

Sundries—

Mrs. McDiarmid (L. M., Mrs. D. N. Connell; Cornwell, \$30.00; Interest, 58c.; proceeds of Lecture, \$63.35. Total for Sundries, \$93.88.

Disbursements—

To General Treasurer on regular estimates, \$780.00; Special, for Miss Murray's work, \$15.00.

Extras—The Wilson Printing Co., \$55.00; L. E. Waters & Sons, printing, \$13.50; D. Bentley & Co., \$4.25; Postage, Rec. Cor., 30c.; printing Constitutions, \$1.50. Total, \$869.55.

Total Receipts for quarter, \$561.81; total Disbursements, \$869.55.

Total Receipts from Oct. 1, 1914, to March 12, 1915, \$980.85; total Disbursements for same period, \$1,411.55.

FRANCES RUSSELL,
Treasurer.

536 Grosvenor Ave., Westmount.

Correction—

In last Quarterly Statement, Perth, \$6.00, should read Drummond, \$6.00.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEPARTMENT.

OUR LEPER WORK IN INDIA.

India is a land of pathetic pictures; neglected and filthy little children; bowed, gaunt old people, whose faces show in every line traces of hunger, misery and sin; beggars, with bodies wasted by loathsome diseases, dying by the wayside; shrinking little child widows, with shaved heads and coarse garments; sorrowing mourners, prostrated before a huge mud god, seeking some ray of comfort. All these are sad scenes, but probably saddest of all is the leper of India. So many thousands of lepers are there in India to-day that we can scarcely enter any little hamlet or town where there are not several of these pitiable creatures, always in the same condition—homeless, neglected, hopeless and dying. They stand at the temple gate, the market-place, the great feast streets, anywhere, to attract attention, with their poor fingerless hands outstretched, sightless eyes unraised, hair matted with filth, starved bodies a mass of loathsome running sores, their only companions the disgusting pariah dogs, which prow about, ready to seize any morsel of food which may be thrown down by the passers-by. Away in the distance we still hear their plaintive, weird wail. "Rama! Rama! Ra-a-ma!" as they call ceaselessly upon their stony-hearted god, calling till the dread disease works deeper into the system, and even the voice at last sinks into a hoarse whisper.

Why are there so many of these homeless lepers? Leprosy is regarded as a curse from the gods, and when once the tiny white leprous spots appear, the poor victim, who is perhaps only a wee child, or maybe an old parent, whoever it is, is turned out on the streets to

beg for a living or die of starvation. Thus, in India to-day we have thousands of these poor wandering outcasts, living in the utmost filth and degradation, depending entirely upon the scant mercies of passers-by.

Away in the heart of our Telugu district, in a village called by the long name of Ramachandrapuram, we have one of the brightest, prettiest and most interesting compounds—our Leper Home. A great shady grove of fruit trees, stately palms, wonderful flowering shrubs, and nestling among all this green beauty, long rows of homely little white cabins, a large central open pavilion and other beautiful buildings; beyond, a well-kept vegetable garden, neat little cook-houses and store-rooms, a large well, and still farther back, glimpses of the beautiful canal flowing by. This is our Leper Home, as it appears from the road. However, it is not the compound that interests us so much. It is the lepers themselves, as we see them moving about, over a hundred of them, forming a perfect little leper village. No longer homeless, filthy and neglected, we see them neatly dressed in white garments, hair neatly combed and oiled, the loathsome sores washed, dressed and bound up, and every face the picture of happiness and contentment. Of course all the missionary's care and love, all the skill of the doctor, can never remove the dread disease itself, but suffering can be alleviated to a great extent and the last days of these poor lepers can be made happy.

Nearly seventeen years ago Miss Hatch, who is one of our own Canadian women, and who had already spent several years in India, felt her heart deeply moved over the condition of the many