

RAMACHANDRAPURAM REPORT.

Extracts from the Report of Dr. Gertrude Hulet, who is in charge there during Miss Hatch' furlough.

Forty-nine lepers have been admitted, making a total now of seventy-two, and several additions have been made to the building. Twenty-seven lepers have been converted and have joined the Church, which now numbers fifty-one members.

In March Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Bailey paid a visit to this asylum, and whilst they were there the dedication service of the chapel was held. This new chapel also was a gift from Mrs. Kellock of Canada (see photo in July number). This Asylum might well receive the name "Thankful Corner" as the note of praise is so loudly sounded throughout this story of the year. Who would go to a group of lepers naturally expecting to hear praises sung? And yet these lepers have a service of praise every Sunday evening. At the opening of the chapel a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mrs. Kellock, and a special hymn was sung by the lepers thanking all who had given and labored for them. Our readers will find in this issue a letter from these same lepers to their benefactors in Canada and elsewhere.

Amongst the women lepers a "Helpmeet Society" has been formed, the members of which take great pleasure in contributing their mites towards the support of a Bible-woman, and while Miss Hulet was away recently on a preaching tour in the villages round about, these women met daily to ask God's blessing on her efforts.

We hope before long to be able to tell our readers of the completion of the Home for untainted children. The money for this Home has been collected by kind friends, and the Home—which will contain living rooms, hospital wards, a dispensary, and a store-room, is in process of erection.

LEPER WORK.

One new house and two new rooms have been built, besides the dispensary, and living rooms for Josiah, also the chapel has been completed. The teaching of God's Word has borne precious fruit. During the year 27 have been converted, baptized, and joined this Church, making a membership of 51. The deportment of these Christians, and also of the rest, has been very commendable. During the year only a few have needed discipline. The only objection we hear to lepers coming to the Home is that all who come here become Christians. We realize God's

people are upholding the work mightily in prayers and we rejoice in the manifestations of God's wonderful saving and keeping power. May those who have made it possible for these poor afflicted ones to be brought within reach of the Healing Hand continue in prayer and giving that many more may know the graciousness of the Saviour who is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

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THE CHRISTIAN GIFTS.

When a year ago we were privileged to report that the total gifts of the Christians amounted to a round one thousand rupees we feared that the high-water mark of their giving for several years to come had been reached. But happily our misgivings have not been realized, since the total gifts for the year under review are no less than rupees one thousand and seventy-five. True, the total membership has increased by sixty-six, but still the fact remains that a slight advance has been made in the givings as a whole. "Gift-meetings," carefully prepared for and thoroughly organized, have had not a little to do with this encouraging result. Two items seem worthy of somewhat extended notice. The first is this. Two years ago the church in Bodigunta gave forty-three rupees, last year its gifts were ninety-five, and this year they total one hundred and eighty-five, an increase of over fourfold in two years. And this is the second. In a "gift-meeting" a year ago a Christian woman was impressed by the thought of giving a tenth of her income for the Lord's work. She can neither read nor write. Her husband's farm consists of but one half-acre of land, so that this Christian couple are forced, like nine-tenths of our members, to eke out a livelihood as laborers for the wealthy caste-farmers. In spite of these drawbacks the woman clung to her resolve in which she had the encouragement of her husband. So they tithed the small yield on their half-acre farm, tithed their hire as farmhands, tithed their marketed produce and laid it aside as God's. When the yearly "gift-meeting" came round again the little hoard amounted to eight rupees, and this with shining faces they brought as their offering to the Lord. In addition, they had given about two rupees in weekly collections at the regular Sabbath services. We believe God opened this woman's heart to receive the word about giving as truly as He opened Lydia's to believe on Him. So we are proclaiming this noteworthy experience throughout the Christian villages and expect that its proclamation will not be in vain.

H. E. STILLWELL.