

The number of people who die from actual want of food is small compared to the deaths which result from the greater hold which disease gets on those who are enfeebled by the diminution of their usual supply of nutriment. Famine is most felt in the first four or five years of life, it then seems to pass lightly over the adults, and to fix on the aged, but only where the distress is acute.

India has had a long schooling in famine. The government has been attending to the lessons of that school only the last thirty years. Now, as a consequence, there is a more or less adequate provision made to save the poorest from actual death by starvation, and the men of the poorer classes from hopeless bankruptcy. Their first work of relief is to remit the taxes in part or whole where the crops have failed. They then divert the expenditure on public works from that which may require skilled and expensive labor to the building of roads, the digging of canals and other works which will benefit all classes. In addition to these, which reach only the able bodied, the children and the aged must be provided for. Relief doles are distributed gratuitously for these in their own villages, or where possible, they are all collected in some central place, where a famine kitchen is opened and the starving fed twice a day with cooked food.

As mentioned previously in this letter, famine is not proving so hard here as in other parts, and yet even here, were it not for the bounteous provisions made by outsiders the state of affairs would be much more serious than at present. Were it not for the help provided from all parts of Christendom, which must now aggregate about \$5,000,000 including the Indian contributions, the government would despair of being able to cope with the calamity that has overtaken the country.

Only a fraction over three millions are now engaged on relief works or are receiving gratuitous relief. This number gradually diminishes with the steadying of the monsoon rains, which for a time were very uncertain. The cabled number on government relief, by no means represent the total number receiving help. Private beneficence has been magnificent, Mr. Lassavaredi a native merchant in this place, has daily fed about 500 of the very poor. This is insignificant compared with what some of the native princes have been doing. A number of merchants in the town here have formed a syndicate to feed as many poor as come to eat. At eleven in the night when the streets are empty, they feed about a thousand vagrants. In fact the rich get so liberal that no one would go on the relief works opened in the town to provide the poor with employment, and the municipal chairman was constrained to ask them to be more discreet in their charity or they would swamp the town under a load of cholera breeding paupers. As it is we number only 47,000 of a population, and yet in the last ten days out of 90 cholera cases 60 have gone over to the burning grounds.

Our own two Canadian Baptist missions have sent out for distribution some \$7,000. Many of our own poor Christians have been saved from possible starvation, and a lot of small land holders amongst them from losing their earthly all, that, in many cases mean death. We hope the worst is now past. But that has been so bad that we are yet far from being able to get on without further help.

H. F. LANLAME.

Cocanada, India, 27-7-'97.

Work at Home.

BUREAU OF MISSIONARY INFORMATION.

CIRCLE LEAFLETS. — Hesthen Claims and Christian Duty, 2c. (by Mrs. Bird Bishop); Lands Yet to be Possessed, 3c.; Woman under the Ethnic Religion, 2c.; Winged Women, 1c.; Refusals, 2c.; Three Collectors, 2c.; A Transferred Gift, 2c.; Unawares (Poem), 1c.; If They Only Knew, 2c.; The Angel of Christmastide, 3c.; A Tithe for the Lord, 2c.; Ten Reasons for Tithing, 1c.; So Much to do at Home (Poem), 1c.; The Responsibility of Not Doing, 2c.

MISSION BANDS. — The Light of the World is Jesus (dialogue for 15 children), 2c.; Shepherds of Bethlehem (Concert exercise with music), 5c.; Little Lights (Concert exercise), 2c.; Gems for the Little Ones, 15c. (music) The Dollie dialogue for 4 little girls, 4c. Address all orders to

Mrs. C. W. King,
318 Earl St., Kingston, Ont.

NEWS FROM CIRCLES.

HELPER. — It is some time since you heard from our Circle, but we are still working away quietly. There are thirty-eight women, members of the church. Out of these, twelve belong to the Circle. We raised, last year, \$14.92 for Foreign Missions, \$16.85 for Home Missions, and \$2.25 for the Indian Mission. We hold monthly meetings. Our offerings are brought in every quarter, and are sent alternately to Foreign and Home Missions. Like other Circles, we have the faithful few, on whom we can always depend for working and for giving, while we have also those, even among the Circle members, who seldom attend our meetings, and who give but little to missions. It is our prayer that we may become more consecrated ourselves, and that others may be aroused to a sense of their duty and privilege in the mission cause. Our officers this year are: President, Mrs. (Rev.) A. R. McDonald; Vice-President, Miss Elmer; Secretary, Mrs. Brownlee; Treasurer, Miss Rebecca Hodgson. Number of LINKS taken, 6; Visitors, 14.

(MRS.) A. BROWNLEE, Sec.