

just ten village teachers, half of them not fit for the Fourth book at home; the other half might pass a high school entrance examination.

"Where are we to get workers if more of the boys are not educated? When are we to have teachers and schools recognized, or preachers who know how to study the Word of God?"

"Our girls need an education; we want intelligent Christian wives and mothers, but far more than this, for the sake of the direct preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we need men as preachers and teachers, who out of full hearts and intelligent minds can make known the Word of God.

"What shall we do, go on educating twice as many girls as boys, or at least make them equal? May the day come when our Telugu Christians will strive to earn their education, and not for a matter of fact take it as a gift.

"Pray for our girls and boys."

ZENANA WORK AT COCANADA.

A few extracts from reports received will perhaps be the most interesting way of presenting this subject. Our worker writes:

"Hitherto has the Lord helped us.

"Our work in the zenanas during the past year has been carried on as usual, and though among the many we have visited, we have not had the joy yet, of seeing any fully trusting in the Saviour, still we leave the results to God, and reply: 'O, Lord, God, Thou knowest, as did the prophet Ezekiel,' when the question was put to him by God 'Son of man can these dry bones live?' Though the results of our work are not easy to define, yet there has been much to encourage us in it and the promise 'Thy word shall not return unto thee void,' is full of comfort to those who are daily engaged in this work while waiting for the reaping time. In the month of February the Hindu bathing festival was held. The place was then crowded with people from the adjacent villages who had come to bathe in the sacred waters of the Godavari for salvation. We had a grand opportunity of speaking of Christ and Him crucified, to a great number of men and women who have never heard the Gospel before. We rejoice ever in this, remembering that each new man or woman means one more wandering sheep hearing the call of the Good Shepherd. My pupils, I am glad to say, are making rapid progress and some of them showing a deeper interest in the study of the Life of Christ, and in memorizing portions of Scripture.

Another writes: After mentioning the long and excessively hot season she says, "We had the opportunity of reaching numbers of women from other parts of the country as they came into Cocanada after attending a bathing festival in the Godavari, a few miles out of this place. They made a point of seeing Cocanada as they say it is the greater attraction. When asked why they bathed in this Godavari, make an excuse and say, 'How should we otherwise have an opportunity of seeing persons like you and hearing these good words? No one comes to our village to tell us these things!'"

"One of these women, however, had heard the name of Jesus from a missionary lady who had visited her town—Peddapur. They all acknowledge that they still carried their burdens of sin, and many said that hereafter they would give up these things and worship the one and true God.

"This is refreshing after the indifference of so many in this town who have often heard the Gospel.

"The subject of being reconciled to God, was one that impressed a good many during these past months. They understood from the famine, that God is angry with this people because of sin, and when taught that man is at enmity with God, and that each individual soul needs to become reconciled to Him, seemed anxious for that reconciliation and asked how it could be effected, thus enabling us to point out the only way. Some asked eagerly, 'Can you make peace for us?'"

"In this time of distress they can understand that their land is under the curse and blight of idolatry, and quite a number surprised me one day by agreeing among themselves that it would be a blessing if the Government would destroy all the filthy idol temples off the face of this land, and forbid the worship of idols; then we would have to learn to worship the true God and He would bless our land.

Examples of the work of these Bible women in the case of individuals might be multiplied, but in all their reports they especially ask our prayers for themselves, and those they visit. Of the hopeful instances, that prayer may be made that these may be enabled to confess their Saviour publicly, I would ask on their behalf, that special attention be paid to this request during the year, by all our members.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cor. Sec.

MISSION BAND SECRETARY'S REPORT.

W. B. H. AND F. SOCIETIES EASTERN ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Mission Bands as well as other Societies have been passing through "hard times" to judge from many of the reports received, which tell of decreased membership and contributions. Yet on the whole the officers seem hopeful, and their letters to me contain much of interest and encouragement.

The Band at Rockland has only missed one meeting in seven years. Allan's Mills Band contains quite young children who sometimes get discouraged, but their leader writes: "That is just the time when we older ones have to exert untiring zeal and faithfulness." Two new Bands have been organized, one at Winchester, and a Boys' Band at Brockville. Several of our Bands represented here to-day, and their delegates expect to receive new and helpful suggestions, I will now present a condensed statement of each Band report:

CANADA CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

ALLAN'S MILLS.—18 members; A student is supported at Samulcotta Seminary; sent to Foreign Missions \$18.35.

BROCKVILLE.—(Girls' Band) 54 members; two students supported at Akida; sent to Foreign Mission \$45, Home Missions \$28, Grand Ligne \$12, North-West \$12.

BOYS' BAND, 80 members. Organized last November. No financial statement sent.

DELTA.—20 members; one of these was converted and