

### PUNDITA RAMABAI ON A PHASE OF HINDUISM.

In former years when I was an orthodox Hindu, I never knew the pleasure of expressing my gratitude by giving thanks to those who did some kindness to me. The Hindu religion never teaches to give thanks. For its chief doctrine is that man get solely what his Karma, or action, buys for him. If he is blessed with a good wife, it must be supposed that he has given a lovely little maiden in marriage to some learned Brahmin in his previous existence; if he is rich, it is because he gave money to the Brahmins in his former life; if anyone is kind to him—if some one gives him money, food, clothing, comfort or help in any shape—it must be taken for granted that the friend who does him kindness is his debtor, owed him money, food, clothing, kind words, comfort, etc., etc., in some one or other of the endless series of lives which the giver and the receiver lived before they were born in this present time. According to this belief no one is obliged to give thanks to anyone, not even to God. In all the prayers addressed to millions of gods and goddesses not a word of thanksgiving is to be found in any of the Sanscrit religious books. The people of India are in many cases better than their religion, and though they do not really have any idea of giving thanks to their benefactors, they show their gratitude by some word or action which gives an expression to their feelings. The old orthodox Hindu, wishing to express his gratitude for some great kindness done to him, says in a very affectionate manner:—"Oh, this person must have been my debtor in the former life, that is why he has done, or is doing this kindness to me, I bless him, may the gods have mercy upon him, may this poor, poor, debtor of mine be happy in this and in the next life!" The gods are not supposed to give anything to men unless men do something to obtain their favor. The Hindus are a generous people naturally. They like to share their blessings with others, but their religion has so marred their good nature that they do everything in a mercenary way. If they give anything to any one it must be given to the Brahmins and to the devotees of some gods and goddesses, that they may obtain some great blessing in many lives in future. What a great contrast Hindu religion presents to the teachings of Christianity. "In everything give thanks." To give thanks to God and to the friends who have done us some kindness makes

a Christian very happy. The Hindu is a stranger to this pleasant feeling, and so he loses one of the greatest pleasures of this life.

### HINTS FOR WORKERS.

1. Grind the weapons of your warfare, with, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."
2. Keep them sharp with the whetstone, "without me you can do nothing."
3. Use them with, "in everything by prayer and supplication make your requests be made known unto God."
4. President, study the sisters in your Society, until you discover the special gift possessed by each.
5. When their gifts are understood, plan for them work fitted to their talents.
6. Never discourage the timid sister by saying, "I have only five of six on whom I can rely," crushing her with the feeling that she is not one.
7. Work and pray expecting to have each one in active service.
8. Secretary, if unavoidably absent, see that your minutes of last meeting are present, at the monthly meeting.
9. Treasurer, plan the Great Worker in with your work.
10. Is your failure ever caused from its being made my work, instead of ours, Christ's and mine?
11. The disciples when sent by Christ gathered money from the fish's mouth.
12. Have your list carefully made out alphabetically, and book properly ruled.
13. Never say, "to-morrow those amounts must be written in," promptness always.
14. Remember it is a part of the work which admits of no mistakes.
15. County Secretaries, touch your Societies quarterly by your pen, if possible with your presence.
16. If one is found to be weakening, double your interest in that "one" until special nourishing causes it to grow again.
17. Strive to make each small Society see that it is a necessary "link." Press responsibility upon them.
18. Let all be bound together with—"workers together with Christ."