

Foreign Mission Board

W. B. M. U

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address Mrs. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR JUNE.

For Palconda and outstations, that the Spirit's power may accompany the preaching of the Word. That a great blessing may attend all the associations. For the Home Mission fields of our Province that many souls may be won for Christ.

Notice

The W. M. A. S. will hold Mission Meetings at the following Associations:

- N. B. Southern at St. Stephen July 4.
- P. E. I. at Cavendish Monday July 6.
- N. S. Eastern at Bass River, Colchester Co., on July 11th.

All Societies and Mission Bands are requested to send delegates to these meetings. Interesting programmes are being prepared, and will not all join in earnest prayer that these meetings may be seasons of great power and blessing? So many can be reached at these gatherings that cannot attend our conventions that this opportunity to gain fresh information and inspiration should be improved.

The annual meeting of the W. M. A. societies of the Western Association, was held at Bear River on Saturday afternoon, June 20, a large audience, being present. Mrs. Porter, the wife of the pastor, and secretary for Digby Co., had secured the Methodist church for the meeting, and the beautiful flowers and plants, stirring and beautiful hymns selected, and a quartette sweetly rendered by four young ladies, showed her interest and kindly forethought. The meeting was led by the Association's director. Opened by singing. Scripture reading by Mrs. Rutledge and prayer by Mrs. Cogswell. Mrs. Porter gave a few kindly words of welcome. Reports were then called for from the many present from the five counties Yarmouth, Digby, Shelburn, Queens and Annapolis, comprising the Association. The secretary from Yarmouth was not present but many sisters reported verbally for their societies, showing growth in members and in zeal and increased work done by Miss Allan, County Secretary, in her first year of service. Mrs. Porter spoke for Digby Co., and though not able to visit as much as she desired and planned has done good work. Several spoke for their societies in this county. Mrs. Caldwell, secretary for Shelburn read a good report, showing work done and increased interest manifested. One society had been reorganized. The reports from Queens failed to reach us, but we trust the societies are holding on their way at least some of them. We have no county secretary in Annapolis but some work has been done, many reports were given from societies in a healthy condition. We need more societies and many more members. The reports were mostly encouraging, showing an advance in interest and effort, increased appreciation of the balm of the Aid Society monthly meetings, and Mission Band work, and many of them breathing strong desires for greater faithfulness and consideration. After the reports an excellent paper written by Miss Hume was read by Mrs. M. W. Brown. It contained many beautiful thoughts and practical suggestions which must prove helpful. Mrs. Foster then addressed the meeting on Mission Bands in her own earnest way. Herein the reports of work are encouraging several new bands being organized. Then came a great pleasure for all present in an address from our new missionary Miss Martha Clarke whom all were so pleased to see present. In earnest living words she told of the work among the women of India, their needs, their very hopeless lives shut up in their yennas, and many hearts were touched as they listened. A resolution was passed conveying sympathy to Miss Mabel Archibald in her recent bereavement. Many words of gratitude were expressed for Miss Blackadar's recovery and many expressions of love and sympathy and the assurance given of many prayers offered in her behalf, which were all gratefully acknowledged by her mother with the request that prayers be still continued for her. An offering was taken amounting to \$13.10. Prayer was offered and the meeting closed with singing.

E. M. BLACKADAR.

Our Telugu Mission Field.

Paper read by Mrs. J. W. Brown at a Missionary Conference held at Petitcodiac, May 19 and 20, and published by request of the Conference.

While the Great Commission commands us to turn our hearts to all the world, there is yet one spot toward which we turn with greatest interest and most earnest prayer—the north-eastern part of India. It is part of the Presidency of Madras, and lies along the west shore of

the Bay of Bengal, extending inland 300 or 400 miles with a coast 85 or 90 miles long, which may be considered the base of a triangle—the two sides of which would each be nearly that length, with a population of about twenty millions. The climate is tropical in general. Crops wholly depend on the monsoon, which brings rainy seasons from June until October. Miss Archibald writes: "November, December and January—"In these months we know no cloud will darken the horizon of the sky, and that the breezes will not be scorching hot; but during the days in these three months, we will be able to say, How delightful is India as far as air, trees and sky is concerned." India is the path of the monsoons. In the hot seasons the winds blow from the sea to the land in the colder season they flow from the land to the sea. The Telugus are a fine staid race, resembling Europeans in everything except color. Their language is sweet, musical and copious, strongly resembling the Sanscrit. India is pre-eminently the most interesting of all mission lands. The people are descended, as we are, from the great Aryan race. From this root spring Celts, Goths, Persians and Hindus; all tracing their descent from Japheth. They were an intellectual race, brave and energetic, but when we think of the Hindus of today and contrast them with our western Aryan nations, we can scarcely believe that even in past ages, could these people have sprung from the same stock. There are two reasons for the different development of these branches of the one great family. India lies in the tropics. The climate has in the course of centuries produced a dreamy mental habit, to replace the early aggressive energy. Those of the race who spread northward and westward would have the advantage of a harder and more rugged growth. So with these facts we turn to the 8 stations on our Telugu field with missionaries as follows:—Bimilipatam—Mr. and Mrs. Gullison, Miss Ida Newcomb; Chicacole—Mr. and Mrs. Archibald and Miss Mabel Archibald; Tekkail—Mr. and Mrs. Higgins and Miss Flora Clark; Parla Kintedy—Mr. and Mrs. Corey and Miss Magd Harrison; Palconda—Mr. Hardy; Bobbili—Mr. and Mrs. Churchill; Vizianagaram—Mr. and Mrs. Sanford and Miss Helena Blackadar and Mr. C. Freeman.

The Savara Mission is to be in the charge of Mr. and Mrs. Glendennig who are now studying at Vizianagaram, but hope in a year's time to be among this hill tribe.

We have among the Telugus 6 different kinds of schools—first, a day school similar to our public schools; second, evangelistic. These schools have been established at all stations, but especially at Chicacole, there being 22 under the direction of Miss Archibald. These schools are for the outcasts. They do not meet in a building or on a verandah, but under a tree. Nothing is taught but Bible, catechism and hymns. A crowd will always gather to hear the children sing their Gospel hymns and say their texts. Sometimes all these schools meet in some public place and as many as 500 children assemble. These gatherings attract great crowds thus affording the missionary a fine opportunity to proclaim to them the Gospel. Third, Caste Girls' schools. The High Caste children will not attend school with the Lower caste. Our high caste girls' school is situated at Bobbili, under Mrs. Churchill's direction. Fourth, there is a school for boys at Bimilipatam. There, boys from all the stations come to be educated as far as the Lower Secondary, or equal to the entrance into our High School. Fifth, Sabbath Schools. Sixth, Boarding schools. These comprise the different kinds of schools upon the field. The work of a missionary as a whole may be termed touring and evangelistic, going from village to village, making known the glad tidings, selling scripture portions, distributing tracts, and in any and every way sowing the good seed of the Kingdom. The different departments of work on the Chicacole field are as follows: 1st, the Boarding school, 2nd, the Reading Room. This was established in 1898, and is under the direction of a converted Brahmin. This not only supplies good literature for all who wish to enjoy it, but many will come here who will not enter a chapel or attend a street service. Here, personal conversation can be engaged in, the hearts of the best classes drawn out toward the missionary, and they will listen to his message. Here is an opportunity for any brother or sister to help along this good cause by sending your magazines or books after you have read them. 3rd, Evangelistic schools. 4th, Touring. 5th, Colportage. 6th, The Hospital Work. This was established in 1899, and is called the "Good Samaritan" Hospital the only one especially for women and children, for a population of one million two hundred thousands people. How little we realize of the suffering of the heathen. Here, when we have a pain or an ache, we send for the doctor. These women have no medical aid and would rather die than be treated by a man if one were at hand. So you can see the hospital not only relieves suffering, but gives the best opportunity to preach the gospel to those who come for treatment. Services are always held

with those who are waiting to be treated. A report of the nine months ending April 30, 1901 gives the total number of patients treated 8,130. About two-thirds of these were from the various castes, 250 from Mohammedans and the balance from the out castes. This hospital has in the past been under the efficient care of Miss Florence DeSilva and it is a matter of much regret that our hospital has to be closed on account of the resignation of Miss DeSilva, and so many are asking when it will be again opened. We have now a lady to begin July 1st, but one should come from the home land this autumn who has taken a special course in medicine, and whose heart is full of love for the healing of the soul as well as the body.

As the direct result of hospital work, 3 have united with the church and they are at work among the coolie class of people. In several cases their free-will offerings of gratitude for healing have touched our hearts. Mrs. Archibald has conducted the daily morning services. Five women have given evidence of a change of heart. These six different departments of work are on the Chicacole field alone. In touring the missionaries and his helpers go out into the towns and villages—making some central place their headquarter,—where they pitch their tents and from this preaching day and night, far and near, wherever and whenever they can get a hearing, some going to one place and others to another. The medicine box usually accompanies the missionary as he goes on tour, and he finds abundant opportunity to treat the ordinary diseases of those living far from Government hospitals.

I will endeavor to give a very brief sketch of the mission fields where our missionaries are laboring.

To Bimilipatam belongs the honour of being the oldest mission station of the Maritime Baptists. It is a large town of about 10,000 inhabitants, and is a seaport. This is our most southerly station. The inhabitants include all castes,—the high class predominating. The nearest railway station is at Vizianagaram, but a road is to be built from Bobbili, to Vizianagaram and thence to Bimilipatam, which will greatly aid the town. Bimilipatam was first occupied as a mission station in 1875. The first missionaries to settle there, were Mr. and Mrs. Sanford. Necessary buildings were erected church organized and a prayer meeting established. Mrs. Sanford opened a Bible class and a woman's prayer meeting. A girls boarding school was organized and two of its earliest pupils are now useful women in our mission. Here is where our boys central boarding school is. Mr. and Mrs. Gullison and Miss Ida Newcomb are now in charge.

Chicacole. This is our second field and was established in 1877. The town lies 46 miles north of Bimilipatam, and though only four miles in direct line from the sea it is 16 miles by road. Chicacole has 19,000 inhabitants, nearly all natives, only a few Murattians and no English except the collector and the missionaries. There are about four hundred Mohammedans. The whole field includes 1965 villages. Chicacole is on the bank of the river Lungaya, which means a pough. The river is 200 miles long, and has a bridge of 24 arches, built in 1854. There are many kinds of trees in and about the town. The chief being the Cocosnut, Palmyra, Palm, Mango, India Date (from which toddy is drawn) Orange, Wood Apple and some wild trees. The town is very picturesque. It is on the high road from Madras to Calcutta and has a municipal high school, municipal office, telegraph office, post office and court.

(To be continued).

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