

Foreign Mission Board

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JANUARY.

For Palcondah and outstations. That the Spirit's power may accompany the preaching of the word. For the Home Mission fields of our Provinces that many may be won for Christ.

Bass River.

Again the sands in the hour glass of Father Time measures the dying hours of another year. Let us glance back over that time so full of blessings and opportunities. And while we feel grateful to the Father of love for his manifold blessings, we cannot but mourn over the failures and mistakes of the past and pray God that the coming year may be better spent in the Master's service. The sisters of our Aid have met regularly each month, and mingled our prayers at a throne of divine love for the Master's blessing on mission work. We held our annual thanksgiving meeting at the parsonage. We had a good attendance and realized the sum of \$86.50. On the morning of Dec. 27, we held a conquest meeting taking as our subject "Carey and his Colleagues." Our offering was large, our meeting was good and we felt it was good to attempt work for God. We are sorry to report the death of our Sister Carl of Port-au-Pique who occurred at her home on Monday, Dec. 28. This dear sister was our first life member in the Society, but we will not murmur or complain knowing that he doeth all things well and our loss is her gain. We have had two new members this year and are hoping for more in the near future.

N. W. FISHER, Sec'y.

A Letter from India.

THE PLAGUE.

grows continually worse in Western and Southern India. For the week ending Sept. 30, the Bombay Presidency reported 537 deaths and the Madras Presidency 124. As we read about the overcrowding in Bombay, we do not wonder at the death rate. In the Kanadga District, the foulest plague spot, 50,000 people live in 2,000 houses. On either side of a passage 4 feet wide are the chawls or houses, each with a floor area of 4 feet by 9 feet and tenanted by four persons on the average.

And the municipal schools, are they any better? No. Here is a sample. Each of the rooms (8 feet by 10 feet) have a small window provided with shutters, these are usually closed. The room has a single bench of rough mats extending outwards from the building about four feet, and from this other mats are spread, pots, cloth, or scraps of rags are suspended, thus absolutely excluding the sunlight. In one room four beds are burning out in each corner for four separate families. In that house every three six families live. The nightclothes are built together—a bamboo framework covered with coarse pots cloth is suspended by ropes from the beams three feet above the ground floor. On one side families live. In monsoon weather when all the inmates are at home, and there are perhaps entertaining visitors, well, it would be rather close. Six families and visitors in a space 8 feet by 10 feet—imagine!

And this is not the worst. There are tenements absolutely dark and without ventilation. The Inspector says: "We passed over a dark passage about three feet wide. On either side were the chawls with heavy wooden doors securely fastened. Said the doctor, 'I removed a corpse from this room a few days ago; then he opened the door. We looked into complete darkness, the stench from it drove me coughing into the street. I struck a match and I entered but it would not burn in the awful atmosphere. With the exception of the door which opened into the dark and fetid passage there was no ventilation or light. All who have lived in this room have died of plague and the next family who comes will also die; disinfection avails nothing. There are many more houses just like this and the people must live in them for they are too poor to pay for better places, and even if they were able to pay the better accommodations are not available."

It is said that the laws of health demand that each individual shall be supplied with 2,600 feet of fresh air every hour, or 60 cubic feet every minute, or one cubic foot every second. If this is true, and if the appalling overcrowding as related above is true (and both are true), is it any wonder that the inhabitants of sunny India are dying by the thousands, and are we surprised when we read the accredited statement that since the plague first broke out in Bombay in 1895, over one million and a half of the people of India have died from that dreaded disease.

Our hearts are pained as we contemplate the ravages of the bubonic plague but how much more are we in agony over the disease which will result in everlasting banish-

ment from the presence of the Lord. We are surrounded by a plague-stricken people; they press us on every hand. "A sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that deal corruptly. From the soul of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it but wounds and bruises and putrifying sores." No language can adequately describe the depth of depravity, the extent to which these Telugus have departed from the true and holy God. The very air is tainted, it is oppressive, burdened with sin. We can almost at times seem to see the powers of darkness in their appalling mien gripping their victims and leading the way to eternal night. And when one is writhed from the grasp of Satan how he smiles and seems to say, "just wait a few days, I'll get him back." Yes, it is a hand to hand fight with the forces of evil and as we contemplate the ravages wrought and being wrought by the evil one, "the whole head is sick and the whole heart faint." And there are so few to cry, "Wash you, make you clean. Come to the fountain that was opened for sin and uncleanness." So few there are to tell of the great physician who can heal the worst cases and effect a permanent, eternal cure. If God be for us who can be against us? This is the work of God. Success is sure as the foundation of His throne. Come over and help us. Pray for us. How the work opens up on every hand. Here is a village; on the first visit people draw away, a raid of dilemma, the children cannot be induced to repeat a verse or hymn—afraid of demons. Go again: the children gradually draw nearer, begin to repeat the beautiful words and when they learn to sing, see the mother peer smilingly out. Go again—lo! these shy, frightened women greet us in a friendly way and all gather in one place and seat themselves on the ground and say: Low, Messama we want to hear the story of Jesus." Praise God, an opening has been gained! Go again—now see little girls, John will teach the boys the hymns and I'll teach you." "Oh, no, girls must not learn. Again and again we go and persuade and show the picture roll. Finally the victory is gained; a class of the brightest, sweetest little girls you will find anywhere is formed and they delight to learn the gospel story. While we teach, the big folk gather. One young man of open countenance who has been a policeman for a year or so says: "I heard that my relative was baptized last Sunday." Yes he was, and what do you think? Was he baptized for any worldly motive?" "No I don't, I believe that man wished to have salvation, I believe he was sorry for sin and wished to serve the true God."

I am glad you think so. Won't you too love our Saviour? "Well, I am thinking about it. I'm reading the four Gospels Mr. Archibald gave me. I know it is the good, the right way. Such wonderful openings, such grand opportunities to proclaim the Gospel of Christ! The thousands of children we could reach, the multitudes of women we could reach! They call us to the house and call us to that and we hardly know what to do next, and we are so weak, so few in number, so inefficient for these things. The time is so short, the hours are so full. At twilight the days seem to be only begun and the end of the year seems to be but the beginning. Oh, sisters, you who are at home, you who spend hours in preparing and conducting social entertainments, have you not time to get all alone and pray for us and for your Telugu sisters who are beginning to hear about the Light of life. Sisters, whatever your aims or pleasures may be, see to it that in some way you are improving the great opportunity of causing the heaviest of sin-sick souls to be made known among the Telugus."

He was not willing that any should perish." And I his follower, and can I live longer at ease with a soul going downward? Lost for the lack of the help I might give? Perishing, perishing! I thou wast not willing; Master forgive and inspire us anew; Banish our worldliness, help us to ever live with eternity's values in view."

MARIE E. ARCHIBALD.

Amounts Received by Band Treasurer.

FROM DEC. 23RD TO JAN. 8TH.

New Glasgow, F. M. \$273; Yorktown, F. M. \$475; Truro, support of C. John, F. M. \$10; Hampton, N. S., to constitute Miss Mabel Risten life member, F. M. \$15; Bimby, F. M. \$10; Mira Gut, F. M. \$6, H. M. \$6; Fouchie, F. M. \$3; Hopewell Hill, S. S. F. M. \$9.57; Argyle Head, H. M. \$2; St. Martin's, toward Miss Clarke's salary, F. M. \$5; Jordan Falls, to constitute Miss Maggie M. Hardy life member, F. M. \$5, H. M. \$5; Farmington, F. M. \$5, H. M. \$3; Ida G. CRANDALL, Treas. M. B. Chipman, Queens Co., N. B.

20th Century Fund.

Germain st, Dr. Bonne l, \$10, (Hillsboro, Mrs. J. W. McLaughlin, \$2; Mr and Mrs Jorlan Steeves \$6)—\$8; New Maryland (Win Smith \$1, Mrs L. G. Nason, \$1)—\$2; Surrey, Elijah Edgett, \$1; Jemseg, Maud Springer, \$1; Mill Cove, Sydney R. Stuart, \$1; Tabernacle, W. J. Wood, \$1; Main St, O. T. Berry, \$1; Springfield, T. A. Leonard, \$1; Wm Kierstead, \$1, Jas W Ganong, \$1)—\$3; Prince Wm

Run Down.

That is the condition of thousands of people who need the stimulus of pure blood—that's all.

They feel tired all the time and are easily exhausted.

Every task, every responsibility, has become hard to them, because they have not the strength to do nor the power to endure.

William Ross, Sarina, Ont., who was without appetite and so nervous he could not sleep, and Leslie R. Swink, Dublin, Pa., who could not do any work without the greatest exertion, testify to the wonderful building-up efficacy of

Hood's Sarsaparilla

It purifies the blood, gives strength and vigor restores appetite and makes sleep refreshing.

It is the medicine for all debilitated conditions.

Mrs John A Courser, 75c; Kingsclear, Mrs Fred Burgovne, \$1; Hillsboro, 3rd, S Jennie Milton, \$1; Lower Cambridge, G C Hendry, \$1; Prince Wm, J A Lawrence, \$1; New Maryland, Henry Morgan, \$5; Salisbury, (Jordan Crandall, \$1; Steeves Mt, Jas Brown, \$1, Bessie Brown, \$1; Sol A Lutz, \$1, Alphonso Lutz \$1)—\$5; Mill Cove, E S Orchard, \$1; Hopewell, (Mrs J W Doucet, 25c; Jas R Milburn, \$2, Chas D Shaw \$5)—\$7.25; Springfield, Madge Ricketson, \$3; Mace's Bay, S S, \$2; Dorchester, (Edgar Card, \$1, Willard A Crisman, \$1)—\$2; Newcastle, Gertrude Sypher, \$1, Jas A Butler, \$1)—\$2; Hillsboro, Ingram Steeves, \$2; Pt Midge, Alfred E, Grace E, and Bessie M Richardson, 75c; Carleton, Jacob Ross, \$2; St George 1st S S, \$2.75; Johnstn 1st, Mrs M A Perry, \$4; Sackville, Jas Hopkins \$1; Main St, W J McAlary \$1, W S Ferris \$1)—\$2; Jemseg, Mrs W S Ferris \$3; Valley, Mrs W H Gross \$1; Petroladiac, L Bayes \$4, Mrs Amanda Keith \$1)—\$5; Fredericton, Mrs Alfred Davidson \$2; Grand Lake 2nd, Mrs M S Cox \$2.50; Chipman, Evelyn Cox \$1.25; Elgin 1st (Harriet Colpitts \$12.50; H G Steeves \$3)—\$15.50; Valley ch S S \$2; Hopewell Hill S S \$1.95, W E and Mrs Calhoun \$3, J P Calhoun \$1)—\$5.95; Springfield, Chas D Davis \$2, Havelock, Mr and Mrs C F Alward \$3.75. Total \$117.95.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Bonshaw, (Mrs Geo Barrett \$1, Mrs Mark Inman \$1, Mrs Etta Inman \$1)—\$3; North River, David C Scott \$3; Tryon (W B Calbeck \$2; P D Howatt \$2.00; J E Howatt \$2, W B Howatt \$2, B W Howatt \$2, Geo Mason \$1, Webster Boulter \$2.50)—\$14. Total \$22. Total N B and P. E. I. \$139.95. St. John Jan. 4, 1904. J. W. MANNING, Treas.

Foreign Mission Receipts.

Mrs Mary M Hughson, \$3; Two little girls, \$2; Pulpit supply, \$25.40; a friend, St. John, \$5; Dr J C Morse, \$5; Bloomfield St Mission, \$2; Hebron S S class, 10 men; Mrs Maud Patten per Mrs C's school, Bobbitt, \$13; Y. W. C. A. coll to Miss A, \$20.35; Bible Soc Scot., \$28.51; Country Har Cro Roads Mission Banl, \$1. Total \$120.88.

SUPPORT OF MR. GULLERON.

Mrs H. K. Saunders, \$5; Mrs H P Crosby, \$5; Mrs G C King, \$10. Total \$20.

SUPPORT OF MR. GLENDENING.

W M A S B, Waters, \$5; Rev D Price, \$5; Temple ch B Y P U, \$5.50; Mrs Frank Strickland, \$5; Alex Crowe and wife, \$30; Rev J H Bars, \$25; Germain St ch S S, \$4; St. Mrs Gunn, \$5. Total \$148.15.

CHICAGO L. HOSPITAL.

Est E W Archibald (\$100 interest on pledge, \$13.11)—\$104.13; Mrs B W Nobles, \$92; Mrs John Walder, \$5; F A Shand, \$5; A P Shand, \$5; Mrs G P Pavant, \$10; Edgar D Shand, \$20; C Henry Dimock, \$30; Friends of Hospital, River John, \$5; G M Peck, \$2.50; F W Barbour, \$25; J H Bars, Int \$25; C E Young, Int \$25. Total \$346.83.

J. W. MANNING, Sec'y-Treas. F. M. B. St. John, Jan. 9, 1904.

Denominational Fund.

Pennfield ch F M \$5, H V Connell, F M \$3; Campbellton ch (coll) F M \$10; Norton ch H M \$6; St Stephen Y W Aux F M \$25; Brussels St ch F M \$8.23; Prince Wm ch O M Coll, H and F M \$15.65; Germain St ch SS (H M \$5, F M \$5 Gr Lig \$5)—\$15; Beaver Harbor ch SS (H M \$2; Carl and Vic Quar Meeting H and F M \$5.70; Fredericton ch D W \$86.40; Kingsclear 1st ch H and F M \$7; Campbellton S S, Gr Lig \$5; Salisbury ch, Steeves Mt S S etc, H and F M \$10.85; Queens Co Q M, F M \$7; a friend! Florenceville N W M \$5; Havelock ch (H M \$2.95, F M \$2.95, N W M \$3.10)—\$9; C D Mills, Sussex F M \$2; Moncton ch (D W \$12.50, F M \$3.25, H M \$5c, N W M \$1.10, Gr Lig \$5.30, S S, N W M \$20, Gr Lig \$20)—\$63; St Stephen ch D W \$22.57; St Martin's 1st H M \$14.25; South Richmond, An Fund \$3; Valley ch N W M, \$5.25; Hillsboro 3rd ch N W M \$7; North River ch H and F M, \$4.35; Beaver Harbor S S F M \$1; Hodgdon and Richmond D W, \$10.95; Port Elgin D W, \$2; Bayside D W, \$3; Cape Tormentine D W \$1; Carleton and Victoria Q M, H and F M, \$4.00; Leinster St ch S S Prim class sup N N Pr, \$4.50; Mrs Elizabeth J Brewster, Albert N W M, \$5; Mill Cove F M, \$2; York and Sunbury Q M, Millvale Sec, H and F M, \$4.18; Naskwaak ch Q M collection, H and F M, \$10.50; Mauderville D W, \$5; Fairville ch H and F M \$3.85; Florenceville ch D W \$5. Total \$416.23. Before reported \$332.25. Total to January 1, 1904, \$748.48.

J. W. MANNING, Treas.