

### CORRESPONDING SECRETARY'S REPORT.

In reviewing the work of the past year in our Foreign Mission Field, some very encouraging features are to be noted, and signs of progress and of brightening horizons cannot fail to call our attention to the fact that very surely the approval of our Heavenly Father has been given to our workers, and that prayer has been often answered and promises have many times found their fulfilment in the experiences of our missionaries.

One cannot look into these reports from the various fields without feeling the note of harmony and love existing among our workers, and the witness borne to the faithfulness of the Bible-women and Indian workers. It is generally acknowledged that in the trained native working forces lies the future hope of the speedy evangelization of the world, so we would rejoice in every token of increased usefulness in our Indian helpers.

Still another most hopeful sign is that of the gradual breaking down of caste prejudices, and the widening circle of caste converts. To us Westerners it is doubtless perfectly impossible to conceive of the bondage of caste, and of the almost insurmountable obstacles with which the missionary in the East is confronted as she longs to penetrate the sacred enclosure of the high caste woman. But the faithful, patient, unselfish labours of love, the many ministries to soul and body, the consistent Christian living of our women representatives in India, have not been without their reward, and to-day we hear with wonder of a social gathering where high and low elbow one another in friendly rivalry, and where the desired bringing together of women formerly considered as totally irreconcilable socially, will undoubtedly do much towards paving the way for the receiving of greater truths, and for the gospel of the grace of God, free to all, on which plane high and low meet.

We believe that the girls' schools in India are among the greatest factors in spreading the gospel. In that the heart of the matter is touched, when the home life of the people is coming under the influence of Christian teaching, for a nation rises no higher than its homes, and when these are reached there is

much to hope for. It is not surprising, then, to learn of the gradual leavening process going on in the homes where young women, former pupils of our different mission schools, are quietly sowing the seeds of the truth which they have learned from their Christian teachers. This should surely encourage and stimulate us to greater effort in advancing along the lines of strengthening the school work wherever possible.

Medical work has long been recognized as a most necessary and fruitful field of missionary enterprise, and we are exceedingly thankful to have such satisfactory reports from this branch of our work.

We regret that Dr. Hulet's annual report has in some way been delayed, but through correspondence we learn that by her own efforts, without any appeal to the Board, she has succeeded in erecting an addition to her hospital at Vuyyuru, a row of four rooms and a long verandah in front, with a room for her own office at one end, and at the other the men's dispensary and a room for men. Dr. Hulet hopes to have this building all finished before Christmas.

The energy and unselfishness of our missionaries as they devote time and strength and means to their work should spur us on to added zeal.

Although we have no medical lady missionary at Ramachandrapuram, yet a large work is carried on there under Dr. Joshee, and the leper work there under Miss Hatch's supervision needs no introduction.

We all remember with what rejoicing the news was received last fall of the gift of ten thousand rupees from the Ranee of Pithapuram. Now we have a second generous benefaction from the Ranee of fifteen hundred rupees towards the work in Pithapuram. Truly we may regard these as tokens of the respect and confidence in which our medical representative is held among the ruling class. When one considers the great opposition offered by quackery and time-worn superstition to any modern methods of healing in a heathen land, one can better appreciate the progress that has been made and the place our medical work has won for itself. We rejoice that the accommodation will be so much better in the Pithapuram com-