

gathered, and before long the new wards will be erected and filled with the suffering lepers for whose benefit they are destined. Great difficulty was experienced in procuring the site, and only at a high price was the land obtained; but the money for both site and buildings has been given by a generous friend in Canada who wishes thus to perpetuate the memory of her husband.

We quote now from the report —

"It is surely a Hindu's belief in 'Fate' that will let a leper go up and down the streets of a municipal town selling fruit which others eat after his handling, or let one make the common water pots or cooking vessels, or let them keep shop, as many of them do, with all sorts of eatables to sell, all of which I have seen. A doctor of Rajahmundry tells me there are as many as six confectionery shops there kept by lepers. Surely the municipal authorities ought to have power to stop such things, but the carelessness in this respect is something awful. Oil or ghee and salt and sugar are purchased in the bazaar and brought to our table, fruit and sweets are given mission boys and girls for a treat, our drinking water is carried in pots just from the pottery. How do we know how many of these have been handled by lepers, and how constant is our exposure to contagion outside the Home! If, instead of hundreds now separated in Asylums all over the land, there were tens of thousands, then we might think we were doing something to stem the tide of this awful disease as it spreads itself over this great land, and among these many peoples. While our efforts in this direction may seem almost futile to some, the present relief to the suffering, and the help and comfort provided for them, not to mention the spiritual joy and happiness that so many receive, are not in any way to be discounted.

"When the new buildings are completed, we hope to have one in which suspicious cases may be received, and where friends will be willing to pay for their support. This will be an observation ward, apart from the lepers' quarters. In this also we may place the children of lepers who may show some sign but very little progress of the disease.

"Our teacher, Satyavartamma, is very ill, we shall miss her very much if she goes, for she stands for what of culture and refinement we have in the Home. The younger women are learning, but none of the other women can even read. Her room is so clean and neat, with pictures here and there, her cot covered with a bright purple blanket some friends have given

her, and she in her spotless white muslin quaka greets us so graciously. In the front and back and side of her house are bright clusters of flowers, the seeds of which she has planted herself, sunflowers, marigolds, chrysanthemums, and what not. All had nice new sheets given them by a friend recently, and Satyavartamma soon had her initials and a flower prettily embroidered in the corner. She has suffered much lately, but the women have been good to her, giving her 'massage' almost night and day by turns. She has taught them much and now they are repaying her.

"During this year an epidemic of cholera so raged in the town that people were almost afraid to leave their houses, and business was largely suspended. I had to come in from touring in the villages because our people were in such fear.

"Special precautions were taken in the Homes, and the awful scourge came not near us. Later on, fever attacked Pastor David and his family, so that for two months or more, one or another was ill. To him who stretched out his hand and preserved us all be all the praise: 'for His mercy endureth for ever.'

"One special feature of the singing ought to be mentioned. Many chapters of the Bible have been paraphrased into Telugu metre, and are sung with very pleasing effect by the lepers assisted by various instruments. The lepers themselves subscribed for the printing of one of these paraphrases, the 51st Psalm, in pamphlet form, and copies were given all our missionaries for further distribution with a new year's greeting. It was also published in the Cocanada Telugu Ravi. The refrain added to this Psalm, translated into English, is,

"O Lord I, I am a sinner,  
I, even I, am the chief of sinners."  
—Without the Camp

#### \* SOME SIGNS OF PROGRESS IN INDIA.

IT is sometimes thought that Hinduism yields very slowly to the direct assaults of missionaries and the indirect assaults of western education. It must be admitted that many Indian gentlemen are able to endure some very bad customs in spite of their English education. An Indian gentleman, who was Vice-Chancellor of the University of Bombay, said in an address given in 1894: "Custom is a god whom our race devoutly worships. The question now is, whether with our minds liberalized by English education and contact with European civilization, we shall continue