C.E. of Ailsa Craig, on "God's Part and Purpose in the Endeavour Movement." The Craig society is in a flourishing condition.

THE sacramental services in Knox church, Dutton, on Sabbath, were largely attended. Rev. Dr. Gregg, of Knox College, who preached morning and evening, delivered two eloquent and able discourses. Sixteen communicants were added to the church roll.

AN eloquent and suggestive lecture was delivered in the Presbyterian church, Morwood, on Thursday evening, May 17th, by Rev. Mr. Winfield, chaplain to His Excellency Governor-General of Canada. Throughout the course of the lecture the speaker was frequently applauded with great enthusiasm. On the motion of the pastor, Rev. L. R. Gloag, the chair was taken and the lecturer introduced by Mr. James Moodie, of Chesterville.

AT the preparatory service in Chalmers' church, Elora, on the afternoon of May 18th Rev. R. M. Craig, of Fergus, preached a most suitable and helpful discourse, which was warmly appreciated by all present. At the close of the sermon, eighteen new members were received into the church by the pastor, Rev. H. R. Horne. The work of the congregation is progressing in a most satisfactory manner, and the outlook for the future is very bright and promising.