

family?" "My wife, two children and two relatives, besides my younger brother and his wife." "How many of you have employment?" "My brother and I." "How much does your brother get?" "The same, six rupees." "But how do you manage on this now that prices are so high?" "This morning I had one cake only, at noon one, and to-night I'll have one."

I looked at the few strips of old dirty ragged cloth he had wound round his head, at his thin arms and bony legs, and then continued: "But when jowari (a kind of grain) was twenty-four seers (quarts) instead of nine for the rupee, you found it easy to get on!" His face brightening up, he said, "Yes, then I ate two cakes at a meal."

Then it dawned on me, this is the solution of the difficulty of high prices and low pay, they simply reduce rations to half, and the difficulty is solved. He did not murmur nor complain, nor abuse anybody, but his appearance was to me convincing testimony that he told the truth about the one cake at a meal.

I then asked why he thought the famine had come upon us. He said: "Because the sins of the people are increased." But to make sure, he did not mean corn-killings, I said, "What sin?" He then went over a list which I do not mention here, saying, "While these things are done will not famines come?"

This was the case of a man who has regular employment, something to keep soul and body together, but there are many who have no employment, no grain, no money, what must they do? It is this class of people we are trying to help.

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From the *Bombay Guardian*.

## THE CONDITION OF OUR OWN AUXILIARY.

A LESSON LEAFLET BY MRS. L. R. NORTON.

Supplementary to the lesson suggested in "Life and Light,"  
March, 1897.

*Our Auxiliary.*—It is by no means dead or in a dying condition; it is a living, working organization.

We may say the same of a child; it is living, taking its daily food, walking, sometimes running, going daily to school, learning its lessons; it is by no means dead or apparently in a dying condition. But is the parent satisfied? No, the child's wan face, puny hands, pale lips, weary ways, tired looks, at times give anxious thought. Something must be done: the dear child lives, but does not grow. A physician is called. He says, "This cannot go on, we must find a remedy; into this little body must be put something to awaken its vital forces and set them to doing their duty. The forces are there, but they are asleep; they want rousing and we shall then have a vigorous growth."

He finds the remedy, and when faithfully applied the

child grows and delights the parent by its bounding step and elastic motion.

Now, this is the condition of our Auxiliary, holding its meetings regularly, with an average attendance and membership, giving just about the same amount of money every year, praying "Thy kingdom come," keeping awake through all the exercises, unless it be a warm June afternoon, or a very cold one in winter and the room too close; loyal to the leader, congratulating her on the interest of her topics; taking copies of *Life and Light*, if kindly reminded when subscriptions have expired and affectionately invited to renew; and reading the annual report of our own Branch when it is put into her hands, and she is urged to read it before it reaches the waste basket.

Our Auxiliary is a live organization, but look at its wan features, its languid ways, its dull eye: it surely lives, but does not grow. Something must be put into its form to awaken and stimulate the living forces that are asleep. We will call a physician, and he must be a specialist. Let us be present while he examines the patient, hear what remedies he suggests, and copy his prescription.

Electricity is a wonderful force, adapted to almost every material to give it action. Fill yourselves with the electricity gained from knowledge of the subject and deep love for Christ, and by private personal interview impart it to each member of the existing body. Apply it again and again by repeated interviews till the life-blood begins to start, then infuse new elements into this body.

A leader invited a young lady recently graduated from one of our colleges to write something of the missionary work in her college. "I cannot, I know nothing about it, I never attended the meetings," was her reply. The leader then said, "Will you come down and see me this week?" She came, and her friend having asked her ten questions pertaining to the subject, said, "Now will you please go home and write out the answers you have given me, linking them together with some other items which these questions have suggested to you, and it will be just what I want. Besides, have you not some college friend who did attend the meetings, from whom you can get other items?" Not quite satisfied with the material thus obtained this young lady made a visit to her *Alma Mater*, and as a result produced such an interesting paper that it has been used in many other auxiliaries, has been heard with interest in a Branch meeting, and is still on its travels, sowing good seed and interesting young and old. The young lady is in a different town and State teaching. The leader informs her of the interest her paper is awakening, and urges her to find out if there is an Auxiliary in the church she is attending, and if there is, to be sure and go to the meetings and write to our Auxiliary about them.

Other young ladies not regular attendants are asked to write on such topics as the following: "Why ought I to be interested in Foreign Missions?" "Of what advantage will it be to me to be interested?" "Reasons why I am not interested." The hour spent in listening to these papers, with prayer and praise, is one of the most profitable of the year. It awakens in the hearts of the young ladies a desire to have a share in this study, and leads them to attend the meetings. One leader invited three of her faithful helpers to write on the questions: "How I first became interested in Foreign Missions? Is my interest growing? If not, why not?" One of these ladies was over sixty years of age, a person of good mental ability, but whose sphere in life had been