

tionary workers in Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies and to combine with such training the facilities for rest and recreation that most Christian workers are obliged to seek in connection with their brief summer vacations.

Among the speakers for the Conferences of 1904 are the following: Mr. John R. Mott, Mr. Robert E. Speer, Mr. John Willis Baer.

It is expected that the Missionary Secretaries for Young People's Work of the leading Missionary Boards of America will be present. In addition to these an invitation is extended to leaders and workers in national, state, district, and local Sunday-school, and Young People's organizations.

Missionary Secretaries and other leaders who are in closest touch with church activities have come to regard these Summer Conferences as one of the most effective agencies for the better equipment of young people for leadership in missionary work in the local church.

Reduced railway rates and a combination of other favorable conditions make it possible to offer the benefits of these Conferences to representatives of Sunday-schools and Young People's Societies for but little more than half of what ordinarily would be the expense of such vacation privileges.

Additional information concerning these Conferences may be had by addressing the Young People's Missionary Movement, 156 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Christmas Day Among the Famine Orphans at Dhar, Central India.

(From the Victorian India Orphan Society.)

Owing to a variety of causes, a much longer time than usual has elapsed since any news of the famine orphans at Dhar, Central India, has been given to readers of the 'Northern Messenger,' amongst whom the Society has many subscribers.

We are glad to tell our friends that the work is being carried on most successfully. Last fall, for the first time, the Society made a special effort and sent out Christmas gifts for all connected with the Orphanage, missionaries, native helpers, and children, besides sending \$10, which provided a good dinner for Christmas Day, which was served out of doors, the children being seated, native fashion, on the ground behind the new orphanage building, with their dishes in front of them. The following extracts from a letter just received give a good idea of how happily this large family of ours spent the day:—

'The gifts came in time, and Mrs. Russell and I got them labelled and ready for distribution. On Christmas morning all the orphans marched to church, where we had a very nice service. After that all the boys and girls, with the married couples who had gone out from amongst them and who are living in Dhar, assembled at the back of the Orphanage to eat their dinner and be photographed. They greatly enjoyed the good dinner which the \$10 extra provided for them. The children all wished to invite their "brothers and sisters," as they call the married ones, and we felt that this was a pleasure the Society would heartily agree to them having. After they had feasted and played

(their one feast in the twelve months), they assembled at Mr. Russell's bungalow at four o'clock. Whilst we had been at church in the morning, Mrs. Russell had arranged a "fish pond" for the gifts. The dining-room table was placed top down and legs up, in the verandah, which is very large; a bamboo pole was fastened to each leg, and on these were tied paper flags, red, blue, yellow and green, forming the four corners of the "pond." A Canadian ensign fastened round formed the sides, and in this enclosure all the presents were put, and each one "fished" for her or his own. One of the teachers sat inside the "pond," called out the names in turn, and when the child put down the line he fastened on the gift. I wish you could have heard the shouts of laughter as the line pulled up the precious gift. It took two hours' hard fishing to get them all out. Each one got print for a jacket, a bag of sweets, and either a toy or a cake of pretty colored soap.

'They were very, very happy, and all send you very many salaams; they also wish to send you their Sunday-school examination certificates; I am sure you will be very much pleased by this to see that the children are growing in Bible knowledge, and many who should have passed the examination failed because they were so nervous.

'Whilst I am writing, fourteen of the smallest girls are in the study having their jackets cut out by one of the teachers. They are having a week's holiday from lessons, and are going to make their jackets by way of a change. The weather is bitterly cold, and the girls are huddling as close together as they can and talking in whispers lest they should disturb their "Miss Sahib" who is writing to the "Mem Sahibs" in Canada.

'Very many thanks to all those who helped us to have such a happy, happy Christmas. May the New Year bring much blessing and success upon your efforts at home and upon us here.'

The dear children's desire to shew their gratitude to their friends in Canada is very touching. The nineteen certificates received were obtained in July by successfully passing the Examination of the All India Sunday-school Union, and to the writer it seems that these certificates must have been very precious to the children. We trust that at the next examination they may not be so nervous, so that a much larger number may be successful.

All the children are very well, the dreaded plague not having visited Dhar, though it was very bad at Mhow, only 30 miles away, where one-third of those who remained in the city died.

We hope to be able to give the annual report of the work done amongst the children shortly, and trust that more may become interested in this work for the uplifting of these poor little waifs gathered from the lowest and most destitute of India's teeming millions.

\$17.00 a year pays for the entire maintenance and training of a child, and the annual membership fee of the Society is \$1.00. Further information can be obtained from Mrs. Crichton, the secretary-treasurer, 142 Langside st., Winnipeg.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE VICTORIAN ORPHAN SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Victorian In-

dia Orphan Society was held in the Y. W. C. A. Building at Winnipeg.

The treasurer's report, submitted by Mrs. A. S. Crichton, showed more than fifty percent increase in the surplus over last year. The receipts of the year were:

Balance on hand	\$ 50.52
Maintenance fees received	769.50
Membership fees	96.00
Sundry contributions	75.66
Special subscription for Christmas gifts	83.05
Total	\$1,024.73

Expenditures.

Remitted to India	\$ 860.00
Post-office orders	8.60
Stationery, stamps, 'Northern Messenger,' etc.	11.00
Christmas gifts and carriage	21.86
Contribution to Y.M.C.A.	10.00
Total	\$911.46
Leaving a balance in hand of	113.27
	\$1,024.73

'Twenty children are now provided for by individual friends in the city. One is supported by the C.E. Society of Knox church, and two by the junior society, St. Andrew's primary class provides for one, and also in December sent in an additional subscription of \$7. The Bible class of Point Douglas church maintains one and the little folks of St. George's kindergarten class have again come to our help. Out of the city, friends in Toronto, Montreal, Keewatin, Vancouver, Carman, Plymouth, Melita, Man.; St. Eugene, Hyde Park Corner and Lanark, Ont., each support one; six are provided for by Sunday-schools or societies at Sidney, Larioviere, Beulah, Oak Lake, Otterburne and Oakland, Man.; one by a C.E. society at Prosperity, N.W.T.; one by a Sunday-school in Montreal; another by A. W. C. T. U. in Quebec; a Sunday-school at Doon, Ont., maintains one, and two others are supported by a mission band at Gibson, Ont., and a Sunday-school class at Orangetown in the same province.

'This year, as last, brought again a most welcome contribution of \$20 to our funds from an unknown generous donor of Knox church, and a similar anonymous contribution of \$12 from Point Douglas church.

'In the fall, we made a new departure, raising a special subscription for Christmas gifts for all the children, native helpers and the missionaries who superintend the work, for which we raised the sum of \$33.05.

'From the Atlantic on the east to the Pacific on the west we have deeply interested supporters. Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, the Territories and British Columbia, besides many outside points in Manitoba, all send in their contributions, entailing, as may easily be imagined, a large amount of correspondence; for this widespread interest we are largely indebted to John Dougall and Son, of Montreal, who have, through their valuable little missionary paper, the 'Northern Messenger,' conveyed throughout the Dominion and beyond, the tidings of the work this society in Winnipeg is striving to do for the material and spiritual uplifting of some of the subjects of our British Empire, separated very far from us by land and ocean.'

MRS. CRICHTON.

141 Langside st., Winnipeg.