

HYMN.

TUNE,—HOLLINGSIDE.

Christian workers far away—
 Now for them we bow and pray :
 Jesus, Saviour, let the light
 Flood their way with blessings bright ;
 For Thy work sustain and nerve,
 And wherever called to serve,
 Lord, wilt Thou prepare the field
 For a rich, abundant yield ?
 Freely give the Spirit's rain,
 The ingathering of the grain :
 Precious souls, a harvest great,
 Lifted to their true estate ;
 Make them with Thy word to smite
 All the enemies of light ;
 Sweeping heathen gloom away
 With the opening of the day.

W. M. S. HYMNAL.

FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

" I think when I read the sweet story of old,
 When Jesus was here among men,
 I should like to have been with Him then."



E often think what a privilege those people had who knew Jesus on earth and were able to talk to Him face to face. But when we think over the matter carefully, had they more than we? Especially women and girls, surrounded as He was by a crowd of men, many of them rough and forbidding. He did talk to the woman of Samaria, but His disciples were astonished, and from the customs of the time and country there must necessarily have been but few women that came into personal contact with Jesus. Now we have His promise, "Lo I am with you alway."

A building may be filled with machinery for some purpose, well equipped and in good order, but without some force it would be nothing. To accomplish anything there must be water, steam, electricity, some power to set the machinery in motion. In our Society we have excellent machinery, good organization: what is needed is the force to make it effective. It is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord." So we pray that increased spiritual power may come on our membership.

For the most part our missionaries are deprived of public worship conducted in their own tongue. Very often they are isolated even from other missionary workers. Our teachers in Kofu were for a long time the only foreign ladies in the city. Cut off from so many of the aids that we possess, let us earnestly pray for them that the Spirit Himself may guide them into all truth.

The preacher in a Christian country appeals to a prepared people as the missionary cannot. There is a familiarity with the facts of the Gospel. Our holidays, Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving Day, all teach their own lesson. Even the most ignorant could give some reason. The heathen not only have not this knowledge but they have another set of religious customs wrapped up with their everyday life. What is entirely new to us has no meaning. Our missionaries in Japan speak of the great lack of spiritual ideas. Miss Blackmore told of once trying to make a Bible lesson as simple as possible, and as the women questioned her, they said, "Oh, yes, you say the words right, but we don't know what you mean." In this darkness of mind how necessary is the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.

I think it will be profitable as we are directed to this subject this month to study what the Bible says of God the Holy Spirit. Use a reference Bible and begin with the 14th of St. John's Gospel and the 2nd chapter of Acts, or better still take the subject Index of an Oxford Bible, reading under one or two headings each day. Memorize at least one passage a week. Ask God to bless His own Word and in our day, as in the days of the early church, will be fulfilled the prophecy of the Prophet Joel. "And it shall come to pass afterwards that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. And also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my Spirit."

D.

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY.

Can you give any reasons why we have a better opportunity of knowing Jesus than the women and children in Bible times?

What is necessary to set machinery in motion?

What three forces are mentioned?

What is said of our Society?

What force is needed to make it effective and for what shall we pray?

What is said of our Missionary workers?

Of the teachers in Kofu?

What prayer must we make for them and why?

What is the difference between a preacher in a Christian country and a missionary?

What is the difference between the people in a Christian land and a heathen one?

Of what lack do the missionaries speak?

What was Miss Blackmore's experience?

What only can enlighten such darkness?

What will it be profitable to do this month?

What two ways are given of studying the Word of God on the subject of the Holy Spirit?

If we ask God to bless to us His own Word what prophecy will be fulfilled in our day, as in the days of the early Christ?