

REV. DR. BUCHANA'S WORK IN UJJAIN
1892-93.

The year has gone and we would not wish it here again for it has been one of trial, sickness, suffering and death : and yet with all much of the manifestation of God's goodness and mercy. We have all been ill, very ill, and one, our darling little girl, who scarcely had a place upon earth that could be called home, has been taken to that blessed rest, that heavenly home from which she shall never part.

We are very thankful to report after many years living in spare mission bungalows, rented houses in cantonments, rented native houses in the odorous native city, in tents bought and borrowed ; we are now writing in the new mission bungalow at Ujjain, comfortable, happy, hopeful. Though the upper story was not built as well as it would have been had not your missionary been taken very ill, still it is a very sanitarium for site and build and looks as if it might stand long. One large room having three windows and three doors is intended for, and is now used as, a female dispensary by Mrs. Buchanan.

Our staff of Christian workers is of such a quality as to give us great joy in our service with them, but Ujjain is a large place, the 2nd city in that part of India occupied by our Mission, and needs more workers. How shall we get them ? There are young men in our midst that have intellectual and Scripture knowledge qualification sufficient if only they had the change of heart. Our prayers are to this end.

A section of the Mihters became so much interested, first in the dispensary, that they came to the weekly meetings for a time and seemed to give promise of fruit. To such an extent were they interested, that many of the high castes were raising the old complaint, that we were receiving sinners. And at one time the school was seriously threatened because of them. Some influence came in, and they entirely ceased coming to the dispensary or meetings. But a few of them seem to be really drawn towards Christ and are again making inquiries.

As our Sundays were pretty well filled up and we had no English service, the thought came specially to Mrs. Buchanan, that it would be a good thing for ourselves and also for English-speaking people here if we could have a week night English meeting in the form of a Y. P. S. C. E. Accordingly on the 10th of January 1893, five of us met in our bungalow and organized ourselves into a Young People's Society of Christian Endeavour. We meet every Tuesday evening and have found these meetings a great help to us.

Sunday School work is being undertaken with a little more energy than formerly.

Last year in the examination in Canada conducted by the Committee on Higher Religious

Instruction the boys obtained, in addition to the diplomas, two medals and two prizes. One prize was also obtained by one of the Christian workers, in the senior department. We all thought the medals very pretty and they were much prized by the receivers. These medals and diplomas should be a constant witness to these lads that if they do not find salvation, their blood must be upon their own heads.

We have now Sunday Schools held regularly in all the three boys' schools and one girls' school. In these all the day pupils are expected to, and do practically all attend. Then we have also the special out-door Sunday School begun by the Y. P. S. C. E. All the Christians are considered as workers on the Sunday School Committee. Of this class of school there are four held very early on Sunday mornings to catch the children before they leave for their work for the day.

At first the people were afraid to have their names written. As soon as the teachers' little note book was taken out to record the names, the school either became absent or showed such signs of making off that the instructor was glad to get the terrible note book out of sight. Though these schools are always held in the same place under a particular tree, on a disabled ox cart, or at a cross roads still it is somewhat difficult to keep anything like regularity of attendance.

Tickets help in this direction and when a sufficient number of daily tickets are received one of the old Christmas cards sent out from home is a great treat, especially advertisement cards that have plenty of colour and the representation of some animate object. Given their choice a very pretty card of flowers will be passed all but unnoticed while a woman's face, a boy or even a donkey would be eagerly grasped.

These Sunday Schools could be held every day in the week if we only had labourers sufficient to overtake the work. We think this form of work specially useful as by it a particular section of the city is laid upon the heart of one or two workers and they feel the responsibility of being under shepherds for this particular people. Then the regular visitation and the enrolment of the names helps to make the people also feel that these Christian workers are interested in them and in their children ; that the things spoken about the Christians were lies ; and so a mutual interest is awakened. On the one side friendliness and some measure of thankfulness, and on the other side sympathy, love and longing prayers for the people's highest good.

School—Herbert, the lame boy who was taken up by Mr. Builder and supported by him and afterwards by the Kilgour brothers of Toronto, is now the teacher in the Bhajumpura school and is getting along very nicely with at present about thirty boys on the roll and an average of about twenty-two. He still needs teaching but it will