

LACE-Y REMARKS

Have you received letters from various towns of the Godavari District and other places in India, asking you to sell lace for the writers, who make the plea of poverty for writing? Do you ever wonder how people in that far-away land learned your name and address? Have you thought of making inquiries of some member of the Board before answering these letters?

Now to all whom it may concern, be it known:—

In our own Mission there are many women and girls who are making crocheted lace. In the Central Boarding schools, girls use their spare moments, thereby earning enough to supply themselves with clothes. In Cocanada Mrs. Craig has a large number of poor women who depend entirely upon their lace work for a living. In Chicacole, Mrs. Archibald has women in the Rescue Home who help themselves materially by their lace making. All over our Mission there are women and girls to whom the lace industry makes all the difference between abject poverty and utter dependance on the Mission on the one hand, and partial or full self-support and corresponding self-respect on the other.

All the lace work is supervised by our Missionary ladies, patterns are taught, good thread is provided and cleanliness and neatness is insisted upon. The worker is paid a good price for her work, and as only good work is accepted, we here at home who eventually buy it, may depend upon its merit.

While nearly all of these begging letters come from a neighboring Mission, some have come from two or three men who have made this a regular business venture. They travel from village to village, gathering up every bit of lace they can find, paying a mere trifle for it,—not a living wage as our Missionaries do,—caring nothing for its quality, and then sell it at greatly enhanced prices.

Those of you who have received letters about lace will remember that the

writer has mentioned the great help our Denominational papers have given, and have asked for the Link or the Baptist or the Tidings, as the case may be, to be sent regularly to the given address. Naturally these papers do help, for in them are to be found the addresses of people in Canada, so much desired, to whom further letters may be sent.

Many who receive these letters think they are written by members of our own Mission and feel moved to help. So far as can be learned, none have been sent by our Christians,—they do all their work under the supervision of our Missionaries. But to the South there is a Mission in the Godavari District, as is some of our own work, and it is from members of this Mission that the majority of begging letters come. Naturally you are touched, but please remember our first duty is to our own lace workers,—and at such a distance is it possible for you to really know the merits of the cases? Within the last few weeks there have been passed on to the Board's lace Committee two letters identically the same in every word, written by a woman of this Mission and sent to addresses far apart here in Ontario.

The Women's Foreign Board of Ontario has appointed a Lace Committee. Will you not communicate with one or another of its members before replying to such letters in the future?

The members of the Lace Committee are:—

Mrs. J. G. Brown,
Mrs. Chas. Stark,
Mrs. H. E. Stillwell.

A CORRECTION.

In case there may be a misunderstanding on the part of some in connection with the article in the November Link giving an account of Miss Hatch's visit to Woodstock may, we state that the offering taken that evening was sent directly to the Leper Mission Board at Miss Hatch's request.

A. P. S.