

COMMUNICATIONS.

THE following interesting letter from Miss O'Hara, M.D., will be read with pleasure by all interested in Foreign Mission Work, as well as her many friends :

British Indian Steamer "Rajpootana,"
Off "Point de Galle," Ceylon, Sept. 26, '93. }

MY DEAR PRINCIPAL GRANT,—You will see by the heading of this that I am off for a holiday, the first in India, and certainly it has been the most pleasant I have ever enjoyed. On the 13th inst., Dr. McKellar and I left Indore. At Bombay we were joined by Rev. N. H. and Mrs. Russell. Mr. R. had been very ill and spent a month in Bombay trying to regain strength, but as he was not making as rapid progress as they hoped, they resolved to accompany us. This is a "coasting vessel," usually travelling in the night and taking on or discharging cargo by the day. We were the only passengers, so have had a very pleasant and profitable time. The improvement in Mr. Russell is most marked. Perhaps when I tell you that he, his wife and Dr. McKellar left the vessel at Colombo and have gone in bullock carts by land up to Kandy, thence to Jaffna by way of some old historical cities, you can realize how strong he now is. I should have enjoyed seeing these places, but think the voyage will be more beneficial, so am going south of Ceylon, and will arrive at Dr. Scott's about the same time they do. We will remain a week with Dr. and Mrs. Scott and go home to Indore by train. Just think what a re-union of Queen's will be in Jaffna! Hope to be back to my work in five weeks from the time of leaving. Dr. Turnbull is looking after affairs in my absence. She has Miss McWilliams' school work for the present, and I not wish to leave her long with the care of medical work in addition. Miss Calder is staying with her in my absence. I think Mr. Russell is writing up the trip for the home papers, so I will not attempt to tell you all we saw since leaving home, but will tell you a few of the things which have impressed me most. Bombay, with all its beauty and interest, was left on the 15th. The next place at which we went on shore was Cannanore. Here we found a branch of the Basel German Mission, with a church membership of 850. This Mission carries on its work along evangelical, educational, medical and industrial lines. We saw the church and one school in which were 90 scholars, boys and girls, studying side by side. At this station there is no school for heathen children. The teachers were all native. The children were clean and attentive. The highest standard was fourth class in the vernacular, and English as high as the third. There is a large weaving establishment here in which 376 of the christians are employed. We

saw the coloring, warping, spooling, weaving, all being carried on in as systematic and orderly a manner as in any establishment at home. The overseer, a German, was very kind and told us a great deal about their work. In one part of the establishment is a store in which the products of their industry may be bought at reasonable prices; table cloths, napkins, towellings, sheetings, gingham. Besides the looms, there were two knitting machines at work making men's and women's woollen underclothing. Everything they had was of superior quality and excellent finish.

What pleased me so much was to see the pleasant, clean and christian appearance of the whole. On the 19th we called at Calicut and the same mission is at work there. A fine old German missionary met us at the shore with his "bullock bandy" and took us off to his home, where his wife had a good cup of coffee for us, and then we started out for the day. Our ship remained from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. In this German mission there are 87 missionaries. These Germans seem to have the true way of dealing with this people. We visited the hospital, schools, high school, mercantile, weaving and tile factory in this place. Over every department of this work a German is placed, but his work is supervision in which the wives aid. Here there were 1000 baptized christians. The rule is not to baptize any candidate until he or she has had at least one year of preparation, and many of them as much as three years before baptism is administered. There is a class of 60 now in preparation. In the tile factory there are 250 christians employed, men and women. There are manufactured bricks, roofing and flooring tile. We saw the whole process from the preparing of the clay until the shipment of the tiles. Our vessel took on board 35,000 of them. The thing which interested me more than anything was a house adjoining the factory in which the little children of the work-people were gathered. Two christian women were taking care of them. Those who were old enough were being taught to read and sing kindergarten songs, and the very wee ones were fed and cared for. This mission has been working for 50 years, and counts its church members by thousands. What is better than numbers, they are thrifty, diligent and clean, and not above their business. Next day we called at Cochin and visited an old church which was built about the end of the fifteenth century. It is said that christianity has existed here since the time of St. Thomas. There are two communities of Jews at Cochin. We visited first the quarters of the Black Jews and later the White Jews' Synagogue. We were in their Synagogue and heard the service. Although we did not understand a word, it impressed me as being very solemn. They are separate from and superior to any of the peoples in this land. Our