

half hours, or something else showing life in India. Be sure to choose one which gives a fair—not an exaggerated or one-sided—picture of that land, and its people, one you would be quite satisfied to have your Indian friends come in and see you play. Try, too, to find a play portraying a natural situation and dialogue rather than taking an artificial, preachy one which you yourselves cannot enjoy and against which your audience may very likely react.

What preparatory work must be done before you can get your message across through your dramatization? To have any real value, before the play is undertaken there must be a study of the country where the scene is placed and an effort made to understand and appreciate the background, the training, the outlook and the aspirations of the characters that are to be played. Much of the effectiveness of your play will depend on this preparation. But you have many helps. You probably own a copy of "India and Her People" and of Dorothy Kilpatrick's "Prince Rama and other Tales." You can perhaps borrow from some member of your W.M.C., "New Days in Old India," "Building with India" "The Wonderland of India," and back numbers of *The Missionary Link*. Then some members of the group may be able to bring from home "The National Geographic Magazine," or "Asia." These will all help you. Suppose each member of the group were to get a small note book in which to tabulate and sum up the information you are able to secure from all sources. You might make individual maps in these note books and a collection of pictures from India or you might have a group Indian scrap-book. These will greatly help you when it comes to "dressing up." Perhaps you will divide your group into committees which will report on, for example, schools in India, home life among the Hindus, social problems of the people, what kind of Christians the people of India make, how missions are changing conditions. You will discuss these reports and sum up the findings in your note-books that you may have them later for reference. This preliminary work will likely take several mid-week meetings.

Now you are ready to go at the play, assign the characters and arrange for staging and costumes. You should certainly try to make the costumes yourselves rather than to rent them. The Baptist Board in New York has a leaflet on "Oriental Costumes and How to Make Them," which may be suggestive. Then your final meeting, whatever it is, must be advertised. Indian posters would be an effective means of doing this. You might use some of your most striking pictures. It is well to remember throughout that the chief aim of all this is not to entertain, but to educate and interest your audience. A brief explanation of this might be made to them.

No request may come to you to help the W.M.S. Perhaps your Sunday School superintendent would like a ten-minute sketch or an impersonation as part of the opening service on Missionary Sunday in the Sunday School. Or, why not plan all by yourselves, "An evening in India," to which you will invite the older girls and boys, young people and adults of your congregation? Interest in India and its people needs to be increased and perhaps you are the ones to take the initiative. You might incidentally ask for a collection!

Do you need some money? You might try an Indian Guest Tea. If the several groups in a department would unite in this, each group might decorate its own room or its own corner of the main room to show some particular phase of life in India—one group might choose a zenana and serve tea to their guests there—another might have a low-caste home—another a village bazaar—another a ward in a mission hospital. The girls would, of course, be in costume. Some posters around the room would add attractiveness and then your guests would like a programme as well as their refreshments. Each group might contribute to this, perhaps playing Indian games, giving a short play, singing some folk songs, or telling a story. The carrying out of such a guest tea would require much of the same preliminary work as putting on a play or pageant, and an exhibit might form part of the evening.

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