

Missionary World.

INDIAN MISSION REPORT.

(Continued.)

MEDICAL WORK.

This branch of mission work is being energetically developed. During the year medical work has been carried on in all the mission centres auxiliary to the preaching of the gospel, and thousands in every station have seen practically manifested the spirit of Him who ever went about doing good.

This work is done through means of hospitals, dispensaries, house-to-house visiting and village work. It is conducted not only in the centres of our mission work such as Indore, Mhow, etc., but in dispensaries in adjoining towns, and in tours of the doctors, male and female, into many villages. Where there is no hospital the work is carried on at much disadvantage for the most part. Of the many uses to which, in the circumstances of our Indian missionaries, hospitals are put, Dr. Buchanan gives us a good idea:

"The hospital at Ujjain, which has been a labour of love, was completed this year. The new hall, in addition to being the place where the patients are gathered day by day to hear the Word, has been a great help to the mission, as it is here we have been having our regular Sunday and week-day meetings of the Christians. It has been largely used also for evangelistic meetings. As four large double doors open to the front verandah, which is sixty feet long by ten wide, its capacity is thus much increased. This two-story building, together with four new out-houses, has been erected without drawing upon the mission funds of the Church."

Of the hospital at Indore, under the care of Drs. Marion Oliver and Margaret McKellar, the report says:

"A gospel service is held every afternoon from four to five, for all who are able to attend it, and we have sought also to keep in mind that the admission of a sick woman to the hospital means a God-given opportunity for individual conversation with her and the friend or friends who come to stay with her. Thus not only the sick ones but many others have been taught the way of salvation."

VILLAGE WORK.

These ladies speak of visiting twenty-six villages in their touring expeditions. Miss Dr. O'Hara tells of ten round Dhar which she visited. And Miss Dr. Agnes Turnbull, in company with Miss Duncan, speaking of their work says:

"We have done a good deal of village work during this cold season. We have visited most of the large villages on the main roads within a radius of twelve miles, and many of the smaller ones also to which there are only rough tracks across the plain; and we have been almost always very well received and even gladly welcomed. Miss Duncan and I have gone together and taken with us a Bible-woman who has helped us with the singing of hymns and explaining the Gospel message, after which I have dispensed medicine to many and visited others in their homes."

From the "statistical table" we learn that at Indore, Ujjain, and Neemuch, there are a hospital and dispensary, and at Rutlam and Dhar each a dispensary. The statistics of cases are: In-patients, 317; out-patients, 25,998; number of treatments, 110,419; visits to patients in their homes during itinerancies, 1,195; average daily attendance at Bible-readings at all the hospitals and dispensaries, 1,642.

WORK AMONG THE YOUNG—HIGHER EDUCATION.

A large part of the report is devoted to this most important part of the work. It is treated under the head of (I) Higher Education. This is conducted chiefly at Indore.

"Our new building," says Mr. Wilkie, "is a very great comfort to all concerned and enables us to do our work in a very much more satisfactory way."

School attendance has increased; the report shows nearly fifty per cent. during the year at Mhow, the attendance at classes for different castes being 294. The Inspector's reports of the teaching and progress are most satisfactory. "Altogether," he says, "I am much pleased with the general progress

effected in the educational work of the mission during the year, especially with the attention devoted to the extension of vernacular education on a sound basis."

II. MIDDLE AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Reports of schools of this kind are given from Neemuch, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Rutlam, Dhar and Mhow, and there are besides schools in various places. The work is subject to many interruptions from visitations of epidemic diseases, as cholera, small-pox, or the marriage of the scholars or their friends, yet much precious seed is sown which will bear fruit, is, indeed, doing so. Of the work done and its result, Mr. Wilson says:

"The Bible lesson is given the chief place and is taught by one of our best agents. Since my return I have been looking anxiously for fruits of previous work, and what I have found is chiefly this, that many of those who have gone through our schools now occupy influential positions of various kinds and are friendly disposed towards us."

Where Christianity is not embraced, conscience is awakened so that they can no longer yield obedience to or practise the immoralities of the Hindu religion.

III. GIRLS' PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

Of these there are twenty-five reported, including a Marathi girls' school at Indore, with 196 names on the roll and an average attendance of seventy-five. This is a most hopeful and important part of missionary work. These girls are to be the wives and mothers of the future, and their influence for Christianity will yet be all-powerful. Encouragements and discouragements are alike mentioned in the report, but the general tone is one of hopefulness, patience and courage expressed by Miss Duncan as follows: "The Government Inspector expressed himself as very much pleased with the progress and deportment of the scholars." Miss Campbell says: "Very marked progress has been made by the pupils of this school during the year. There is also a growing tendency on the part of parents to allow their girls to remain longer in school."

IV. GIRLS' BOARDING SCHOOL.

This is at Indore and in charge of Miss White, who says thirty-four boarders are in actual attendance and the school has been very favourably reported upon by the Government Inspector:

"During the year one of the girls was baptized and with three others united with the Church, thus making ten now in full communion. The Y.W.C.A. branch, organized by the girls under Miss Sinclair nearly eighteen months ago, continues to flourish. Meetings are held weekly in which many ably take part. This society, in addition to affording a wider knowledge of Scripture, has been the means of training the girls to help others."

V. SABBATH SCHOOLS.

Respecting these we shall quote only a single sentence or two from Rev. Mr. Wilkie's report upon the boys' school and Miss Oliver's girls' school at Indore. The former says:

"Our Sabbath schools have continued to increase in number and influence. There are at Indore in all twenty-four Sunday schools. Every Sunday morning the whole community, European and native, take part in this work, in twenty-four different centres. Three new schools are conducted by those who three years ago were regarded as low Hindus, and though their schools are hardly up to our Home standard yet they are doing a splendid work in their own simple way for the Master. At Christmas we had our usual examination and gathering of the children in the college hall. Over 1,000 were present, of whom about 850 were our actual scholars."

Miss Oliver thus refers to her Sabbath school work:

"Every Sunday of the year our class of Mang Christian women and in-patients has met for two hours in the waiting room of the hospital. When you think of the material we have to work upon—grandmothers, mothers, children and grandchildren of the poor Mang Christians living in mud or straw huts on the compound, together with 'the lame, the halt, the blind,' and such like from the hospital wards, not one of whom can either read or write, nor has ever been taught to think for herself—you will not be surprised to hear that our progress has been slow."

The number of Sunday schools in the mission altogether is fifty-six; of scholars, 2,546; and of teachers, 102, which means a large amount of Christian work constantly and faithfully carried on.

(To be continued.)

Young People's Societies.

CONDUCTED BY A MEMBER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEE.

A RISING TIDE

The Christian Endeavor movement moves forward like a great shoreward tide. The fall conventions held in the separate States and Provinces have been unprecedented for their size, interest, and power. Dr. Clark has had similar experience in Britain where he lately spent a few days addressing meetings. The biggest hall in Scotland was jammed at the Glasgow meeting, and Belfast had no building large enough to accommodate all who attended the sessions of the Irish National Convention. Spurgeon's Tabernacle was crowded to the last degree in a Christian Endeavor rally, presided over by Rev. F. B. Meyer and addressed by the American visitor. All which shows the magnificent enthusiasm of the young people and of the Church on their account. Nor is the enthusiasm so much empty air. It is turning many wheels and spindles. Local church and charitable work, and the larger field of missions are receiving the benefit. Young people are practical. They will soon discard whatever does not work. The wisdom, therefore, of the leaders is to keep the practical side to the front. It should never be lost sight of that the movement is one of Endeavor.

A CYCLING TESTIMONY.

Almost every young man now can cycle. Seeing a young man pass, going like the wind and as straight as an arrow, a friend said, "That is the champion cyclist in our county." Recently I had the pleasure of meeting him.

He has over seventy prizes gained by cycling, forty-one gold medals, three silver ones, and the rest made up of such things as a silver tea-set and a marble timepiece. Last year he rode one hundred miles in five hours, thirty-four minutes, twenty-two seconds; and last year also he won the fifty miles road record in two hours, thirty minutes, nine seconds, which means that he went on a road for fifty miles at the speed of one mile in every three minutes and much less than half a second.

He began his successful career by finding that the more regularly he pedalled and the straighter he rode he went the quicker. In a long race—he has broken three times the road record for one hundred miles—there is no time allowed to take any refreshment. It must be taken on the back of the bicycle. This champion cyclist usually takes fruit or some thin gruel.

"Did you ever take spirits of any kind?" I asked. "I mean whiskey or brandy."

"No. They cut the breath short. You can't race and take brandy. Any one who tries it is soon broken winded and puffed. It may help for a little, but it leaves you worse. I believe that if five or six men were together in a race say two miles from the tape, and one was handed a drink of brandy, it might let him break away and win easily. But if he had ten miles or had a long race before him he would find great difficulty in riding. His breath would be cut."

"So you don't believe in brandy?"

"No. It may help for a short spurt, but is no good for a long run. Only a temperate man can be a good racer."

As I thought of the wide meaning of this as applied to life instead of cycling, I said, "Do you know, you are giving a strong testimony for temperance? We ministers often teach that spirits do more harm than good for a long and successful life, and that they are only good in, say, an accident or illness, when you need strength to pass quickly some danger. Would you kindly allow me to make known your experience and words? People are willing to believe a champion cyclist."

"Yes, I am quite willing."

This is now done in the above lines.—
Rev. J. M. Strachan, B.D., in *Guild Life and Work*.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH IN CHRISTIANITY.

Dec 6th.—Mark ix. 24-29.

This is a very practical subject. Many Christians whose faith is weak and who are desirous of enjoying a stronger, are asking how their faith may be strengthened. Many are troubled with "honest doubt" and they would gladly cast these doubts to the winds and enjoy the peace which comes from faith. Many Christian workers are troubled when they see such insignificant results from their labors, and they feel inclined at times to give up the cause.

"O! It is hard to work for God.
To rise and take our part
Upon the battlefields of earth
And not sometimes lose heart."

If anything can be done to brighten hope, and to strengthen faith, it is well that we should know it. If there are "aids to faith" we should know what they are.

I. Our faith may be strengthened by a careful study of the life of Christ. No study so interesting, so profitable, so fascinating as this! Christ should be the centre of all our study and thought. It is true, as Paul declares, that the invisible things of God from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made (Rom. i. 21). But the intellect of man and his heart, too, cry out for a fuller revelation of God than can be seen in nature. Now is it reasonable that the loving Father should give a fuller revelation of Himself? Certainly. Would we not expect that this revelation of Himself would be such that man would understand Him better and love Him more? This is surely what we would expect. Was not the revelation which God made of Himself in Christ just such as we would reasonably look for? This question can be answered only as we understand the life and character of the Lord Jesus. Now the gospels show most clearly that Jesus was in every respect a true man, having taken upon Himself a true body and a reasonable soul. Would not our reason say that, since God desired to reveal Himself more fully than He had ever done before, He would make Himself known to the world in the person of a man? Most assuredly. But the evangelic story shows that Christ was more than man—that He was holy, harmless and undefiled and separate from sinners. Would not our reason further say that this was what was to be expected? Had Jesus been only a man, living on no higher plane than others, teaching no other lessons than those which had been taught before, we would question whether He was the Divine Word. But a careful study of the life of Christ shows that He was all that He claimed to be—the Son of God, declaring the mind and will of God for our salvation. Let the life of Christ be studied by us till this thought is burned into our consciousness. Thus will our doubt speedily disappear. Then can we say, "Standing where I stand and weeping where I weep, He enters by the openings which grief has made into my heart and gently makes it all His own. . . . He takes hold of me by my sorrow that I may take hold of Him for deliverance from my sin."

II. Our faith may be strengthened by more prayer. To produce the best results our study should be prayerful study. While we are reading the story of Christ's beautiful life we should be much in communion with Him, for thus more and more will His beauty be revealed to us, and the more clearly we apprehend the glory of His character the more implicit will be our trust in Him. Then, too, if we are earnest in prayer our labors will be more abundantly blessed, and as our labors are blessed, doubt vanishes and faith is strengthened.

III. Doubt is sometimes banished and faith is strengthened by active work. A young minister was often troubled with doubts, and he confided his state of mind to a friend. In the course of time that young minister went out to a mission field. When he came home on furlough, his friend enquired, "How about your doubts now, Doctor?" "Why," said he, "I have been too busy to think about them." It is a true saying that assurance is not so much gained by self-examination as by action. It is reported of a famous preacher that whenever he was troubled with doubts, he went down into the slums of the city to preach to the poorest and the worst; and the result invariably was that his faith was strengthened. Suppose we try the remedy.