

**Foreign Missionary Society.**

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF MANAGERS.

DEAR BRETHREN:

The report herewith submitted shows that the income for the year is the largest in the history of the Society. More significant and more gratifying than the gain in the amount contributed is the large gain in the number of contributing churches and Sunday-schools. These gains in a year of unprecedented financial stringency demonstrate that interest in world-wide evangelism is growing among the Disciples of Christ. While there is ground for encouragement in this fact, there is none for boasting. We should rejoice with trembling, for we can not but feel that we have not done all that God has put into our power to do.

REPORTS FROM THE FIELD.

*India.*

**HURDA.**—G. L. Wharton reports: The last year has been to me and my family one of special pioneer experiences. Soon after Mrs. Wharton's return to India in October, 1893, we and the Bible and Training School were transferred to Hurda to take charge of the evangelistic work. Before moving, I had to find a place in which we could live, reminding me very much of the experiences I had there twelve years ago. I succeeded in renting a small place, into which we crowded during the cold season, but the last of March, on account of the increasing heat and the open house, Mrs. Wharton and the children were compelled to leave for the hills. In April I rented a better house, where I lived alone till the monsoons came. This house-hunting, renting, repairing and moving is characteristic of new and opening work in India.

**BIBLE AND TRAINING SCHOOL.**—One of the class-rooms of the school chapel afforded us shelter, where, after difficulty and delay, we opened the school. Eleven pupils were enrolled, nearly all of whom are young men. Five are teachers in the day-schools. We studied, with fair results, the second year of our Lord's public ministry, Paul's three missionary journeys, the law of Moses, the Tabernacle and Levitical priesthood, using in all classes the Bible as the text-book. Writing of one of the young men after his return home to Mungeli, Bro. Gordon says: "Gulali has improved in many respects; his knowledge of the Scriptures surprises me." It is my daily prayer and concern in the classroom, by social intercourse and by personal contact, to make these young Christians fit for the Master's service among their own people, not in word only but in the power of pure, unselfish, Christ-like lives.

**PREACHING THE GOSPEL.**—In connection with the Bible School, I have tried to push the work of preaching. The students—especially Jeremiah, Yokub, Gulali and Jharwa—have aided much, preaching daily in and around Hurda. There have been several confessions of sin that we trust will lead to new lives in Christ. Several have been baptized. I have preached regularly also to the church, conducted the S. S. Normal weekly, and with the aid of Yokub Masih organized and kept up two Sunday-schools in two villages not far from Hurda. Encouraging progress has been made in out-station work among the villages. In December we decided to place a preacher in Rahatgaon, a village of 3,000 people, 12 miles south-east of Hurda, at the foot of the Satpura Hills. Jagannath was sent, and after living there awhile, a

**K. D. C. Pills** tone and regulate the bowels.

good building site was offered us free. Jagannath has built a native dwelling house, school-chapel and rest-house, for travellers, all at a cost of about \$80. In April we succeeded in locating Nathoo Lal and his devoted wife at Charwa, which has been without a preacher for many months. He is preaching and working in Charwa and eight villages near by. He has started a Sunday-school and his wife Khimibai is teaching the women in their houses. These two out-stations, the occupying of which has been made possible by the timely help of Mrs. Blaisdell, of Massachusetts, Bro. Burford, of Australia, and the contributions of the Hurda church, are very favorable points from which to reach the villages of both the plains and the hills. Our preachers, Jagannath and Nathoo Lal, report a number of hopeful inquirers, with some healthy opposition. We hope to see good, self-supporting churches in these centers where Christ is now being preached, and for this we pray and work.

A Prohibition League was organized in our school-chapel at Hurda. Christians, Hindoos and Mohammedans entered heartily. This will be a help, not only in keeping ourselves and brethren from the curse of strong drink, opium and other forms of intemperance, but at the same time will afford an opportunity of witnessing before the heathen concerning righteousness, temperance and judgment to come.

**BOOK SHOP AND READING ROOM.**—The book-shop was again opened in December, and put in charge of Mrs. Wharton, who immediately purchased a new stock of Bibles and tracts. Anand Rao was appointed colporteur. A good room, well located, has been rented and occupied with the double purpose of selling all needed Bibles, tracts and school books, and also at the same time affording a free reading room for the public. There being no place of this kind within 200 miles, we believe we can make this almost, if not quite, self-supporting, after it is well stocked with books. Yokub, Jeremiah and Arnaud are efficient workers in this department.

During the coming year we hope to have the new bungalow built, and we very much need a good man to give his entire time to going among the villages and superintending the out-stations.

Mrs. Josepha Franklin writes: My only work was to learn the language as rapidly as possible. Two months ago I finished the course of study laid out by the committee for the first year's reading. I have two pundits, and spend two hours and a half each day reading, writing and talking with them. Besides this, I study alone from three to five hours daily. I suppose my progress is fair, but mastering a language that one did not know until one is grown is a tremendous undertaking. In the interests of missionary work I have written about thirty letters or articles, most of which have been published.

Dr. C. S. Durand writes: Heretofore we have been so shorthanded that I have been obliged to spend much of the time with the evangelists in the villages and in visiting the boys' schools. During the year the dispensary has been open 228 days—every day I was in Hurda and several days when I was unavoidably absent, being attended at such times by Mrs. Durand. The number of attendances at the dispensary was 6,685.

Scarcely a week passed without some patients coming from great distances. It was very common for persons to come twenty to forty miles for medicine for themselves or friends, while it was not at all rare for them to come from distances of 60 to 100 miles.

Some even came as far as 300 miles for treatment. Just now a man has arranged to come to me soon from a distance of 475 miles. This shows that the popularity of the medical work is not confined to our own community.

The spiritual results have been most encouraging. There have been five conversions through this work during the year, and one more patient recently treated has signified his faith in Christ and readiness for baptism. He will no doubt be baptized soon. Three of the persons baptized were lepers.

I feel that the blessing of God has been upon my work as never before, no doubt because I have undertaken greater things and exercised larger faith. A year and a half ago I undertook to build a leper asylum with funds raised by voluntary subscriptions. The enterprise succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. The work has been blessed all along. Sufficient money has been raised for immediate needs, land has been secured and the work of caring for and treating the lepers has been in progress for eight months. Some lepers have been entirely cured, and all who remained any length of time have been greatly benefited except one who was too near death's door to be relieved. She died a few days ago.

To accomplish the best results either from a medical or spiritual point of view, a hospital is an absolute necessity. The society's treasury has been all along in such a state of chronic depletion that bungalows even could not be supplied for the missionaries to live in. I have, therefore, been obliged to get along as best as I could without a hospital of any kind. But nothing is too hard for God. His arm is not shortened nor His resources diminished by the hard times. It has been a constant source of joy and praise and thanksgiving to me that in the midst of the greatest financial distress known in a generation all over the world, I have been able not only to proceed rapidly with the leper asylum enterprise, but to build and furnish a substantial, commodious and well appointed hospital out of receipts for professional work and my own donations. The building and furnishing of the hospital will cost about 4,500 rupees, and is all to be done without any cost to the Board. The hospital is to be finished and dedicated about the first of November of the present year.

The leper asylum and hospital were undertaken without any money in sight—with a reliance on God alone, to whom belongs the earth and the fullness thereof; and the result is enough to justify, to increase and establish the faith of all who have been concerned in this work, as well as all who hear of the way in which the Lord has provided for its completion. O, that the church and every Christian would rely on God more and cease to mock and tempt the Almighty by measuring his power by their own puny standards.

**MUNGELI.**—Dr. A. W. Hill sends the following account: In three months I treated 1,467 cases, representing fourteen castes. I sent away about 450 on account of having either no medicine or instruments to work with. As many of the cases required antiseptic dressings daily, others had to go away without medicine, as I had no assistant in this line. We visited villages whenever we could, and found the people very grateful for all they received. They listened very attentively while Bro. Gordon told them of our Saviour. I have been told that

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there are 855 villages in our district, and as I am the only physician, you can readily see I have plenty to do, and that it requires a great deal to run a dispensary successfully in such a district. Men often come 30 to 35 miles for medicine. Some are carried in palanquins, some in carts, and I know one man who carried his wife on his back for several miles to our bungalow for medicine. As a rule men will not even mention their wives' names. To see them carry their wives to us for help encourages us much, and we feel that Christ is softening their hearts. It is so hard to turn them away without giving them any medicine. I have known many to come for miles only to be told all the medicine is gone, we have none left. They say, "Well, you gave to my neighbor, why do you turn me away to die?" You tell us your Bible says, "Ask and ye shall receive," why do you tell us this and then turn us away? We find it hard to give a satisfactory answer. We were compelled to close the doors of the little dispensary on February 8th, since which time these poor people have been turned away without help.

I am told by Mr. Gordon that many attend our meetings now who never came before. And now I am unable to carry on the work because I have no medicine, no instruments, no money. My hands are practically tied, and I pray that they will soon be released, so that I can once more work for my blessed Master. When we were getting ready to leave Mungeli the natives sent sweets for the children, food for us, and carts and servants to take us and all our baggage to Bilaspur. They called to tell us good bye and said, "If you pay our servants a pice, you will hurt our feelings. Good bye, we cry because you all leave us." Brethren, the harvest is near I feel, and I pray that we may be able to gather in the golden sheaves.

(To be continued.)

**Literary Notes.**

**TO PUBLISHERS.**—All books, tracts, pamphlets, magazines, etc., intended for notice or review in this department must be addressed to the Editor of THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST, 85 Wellington Street North, Hamilton, Ont.

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