

lepers about her. She decided to open a small shelter, and after much prayer, through kind friends in England and Canada, a little Home was established. At once every corner was filled. Lepers flocked in from all sides, and the great problem became, where to find room for all. Other buildings were added, and still more, until to-day we have the present magnificent Home, accommodating over a hundred lepers, and still the enlarging must go on, for still there is the one great need, that of more room. Miss Hatch is known as the "Big Mother" among the patients, and probably there is no missionary in India more loved and admired. A short time ago the Government conferred upon Miss Hatch the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal in recognition of her services to the lepers of India. This was a great honor, but not any too great for one who has so nobly given her love and services for these people.

In charge of the medical work among the lepers there is a most competent Indian doctor, D. L. Joshee, whose assistance is almost invaluable. A fluent English scholar, and a perfect gentleman, Joshee is fit to hold any position, and yet he remains one of the humblest and noblest of men, literally sacrificing his life for the lepers. His wife, Grace, who is one of the best known among educated Indian women, a gold medalist matriculant, is of equally great importance in the Home. Acting as medical assistant, treasurer, correspondent, matron to the untainted leper children, besides training her own little family of four, she has a most busy and useful life. The beauty of these quiet, noble lives is perhaps little known, but, like the desert rose, they are shedding sweet fragrance in a barren land, and to God at least the fragrance rises up, the savor of a sacrifice, "well pleasing to Him."

The main object of our work among the lepers, however, is not only to relieve their physical sufferings, but to lead them into the Way of Life. When they first come to the Home their ignorance is almost beyond description. Cursed by the gods, they have no happiness in this world, and no hope of salvation in the next. "Christ" is an unknown word to them, while "God" means nothing more than a great cruel power which has afflicted them with leprosy. Gently and patiently, they are told the story of Jesus, and their hearts, which have already been melted by their kind reception, soon respond. In almost

every case, as soon as the leper really understands the new story, he readily accepts Christ as his Saviour. Can you conceive, then, how different life becomes to these people? Death is no longer a cruel monster, going out into a black, despairing night, but it means a joyous release from suffering, an entrance into a new life, and joy, where all the scars and disfigurements will be forever washed away in the Blood of the Lamb.

Some of the lepers, taught by a leper teacher, have learned to read and write, and this is a great privilege. Think how many otherwise tedious hours can be spent with their books. Others, not so intelligent, or hindered by their disease, are not able to learn; but all are taught to recite hymns and Scripture portions. Many of our Canadian scholars, with all their advantages, would be put to shame could they listen to some of these sufferers repeating chapter after chapter. This part of the work is left entirely in the hands of dear old Pastor David, who, though not a leper himself, has for years lived right on the compound, acting as general overseer, choir-master, school teacher, peacemaker, and pastor. Thus this little leper colony thrives, as happy a little spot as could be found anywhere in the world.

In connection with our Leper work, we must not forget our new Home in Vizianagram, a few hundred miles north of Ramachandrapuram. So great was the need of such a Home in this densely populated centre that the Rajah of the district gladly donated a hundred acres of land. At present the Home consists of a little group of rude mud huts, where already twenty-four poor lepers are being cared for. The Mission to Lepers in the East supports both of these asylums, while the missionaries have direct oversight of the work. Many of our Circles and Bands have undertaken the support of a leper or an untainted leper child.

During this hard year do not let us forget these little leper settlements. As we have received this little glimpse of these desolate people, and hear them cry, "Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like unto my sorrow," do not let the cry pass unheeded. Do not let us, like the proud Brahmans of India, "pass by on the other side," but, like our Master, let us draw near and touch them by our love and gifts.

RUTH PHILPOTT.