

A NEW KIND OF MISSION BAND.

Dr. Margaret O'Hara, our medical missionary in Dhar, tells, in the following letter, about a new kind of Mission Band, Dhar, Central India,

10 Dec., 1896.

Dear Young People :—

I want to tell you of a mission band here, some of them very young, the youngest member only eleven days old, but who are even now doing mission work by their pure, sweet winning ways. They are the children of our mission families in India.

THE JUNIOR MEMBER. ELEVEN DAYS OLD.

The first one I shall mention is little Margaret Heath Russell, who came to gladden the hearts and home of her parents on Nov. 29th. Although she is but eleven days old her influence is felt not only in the home but over the lives of many hard hearts, who cannot well understand that this little girl is as welcome and as much beloved as if she were a boy.

This little pearl of ours has the same birthday as her cousin Leonie Russell of Mhow and Halliday Woods of Neemuch who are one year older than she.

TWO MEMBERS FOUR MONTHS OLD.

August brought little daughters to the homes of Rev. and Mrs. Jamieson, Ujjain, and Rev. and Mrs. Ledingham, Indore.

THE SENIOR MEMBER, THREE YEARS OLD.

The oldest of the Band in India is little Norman Russell, son of Rev. and Mrs. Russell of Mhow. He is a bonnie good child in his third year whom many of you may see in Canada next summer as he and Leonie go home with their parents on furlough.

SOME MEMBERS ABROAD.

Add to those the children of Rev. and Mrs. Wilkie and Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan, who are now in Canada and you have a "Band of India's Own Missionaries."

No missionaries are so beloved by the people as those little ones because "they belong to our country." These dear little treasures, quite unconscious of the power they wield, influence a large circle of people who care little for preaching. Will you not join me in praying "Our Father" to

abundantly bless all our dear missionaries' children and prepare them for this great work in the land of their birth?

A FAMINE IN INDIA.

There is a famine in India this year and many many little Indian children are cold and hungry at this season.

Central India is not directly affected but the grain is so scarce in other parts that prices have risen so much, that poor people can only afford to eat the coarsest grains and have no money to spend in clothes.

In order to help as many as possible we are making up little garments from all the old and new cloth we can spare.

Miss Dougan is the chief mover in this good work. She cuts out and prepares the garments, takes them to school, and in the sewing hour all her little girls help to make them.

In the evenings we bind the necks and sleeves with bright bits of cloth. The more colors there are and the brighter they are the more they will be appreciated.

SCHOOL GIRLS.

Miss Dougan's little school girls, native children, are such dear bright little tots. One day not long since Miss Dougan invited them all out to the bungalow. Most of them had never seen inside a European house, and they were much surprised at everything they saw. We had games, singing, and gave them sweets.

Before leaving one little girl came towards me carrying a large bundle which she presented: on opening it I found it was a very nice patchwork quilt which these little girls had made in school for me to use in our hospital.

My heart was very full of gratitude not only to the little girls but also to Miss Dougan for I know she had to exercise much patience with the little ones ere this quilt was ready to cover some poor sick one.

Miss Grier of Indore also gave me a very pretty quilt which her girls made.

As Xmas is coming and the mission boxes have not yet arrived Mrs. Russell has begun to prepare some things to give the little ones to make them glad on that happy day. Such pretty things as she has made. She has fourteen beautiful balls. Some newspaper is crushed in the hand to the proper size. This is wrapped in white cotton and the whole covered with an open pattern of crochet in bright variegated wools.