

Our Foreign Missions.

Heat in India. We complain at 80, wilt at 90, and read of the thermometer at 100° to 105° and deaths from sunstroke. It may help us to sympathize with our missionaries, to remember that they have not even the comparatively bracing atmosphere of 100° in which to carry on their taxing, wearing work of overcoming the awful inertia of heathenism. Dr. Margaret O'Hara, writing in April from the Woman's Hospital, Indore, says: "The thermometer stood yesterday at 164° in the sun at four o'clock in the afternoon, so you can understand how necessary it is to get the work done before the heat of the day. One of the men is making a 'tattie' for my door, which when placed and kept wet, will cool and moisten the air of the house somewhat."

Sickness at Indore. The lady medical missionary writes, "There is a great deal of sickness amongst all classes at present. There have been a number of deaths from cholera this week in Indore, but nothing epidemic. I do trust it may not become so. In Ujjain and some of the other native cities the mortality is high. Our hospital wards are all occupied at present, but the workers and myself are quite well and do not feel the work a burden."

An Indore Scene. A number of the new Christians "writes Dr. Margaret O'Hara in the *Leaflet*, "have built grass huts on the college compound, and it is a pleasure to see them in the early morning. Some of them may not be awake, and lie on the ground in front of their huts. Babies are lying in hammocks which are made by tying two ropes to the branches of a tree, and over these ropes some old cloth is fastened, which acts both as a support and covering."

The grown people are employed in various ways. One woman is cleaning her cooking utensils. This is done by rubbing earth on the vessel with the hand until the metal becomes bright, then rinsing with cold water until all the sand is gone, and turning the dishes, mouth down, to dry in the sun. A second prepares spices for the curries. A flat stone lies on the ground, on this the spices are placed, and with a second stone in the hand of the operator a crushing or rolling process is carried on until the desired result is obtained. Some of the others are making baskets, and others again are preparing the material. They have no implements but of the rudest sort. A woman takes a bamboo pole in her hand and with an iron instrument resembling the broken blade of a scythe she begins to split the wood. As soon as the end is free she grasps it with her toes and drawing the rod up with her hand she completes the separation, placing each piece thus taken off in a basin of water to render it flexible. A number of children are playing about, some in scanty garments and some without any."

Illness of Dr. Smith. "On April 29th Rev. Dr. Smith of Honan was prostrated with typhus fever; after a hard pull of fifteen days he began to recover, and we thought he was getting on nicely, when he took pneumonia. This found him very weak after the typhus, and it was very plain that he would not be able to remain in Honan this summer. So a boat was hired, and thirty-one days after he was first confined to bed we had eight men carry him on a bed down to the boat, and he, with Dr. and Mrs. Malcolm and Miss McIntosh, left at daylight for the coast."

"The seriousness of his illness may be better appreciated when you know that six die out of seven who take typhus in North China."

Mention was made in last RECORD of Dr. Smith's illness. The above particulars are kindly given by Rev. R. P. Mackay, from a letter recently received. Mr. Mackay also gives the following from the same source.

Mrs. Malcolm's illness. "Mrs. Dr. Malcolm of Honan, too, was very low. She took small-pox. It was a very bad case, and at one time it seemed as if there was almost no hope of her recovery, but she is now able to go about, although quite weak."

"These two diseases, typhus and small-pox, are amongst the most contagious known, and we have much to be thankful for that the rest of us have escaped, though exposed to both while nursing."

As will be seen from Mr. McLennan's letter, both Dr. Smith and Mrs. Malcolm are well recovered, and by the time these lines are read will be returning to the field.

Thanks and Prayers. Rev. R. P. Mackay writes: "In all this, mentioned above, there is cause for devout thankfulness. God has been gracious to our missionaries and to the Church, in preserving their lives and in giving indications of blessing on their labors. Ought it not also to stimulate to more constant prayerfulness in their behalf? This serious illness was in the mission, and we knew not of it until the crisis had passed. That may occur at any time, and it should cause us to bear them in our spirits to the Throne of Grace without ceasing. When this letter, which is dated 31st May, was written, the war cloud had not appeared. Let the whole Church commend these loved brethren to the keeping of Him who neither slumbers nor sleeps."

The Outlook. The same letter states that "everything is very quiet. The people are all busy with the wheat harvest. The reports brought in by the helpers are very encouraging, indicating a gradual, steady and healthy growth of the spirit of true enquiry among the people, who are brought into more immediate contact with the preached Gospel."