

now in hand by some of our missionaries and others we hope soon to see on the way to completion.

As far as secular school books are concerned, we are tolerably well provided. The Government and Christian Vernacular Education Society's series are very good. I have written publicly about our need of a library. I hope some one will partially supply our need, for I feel we cannot call upon the Board for this supply for some time.

I hope the Board will do all it can to assist the young brethren who have undertaken to interest the Sabbath schools in this work.

OUR SUCCESS: It is difficult to gauge the success of one year's teaching, and yet by comparing those who were raw material with the raw material of this year, the difference effected in one year is very encouraging. Last year was short. We only opened in October and we lost some time through sickness and other causes, and yet good work was done. Very creditable examinations were passed in April, especially in the Scriptures. It requires some time for the pupil to get accustomed to his new surroundings, to learn to subject himself to control, to be able to think consecutively, to study regularly and especially to accommodate himself to the new mode of reciting at fixed periods. They have been accustomed to recite their lessons as soon as learned.

MISCELLANEOUS: Our students are required to be members of the churches, to be at least 14 years of age and persons with a desire to be useful. Men and boys are not allowed to wear any jewelry. Women are not allowed nose jewels or toe rings. Both men and women are required to wear the *national dress*. Neither drinking nor smoking is permitted. We also require one hour of manual labor during the day. This they have done during the past year with alacrity. If the members of the Board could understand the aversion with which an educated Hindu looks upon all manual labor they would be pleased with this evidence of a sound mind in our students. This aversion to labor is strengthened among our Christians by the unwise course pursued by some of our fellow missionary societies, especially those from England. Grades of ecclesiastics, with grades of pay corresponding exactly to their education, suits the Oriental idea of propriety and wisdom.

We feed and clothe our students for a little over nine months of the year. When they return to their fields of labor during vacation we pay their travelling expenses. When returning to us the missionary does. The whole expense of food and clothing for a single student for the school term is about \$17.

During the early part of last school year we built five dormitories and covered them with leaf thatch. This year we added ten and covered them with grass. Leaves only last one season. Grass will last from four to five. If we have the means next dry season we mean to replace the leaves by grass and build five more, covered with grass. We are now straitened for room. Some day, when the society has less building on hand, we shall ask leave to replace all this grass with tiles, and some time still further on in the future, if the Lord will, we shall replace the *mud walls* with brick. But that time is not yet.

The school has more than doubled this year. We have over 50 pupils' names on the roll. Your missionary will be glad when there will be less building to be done, and he can devote himself unreservedly to his more immediate work. In the mean time we must do the best we can.

Though the missionary's wife is not reckoned a missionary, yet her work is often in many respects no less important than his.

Mrs. McLaurin teaches five English classes. This is voluntary work on the part of teacher and taught, being aside from our regular course of studies. Some day it must be incorporated. English is going to play an important part in the future of India, and wise men will govern themselves accordingly. The women are also taught to sew and do other useful things for themselves and children, which formed no part of their home training. Besides this a female prayer-meeting is conducted by her every Sabbath afternoon.

The Maritime Province brethren send two families and six single young men to the Seminary this year. They send a good class of students. They pay per rat. for the naive teachers a small house rent, and, of course, all other expenses connected with the school. The amounts received on account of teaching and rent are credited to the society in the financial report to the treasurer.

These brethren are anxious to unite with us on equal terms in the *support* of this Seminary, and on some plan which may be decided upon at home for its *government*. I think the Board would be wise in giving a patient, careful and prayerful consideration to any proposal looking in this direction.

And now may the God of all grace guide us all to His honor and the glory of His own great name.

JOHN MCLAURIN.

THE WORK AT HOME.

Ontario and Quebec.

Dialogue for Mission Bands.

At the request of the Olivet Mission Circle, I have written a dialogue for their Christmas entertainment. There were so many applications for the last one, that I have had this one printed also, and any one wishing for a copy, can have it by sending a three cent stamp. The dialogue is entitled "A Telugu Girls Story," and is the history of Lukshmi, one of the girls in the Cocanada school. My hope is that this simple story, repeated by children in different places, may do a little to increase the interest in those who are looking to us to send them the gospel.

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Three More Bands.

GUELPH, ONT.—On Saturday, Nov. 10th, a meeting was held at Mrs. Raymond's house, for the purpose of forming a Mission Band. Twenty-five names were given in. Mrs. Raymond was chosen president. The other officers appointed from the members. The name given was "The Busy Bee Mission Band." We are to meet every two weeks. The fee is five cents a month. The money to be earned by ourselves. We hope a great many others will join us, and that we shall take a deep interest in the success of the Band. ALICE EVANS,

Secretary of Busy Bee Mission Band, Guelph.

WHITEVALE, ONT.—The spirit manifested at our annual meeting followed me to my own quiet home. A desire was deeply planted within to do some extra work for the Master. While wondering what could be done, my mind was directed to my Sabbath School class, which consists of ten very interesting young girls, whose ages vary from fourteen to sixteen. I proposed with their assistance to organize a Mission Band. This they very