

"Please ask the people to pray that the Holy Spirit will break the power of the Romish Church over the people and make them willing to accept Christ."

Several of our missionaries are sick. Let us remember them at the Throne of Grace.

Mrs. Wintemute in Bolivia is laid aside and has to take a complete rest. In India, Mr. Cross has been ill at Pithapuram for some months, at last account was a very little better and must come home when he is able to travel.

Miss E. Eaton, Principal of the Women's Bible School, is under Dr. Wolverton's care. And Dr. Smith who is in Florida reports very little improvement, still there is a little.

Let us ask that health be restored so that they can resume the work so dear to them and to which they seem so necessary, but whatever God's will concerning them, may His peace abide in their hearts.

—E. F.

SALARIES PAID IN RUPEES

A Standard Set

Some twenty-five years ago One Hundred Dollars Canadian purchased for a time Rupees 375. As missionaries in India were at that time paid in dollars, they received that amount per \$100. Then in a few years exchange dropped to slightly over Rupees 300 per \$100. So great were the fluctuations in the comparative values of rupees and dollars that, at the request of the missionaries and following the example of other Foreign Mission Societies, the Canadian Baptist Foreign Mission Board set a definite standard of payment in rupees. This was based on the par value of 15 rupees to a pound sterling and worked out at Rupees 308 per 100 Canadian dollars, or about 32½ cents per rupee. Salaries of Canadian Baptist missionaries in India have been paid ever since at this standard. Sometimes exchange has exceeded this and then the Board has profited. At other times it has been lower and then the Board has lost.

War-Time Exchange

It will be remembered that for a year or so during the war the silver rupee rose to an unprecedented value, so that \$100 Canadian

brought only about Rupees 200—a loss to the Board of about 60 per cent! In that emergency the Forward Movement Fund receipts carried the Board safely through. Following that great access of value, the rupee gradually returned to normal and there remained until about a year ago, the Board neither losing nor gaining appreciably.

The Present Reign of the Rupee

About a year ago, as already stated, silver began to rise gradually and has kept on rising until today, after various fluctuations, it is practically steady at Rupees 270 per \$100 Canadian, or about 37 cents per rupee, instead of the old par value of Rupees 308 or 32½ cents per rupee. This is a loss of Rupees 38 or 12½ per cent. This means that to pay the standard value of \$100 in rupees \$112½ must be forwarded to India. Otherwise the missionaries' salaries would have to be reduced by one-eighth, low as they now are.

The Foreign Mission Dilemma

Missionaries' salaries in India and Bolivia total about \$80,000, of which about \$10,000 is for Bolivia where the Canadian dollar though lower in its value in Bolivia than for some time is still slightly above par so that no problem has arisen concerning the salaries of Bolivian missionaries except that of the Board's inability to increase them in that country of very high prices. Native Bolivian workers, however, are paid at Bolivians 300 per \$100 whereas \$100 Canadian now brings only Bolivians 279. The amount of about \$70,000 India missionaries' salaries is worth in India only seven-eighths of that amount. In such circumstances what was the duty of the Board? It dare not reduce India stipends which are designated "maintenance" in the Board's Manual rather than salaries. That "maintenance," which must bear the expense of trips to the cool hills in the fierce Indian hot season, is already down at the water-line. There was only one thing to do, namely, undertake the additional \$9,000 and pay the stipulated rupees 308 per \$100 Canadian. Anything else would be a breach of contract. Of course, in addition to this there had to be met the extra amount for exchange on work in India about which something may be said in a later issue.