

Foreign Missions.

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 178 Wentworth Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH.

For the missionaries at Bobbili, the school and its teachers. For the native Christians, that they may grow in grace and strive to win others to Christ.

Notice.

A meeting of the W. M. A. Societies of P. E. I. will be held at Alexandra on Tuesday p. m., March 13th in connection with the Baptist Conference. All Societies are requested to send delegates.

MRS. J. C. SPURR, Prov. Sec'y, P. E. I.

Home Training in Missions.

BY MRS. L. A. CRANDALL.

The place which children occupy in our modern life is a large one. The day is past when children are to be "seen not heard." Their voices are welcome in our public assemblies as well as in our homes. Constantly is more attention and study being given to the development of child life. Home is the natural centre of training and it is in the home that we must look for the more potent of the influences which tend to interest and educate the children. Sometimes the home teaching is supplemented by work done in the church through mission bands and the Sunday School; but even when the children are given these opportunities for instruction and work, how small is the influence exerted upon them compared with that which proceeds from the home!

In considering methods of home training let us first glance at that which ought to be avoided. Dickens sketches for us the character of Mrs. Jellyby, whose devotion to the cause of missions was so great as to obscure the insignificant duties of home. Her children, unkempt and uncouth, were displaced in her thought and care by the natives of Africa. But the number of Mrs. Jellybys has been greatly over-estimated. For one mother who places the welfare of the heathen before that of her own household, there are thousands who are absolutely indifferent to the present and future salvation of those who sit in darkness.

Perhaps there is nothing more deadening to the interest of old or young than compelled attention. The child's interest must be attracted, not forced. Often, with the best of intentions, methods are employed which tend to prevent the realization of the results sought. We knew of a family in which the father and mother were actively and earnestly engaged in many lines of benevolent work. With a natural desire that their children should share their zeal, they placed before them every opportunity of becoming conversant with religious work. Every Sunday afternoon the family was gathered together and old and young listened, whether willingly or not, to the reading of the religious paper. News from mission fields, which, unhappily, was generally composed of dry statistics and drier descriptions of mission stations, was conscientiously read, while the other listeners yawned or napped, and the little ones grew restless, and none were the wiser or better for the Sunday afternoon. The result was that when these children came to establish homes of their own no religious newspapers were found there, and missionaries and their work were looked upon as a vague something to be shunned as much as possible.

Neither dogmatism, pure and simple, nor dry statement of facts will awaken the interest and affection of children. We may describe the deplorable conditions of the heathen, and dogmatize about their future state, only to repel the child. Shall we not use tact and reason in this branch of home training as we do in others? Appeal to the child's imagination, than which no faculty is more wide awake or responsive. A Sunday afternoon with the map, or, better still, the globe, may be made to yield real pleasure and no small measure of profit to the youngest members of the family as well as to the older. India alone would furnish material for many such hours. Describe the country, with its beautiful scenery and peculiar and abundant vegetation, its buildings, some of them almost fairy-like in their beauty and delicacy of carving. I remember to have been fascinated as if in an enchanted country, when, listening to a description of the Taj Mahal, I could see the soft beams of the rising moon cast a flood of light upon its pure, white marble dome, giving it first a roseate hue and, as the moon rose higher and higher, changing it to pale blue and then silver, till it stood out like a fairy temple and seemed ready to float away.

The customs of the people, their dress and appearance, the homes and their furnishings, may be so presented as

to be exceedingly interesting to the little listeners, so preparing the way for a consideration of the heathen religion with its truths and falsehoods. We should do full justice to the bright side of pagan life, not giving the impression that there is naught but wretchedness and misery and all that is vile among our kin on the other side of the world. All the more forcible will be the picture of their needs and the degradation that does exist as a consequence of their lack of knowledge of him who is the Light of the World.

When we have awakened interest we shall find that a desire to help has been aroused. Let us teach our children to give, and help them daily to remember those who so sadly need what their pennies can assist in providing. A mite-box, where the little one may drop her pennies, as mamma does, could not fail to appeal to the heart of a child. And, above all, let the children see that the father and mother are conscientious and systematic in their own giving.

We might also use a course of biographical instruction. Seize upon the romantic in missions. Take up the life of Judson and his experience in the prison of Oung-Pen-La; the life of Livingstone, of Harriet Newall, of John Harrington, of William Carey. There is that in each of these lives, as in the lives of many other missionaries, which appeals to the imagination of a child. Present the pictorial element, not the statistical. Make the dwellers in China, Japan, Africa, and the workers among them, real and living not far off and shadowy.

Do any of us say we are not qualified to do these things? We have not the training? True, much preparation is necessary, but it is within the reach of most if not all of us. We ought to have it, and, if for no other reason than for the sake of the children, let us make haste to acquire it.

Amounts received from January 31 to February 13

Dartmouth, F. M., \$4.85; Salisbury, F. M., \$12.15; Greenville, F. M., \$4.25; H. M., 35c; Tidings, 25c; Reports, 15c; Moncton, F. M., \$40; Moncton, Mrs. Emma Atkinson, to constitute Mrs. Jane C. Snow a life member and support of B. Julia, biblewoman at Chicacole, \$25; Windsor, F. M., \$24; H. M., \$3; Elgin, F. M., \$6.50; Mr. Burdiffe's salary, \$1.60; North Sydney, F. M., \$12; Cambridge, Narrows, F. M., \$7; Amherst F. M., \$25; Hebron, F. M., \$4.75; H. M., \$1; Kempt, F. M., \$3.50; Laconie, N. W. M., \$2.80; Port Hawkesbury, F. M., \$2.75; St. John, German St., F. M., \$29; H. M., \$3.35; Mr. Burdiffe's salary, \$2; New Canada, F. M., \$3; Chance Harbor, F. M., \$1; Tryon, F. M., \$10.75; H. M., \$1.25; Mr. Burdiffe's salary, \$1.50; Reports, 30; Vancouver, Tidings, 25c; Tanook, F. M., \$2.50; Springfield, Annapolis Co., F. M., \$7; Mr. Burdiffe's salary, \$2.75; Tidings, 25c; Middleton, F. M., \$11.25; H. M., 63c; Tidings, 17c; Reports, 15c; Five Islands and L. Economy, F. M., \$6; H. M., \$1.30; Reports, 25c; Tidings, 5c; New Tusket, F. M., \$13; proceeds of Thankoffering meeting and concert, \$13; for Indies needs; Kingsboro, Tidings, 25c; De Bert, H. M., \$2; Athol, F. M., \$9; Amherst Shore, F. M., \$8.50; Aylesford, F. M., \$15.

MRS. MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.

Amherst, P. O. Box 513

CORRECTION.—In last list of acknowledgments money credited to Kingston W. M. A. S. should have read Lower Aylesford, F. M., \$12.70; H. M., \$2.

Amounts Received by the Treasurer of the W. B. M. U. During Quarter Ending Jan. 31st, 1900.

	F. M.	H. M.	Total.
Rec'd W. M. A. S., Nova Scotia,	\$739.31	\$253.74	\$993.05
" " New Brunswick,	448.47	105.33	553.80
" " P. E. Island,	125.71	37.13	162.84
" Mission Band Treasurer,	—	30.83	30.83
" loc. fd Mr. Burdiffe's salary,	—	12.25	12.25
" Edna Corning, Boston,	40.00	—	40.00
" Tidings, - - - - -	10.78	—	10.78
" Reports, - - - - -	7.60	—	7.60
			\$1,811.55

DR.

Pd J. W. Manning, Treas. F. M. B.,	\$1,479.75
" H. E. Sharpe, Treas. N. W. M.,	254.76
" Joseph Richards, Treas. G. L. M.,	126.63
" A Cohoon, Treas. N. S. & P. E. I. H. M.,	133.57
" J. S. Titus, Treas. N. B. Con. H. M.,	24.08
" E. M. Sipprell, Treas. N. B. Con. H. M.,	24.08
" Bureau of Literature,	10.00
" Printing Tidings, - - - - -	9.00
" Leaflets, - - - - -	3.00
" Drafts, discounts, postage,	6.19
Total,	\$2,071.06

MRS. MARY SMITH, Treas. W. B. M. U.
February 6.

Foreign Mission Board.

NOTES BY THE SECRETARY.

What stands in the way of a speedy and victorious advance on heathenism?

We believe this to be the answer in part at least: There must yet come a more honest and Scriptural recognition of the claims of Christian stewardship. All that we possess is simply ours in trust. No Christian has a right to make any plan of gain or expenditure

without having this fact distinctly in mind. The wealth of the church is increasing much faster than her gifts. It is time that the brains and hands that control the purse-strings of the church were mightily moved. Not mainly by indirection, by entertainments and amusing devices, nor even by those reluctant dimes which are squeezed out of masculine cupidity by devoted daughters and wives in the kingdom of God to come.

If I am not greatly mistaken the watchword of all Christian benevolence for the future must be—"Proportionate Giving." It is marvellous how the space clears about one when he conscientiously devotes a definite proportion of his income, probably not less than one-tenth, to religious and benevolent work. Then the "vexed question" is settled. He knows whether he is giving too much or too little. He knows what answer to make to all appeals. His mind is at rest, his conscience approves, his zeal is quickened, and he has the surpassing joy of making his life a blessing to mankind.

There ought to be a concurrent and organized effort among all Christian denominations. The old methods have yielded about all that is in them. No one can doubt that the time is fully ripe for such a movement, and the indications are, that to this very end the Spirit of God is now specially brooding over the Christian world.

The apostle calls attention to the fact that covetousness will be the supreme peril of the latter days. It is a timely warning. There is scarcely a luxury that can be named, upon which Christians are not expending more than for the salvation of the world. The difference in the price of two rugs or garments, or pieces of furniture; the cost of a single entertainment, nay, often the sum squandered in the indulgence of a sinful habit, is many times the entire amount given as a holy offering unto the Lord. In fact, Canadian Christians are giving each year less than one-half of one cent for each heathen soul.

An English soldier estimates that a proclamation from the Queen, put in the hands of the army and navy of Britain, could be carried to every person on the globe within eighteen months. The Church of Christ has been entrusted with a proclamation from the King of Kings. It is to be delivered to the whole world. Not for eighteen months, but for eighteen centuries, she has been about this urgent business, and it is not done yet. Christians are not responsible for the conversion of the world, but they are responsible for "preaching the gospel to every creature." But it cannot be done without means.

Missionaries, Christian schools and all evangelizing agencies must be multiplied in all parts of the heathen world. There is money enough in the keeping of the church, if she will only set a reasonable proportion of it at the Lord's disposal. In view of the unparalleled facilities of our time, it is safe to say that if the church should seriously take this matter upon her hands, every human being might hear the gospel not once nor twice, nor even thrice, within the next twenty-five years.

Surely the time has come for a revival along this line. Pastors and teachers and Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. workers must press this question with telling power. Men women and children in all the churches ought to be deeply moved by it. Persons of large resources should feel themselves divinely called to make large and regular offerings, and those of smallest means should make it a matter of conscience to give something. It is a question of personal duty. In view of the marvellous opening of doors in all lands, it is without doubt the solemn and special call of God to this generation.

As an advertisement for the short skirt for street wear, the newspapers are saying that a Boston bacteriologist asked a woman who did not usually have to go on very dirty streets if he might make an experiment on one of her skirts. It was a comparatively new one, and, of course, received the daily brushing, too. He found on part of the skirt binding at the hem the following small menagerie: Two hundred thousand germs, many bearing diphtheria, pneumonia and tonsillitis; also collections of typhoid and consumption microbes.

"To Be or Not to Be."

That is the question that concerns every mortal; whether it is better to be half ill, nervous, worn out, or to be well, strong, cheerful and useful. The latter condition will be yours if you take Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Erysipelas sores — "After scarlet fever a running sore was left on my face. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla and it cured me. My brother was also relieved of erysipelas sores on his face." Ella Courser, Burden, N. B.

Hood's Sarsaparilla
Never Disappoints

HOOD'S PILLS cure liver ills; the non-irritating cathartic.