

MISSION BAND.

LESSON X.

Give a New Year touch to your first Band meeting in 1913. Make an attractive greeting in evergreen letters, or white letters on red background, "A Happy New Year to All!" In the opening exercises have a brief talk on "Time and the wise use of it."

Drill together.—Our New Year's prayer: "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12.).

And what is wisdom? The answer is our Band text: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do His commandments" (Psalm 111:10.).

Recitation, "A Harty Welcome."—

"A HEARTY WELCOME."

Kind parents and friends, we welcome you here,

To join in our meeting the first of the year;

It is pleasant to have our friends who are dear,

So ready to help and so willing to cheer.

We are only one of the Mission Bands,
But with loving hearts, and with willing hands,

We try to obey our Saviour's commands
To carry the gospel to all needy lands.

We work while we bring but one penny,
to pray

For a tract or a Bible to send far away;
We work when of others we think every day

For Jesus we work, while we give, while
we pray.

Gladly we greet you with sweet songs
of praise,

And ask you for aid through this year's
happy days,

A new year of science to-day is begun,
We ask for your prayers and help till
it's done.

To-day we have an object lesson.
Here on the table is a saucer of rice, a
cake of indigo blue, a bottle of linseed
oil, some rope, and a cup of tea leaves.
Miss Ryerse tells us about rice.

(a) Only a part of the people of India make rice their chief food. The most of them live on millet and other grains. Rice grows principally in Southern India near the coasts. Before the rice fields are planted, they look like a crazy work quilt, because they are all divided up into small uneven shaped pieces of ground by ridges of earth about a foot high, and a foot through. These ridges of earth are to keep the water around the rice while it is growing.

In the early part of May, they plow one or more patches near a well or canal, and then sow it thickly with seed. They keep this well-watered until the rains come the middle of June or later. As soon as the heavy rains come and make the ground like soft mush, they take their oxen or buffaloes and a queer looking thing they call a plow, and scratch up the top of the ground. Then they work it all smooth. If the rains have kept on coming the way they should, the transplanting will begin. The rice or paddy plants are now about a foot high, and very bright green like wheat. These are pulled and tied in bundles, that later are scattered in the prepared plots. Men, women, and children; everybody can now get work in helping to transplant the rice plants. The wages paid run from four to ten cents a day.

From now on the farmers try to keep water on the rice-fields, until it is nearly ready to cut. They let water in from the canals, if their fields are near enough. They pump water with very curious pumps, and work every way they can think of. So much depends on getting plenty of rainy weather. Every once in a while, the rice-fields are weeded and hoed. In December, the water is taken off the fields, and the cutting begins. It is cut by hand, bound in bundles, and, when dry, piled in stacks. The most of the threshing is done in