

II.—INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

EDITED AND CONDUCTED BY REV. J. T. GRACEY, D.D.

India's New and Opening Fields.

BY J. L. PHILLIPS, M.D., CALCUTTA,
FIELD SECRETARY INDIA SUNDAY-
SCHOOL UNION.

It is very cheering indeed to find American and European missionaries who are coming to see more in the possibilities and the promise of the Christian Sunday-school as an out-and-out and successful missionary agency than ever before. In this, as in every other department of effort, it is to us according to our faith. I may illustrate with a case in point, for as a medical man I naturally think more of cases than of pet theories or stock arguments; and I may add that I believe intelligent Christians attach more importance to real cases than to finely spun theory, be it never so pleasant. It was away down in the very south of India that I had been at work for several days addressing men, women and children, theological students, and Bible women, on how to improve and increase the Sunday-schools, and I was going on to another station. On bidding the missionary good-by, he said something like this: "You must not expect to find things so far on down here as in Upper India; for instance, we've never heard of a Brahman pundit coming to the missionaries begging for a Christian to come and teach his boys the Bible for an hour on the Sabbath. Such cases are quite unknown in these parts, but I'm glad you have them in the north."

Still holding my friend's hand, I was moved to say: "In all our work it is always according to our faith," and to ask him, "Have you been praying and looking for this in your field?" After a few days I was once more his guest on my way north. Standing on the veranda to welcome me, just where he had bid me good-by, and while still holding my hand, he said with such a

glad ring to his voice: "Thank you for that last word you said on leaving the other day. It was just what I needed, and I went away and prayed for faith and for the blessings I craved for our field; and you had not been gone an hour before a Brahman pundit from that large village yonder, stood on this very veranda begging me for a Christian man to teach his pupils the Bible on the Sabbath. I have supplied him with a teacher, and hope others will come now with a like request." This is by no means a solitary case. I think we all are coming to see and seize our opportunity in the Sunday-school as never before; hence I look for larger ingatherings from the non-Christian ranks.

These children of our Sunday-schools are already beginning to be real missionaries of the cross, and are bringing their friends to Christ. I am constantly hearing of cases where the whole family has been brought into the congregation and the church through the loving labors of a little child. Those words of Isaiah's prophecy, "A little child shall lead them," are being beautifully illustrated before our eyes in these days, and our glad hearts are thanking God in the very words of Jesus when He said: "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that Thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes: yea, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in Thy sight."

The rise of intelligent, hence sustained enthusiasm among Christian workers here in this special effort for reaching the young with the blessed Gospel, I count a far greater token of cheer than mere numerical increase of schools and scholars, for it means a large accession to our working force. Teachers are wanted now on every