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CONCERNING FURLOUGH.

March is the month when those of the missionaries of India who are to take furlough leave their fields and turn their faces Canadawards. A few words concerning the provisions regulating furlough, its occurrence, its period of duration, more especially its purpose, and the means necessary to accomplish that purpose, will not be amiss.

The rules of our Foreign Mission Board, whose appointees the missionaries of both India and Bolivia are, grant to each missionary furlough after six years of work on the field. The time limit of the regular furlough is one year from the time the missionary leaves the field till he returns. This time is extended, if necessary, long enough to make it possible for the missionary to return at a favorable season of the year.

This year's "leave of absence," coming every six years, does not, of course, mean that the missionaries have no other holidays during their time in India or Bolivia. We are all familiar with the names of Ootacamund, Kodakanal and Coonoor, the three resorts most popular among the India missionaries. Their holidays while in the country are taken at their own discretion, when necessary or desirable. When furlough time comes, however, the expectation is that the missionary will leave his home altogether and thus secure a complete change from his ordinary surroundings.

It is believed that the work of a missionary is of such an exhausting nature, that he is, in a land of strangers, of heathen, and in India, at least, of trying climate, so draws upon the resources—physical, mental and spiritual—of the missionary, that it is neces-

ary, in order that he may do his best work, to grant a holiday of sufficient length, to allow him to return to his former home, or to some other place he deems suitable—wherever he believes he can best recuperate for the work he has to do.

That it may be possible to take advantage of this year's rest, the Board makes a grant to each missionary of travelling expenses to and from India and Bolivia, by the direct route, and an allowance for the year to cover living expenses. They (the missionaries) are relieved of all responsibility concerning the work on their fields. Besides the allowance, and, thanks to generous donors, the Board provides two furnished homes in Toronto at a nominal rent, which covers taxes and repairs, and the Women's Board of Ontario West, also a summer home in the Muskoka district, without rent, for the use of their missionaries.

While the missionary is here in Canada, or wherever he may choose to spend his time, he is, so far as the Board, his official "chief," is concerned, free to do as he wishes. The Board lays down only one rule regarding this, and that is that the Board's physician shall advise as to the best course to be followed in order to obtain the greatest possible benefit from the holiday. That is to say, the Board puts health first in its thought of furlough.

So far as health permits, and the responsibility is not left on the missionary in this case, the Board desires the assistance of these workers in addressing meetings, etc., throughout the country, and encourages their visitation of the churches, Sunday Schools and other denominational gatherings.

This is the point where the eagerness