

GOING UP FOR EXAMINATION.

AN EXPERIENCE IN INDIA.

MISS JESSIE DUNCAN, of Neemuch, writes, in a letter to friends, a pleasant account of her experience in connection with the examination which our church requires its missionaries and teachers to pass in the native language.

"Three of us, Miss Calder, Miss Dr. Turnbull, and myself, left here by train at midnight. We had a tiny car to ourselves, and tried to sleep during the night, two in the seats below and one in the upper berth.

We arrived at the cantonment of Nusserrabad, where the exam. was to take place, about ten o'clock the next morning, and received a hearty welcome from Rev. Mr. Robb and his wife at their bungalow. They were especially kind throughout our stay, and we learned to love the dear old couple, who seemed to possess so much the beauty of Christ. They have been in India for thirty-one years, and that day we met with some who had been there even longer.

It did one good to meet those who have grown gray in the service of the Master in this land, and who, in spite of the difficulties and discouragements of the work, are yet hopefully toiling on, sure that God will do great things for this people, and that there is power in the Gospel to save even these sin-sick souls.

At half-past seven o'clock, the day our exam. began, ten of us were writing at our first paper. We stopped at eleven o'clock for breakfast and for short devotional exercises, and then began again, and with a short pause for tiffin, wrote the rest of the day until after dark. We were very tired, but were encouraged by hearing reports concerning our papers, which were being examined as soon as given in.

Next morning, at eight o'clock, I was called into the parlor, and there, seated between two elderly gentlemen, who were veterans in the use of the Hindi language, was examined as to my conversational powers in it. First, one asked me about the birth of Christ, about the wise men, Herod's cruel command, and other events, then the story of Lazarus, the Prodigal Son, etc.

Then the other, thinking he must take part, led me into deeper water by asking about the theory of salvation through Christ's death, and about almsgiving, fasting and prayer.

They also examined me in reading from our text books. All that remained was dictation, and that was read to us, the scene of the transfiguration in Hindi.

We left by three o'clock for home, and the following day our marks were sent to us, and I was more than satisfied—94, 94, 80, 94, out of "possible hundreds." Thanks for your prayers. They so helped and cheered me.

A YEAR'S PREACHING.

BY REV. N. H. RUSSELL

For the RECORD.

IT is our custom in Mhow to have each of the catechists and Bible readers send in week by week a report of his work, mentioning the number of meetings held, the names of places visited, the number of men, women and children who attend the meetings, the subject preached upon and any general remark of interest.

The purpose of these reports is not so much to keep a record of the number of people preached to or the number of villages visited, though these in themselves are both of interest, so much as to enable me to follow the men in their work and to note any signs of interest which may be developing in different villages.

We never seek by means of these reports to pit one man against another; nor do we encourage merely preaching to large numbers; no man as the result of the year's work knows who has held the most meetings or who has preached to the most people.

Month by month at our workers' class these reports are gone over and discussed, hints are given as to the subjects preached upon, difficulties which have arisen in discussion are answered; and especially are the stories heard from each worker of any enquirers who may have shown a special interest in the Truth during the previous month; a record is kept of all such, and their history followed from month to month.

The total results of these reports may prove of interest to the Church at home, for other reasons than those, however. They show that for the past twelve months the Gospel was preached by my five helpers and myself to about fifty thousand people. Of these about eight thousand were women, fourteen thousand were children and the rest men. This number was reached in about thirteen hundred different meetings, exclusive, of course, of all meetings held in connection with the congregation, and also excluding all Sunday School work.

The first thing noticeable about these returns is the comparatively small number reached out of the total population. There are in the Mhow district somewhere between a million, and a million and a half, of souls. Supposing, then, that these fifty thousand were all different people, we would then have reached only about one-thirtieth of the total population; but it must be remembered that of these fifty thousand and many have heard the Gospel, some ten, some twenty times during the year, and it may be, if it were possible to make the calculation, that these fifty thousand people represent only half that number or less. This fact alone is appalling—that in a whole year's preaching from