

PRAYER CARD LEAFLET.

SUBJECTS FOR PRAYER.

OCTOBER.

For the women and children of heathen lands. For all schools colleges and homes; for hospital, dispensary and medical work engaged in by the missionaries of all denominations.

The condition of women and children in non-Christian lands is a condition so sad, so helpless, so full of privation, and ignorance, and wrongs, that an intelligent consideration of it, in any of its aspects, cannot fail to enlist the sympathies, and inspire the prayers, and stimulate the efforts of Christian workers everywhere. The awful prevalence of infanticide and the selling of female children into a slavery which is worse than death; the different forms of degradation and cruelty sanctioned by custom among the poorer classes; the secluded life of the high-caste lady, with its limitations and disabilities; the system of child-marriage and infant betrothal, with the wretched, outcast child-widowhood it implies; all these are so many proofs of the low estimate placed upon womanhood and girlhood in lands where the benign influence of the Gospel is unknown. The savage and half civilized man, wherever he may be, is a firm believer in the doctrine that physical "might makes right," and so it comes to pass that the inferiority of woman is the settled belief of the Oriental mind. The idea that women have souls seems to be an idea foreign to Hinduism, Mohammedanism, and all the other much-vaunted Eastern civilizations; and in the enforced seclusion of zenanas and harems there is nothing whatever to interest, or instruct, or even to amuse, so that the mind thrown back upon itself, with its powers undeveloped, its questionings unanswered, becomes either morbid and restless or hopelessly dull. And yet these women are not without influence. It has been truthfully said that in all lands women are the conservators of religion, whether