

NEWS—AND A PROBLEM.

We all remember how disappointed we were that Miss Priest and Miss Murray were not with us for the Association, as expected. We only knew that when all packed and labeled their trunks were ready to start, word came that the Government had commandeered one-half of the steamer on which they were to sail, and, alas! it was the half containing their staterooms. Efforts to find other accommodation followed, but for weary months of waiting nothing was found. Then a chance offered and they came safely on, guarded by angelic convoy, and landed at the end of May. Miss Murray is at her home in Arkona resting. She was especially worn and weary. Miss Priest is having a happy visit with her sister in Michigan. Some of us had the pleasure of seeing Miss Blackadar as she passed eastward to her home in Nova Scotia. Thrice welcome home to each of these dear and true yoke-fellows of ours, and we will repeat the welcome when we meet and clasp them by the hand.

Writing of the utter abandonment with which one of our own missionaries gives herself and her means to the work, a brother missionary said: "But this is not true of Miss — alone. She is just a sample of what the rest are doing. The really heroic work of this mission is being done by the single women." Nobly said! We know that such high service is not done by them alone, but it certainly is easy to be enthusiastic about the women the Lord has given our Society to represent us in India. Those who have just come will have a message for us at Convention in London. Let every one who can possibly be there, come and hear it.

But what of those waiting to return to their beloved work or newly appointed to enter upon it? This has been a grave question, and is not yet fully settled. Here are new difficulties. The cost of the journey has risen from three to five hundred dollars each. The rate of exchange is higher than ever before, it costing us at this moment ten per cent. to send over money to India. These facts make their own appeal, and we can and will, by His grace and for His sake, overcome these difficulties. But there remains the greater problem of getting passage. Steamer lines have been so depleted by the demands of Government that agents are powerless to book passengers farther than Hong Kong. At that port each must make his own arrangements for getting on to India as soon and as best they can. Is it safe and wise to send our missionaries under these conditions? They are eager for the venture—are we ready for the responsibility of letting them go? Dare we take the responsibility of holding them back? The work and the workers out there at the front are suffering for these reinforcements. How much we need your counsel, dear Directors and others, in this matter. Above all, we need the guidance of the Master Himself. For this we are asking, Will you not join us most earnestly in this? You surely will. He knows and loves and cares so much more than we do. Miss Baskerville, you know, is waiting to go. After almost a lifetime of devoted and efficient service, her heart's home is among the Telugus. Sister Laura Allyn longs to be giving her trained service as nurse, and a teacher of nurses, to the suffering women and children of India, and we long to speed both of these on their way. It is our hope that these may be followed by others next year. There are such woeful gaps in the ranks over there at the front. The sense of being surrounded by open doors and appealing voices which cannot be entered or responded to for lack of time or strength is heart-breaking and wearing out our missionaries too quickly.

So let us press on to their relief and to the rescue of those lost and loveless ones in India, till He shall reign whose right it is.

M. B. McL.