

CONFERENCE AT COCANADA.

Once a year the missionaries from the maritime provinces meet in conference with those from Ontario and Quebec. I remember being present at the second conference just after I reached India. It was not a very large meeting. A few years later the conference met at Akidu. If I remember rightly there were just eight present. We have grown since then, and this year we met at Cocanada from the 12th to the 16th January. There were very few married ladies present, but the two, whose wedding days were only a month past, were among them; and of course this lent an added charm to the gathering. Personal sickness kept Mrs. Churchill at home, and her husband and daughter were kept too. The illness of another kept Mrs. Sanford at home, so we were denied the great pleasure of welcoming these old friends.

The first hour of each morning session and the first half hour of each afternoon were spent in devotional exercises. The last afternoon was given up to a devotional meeting. The leaders of these meetings had each some special passage of the Word, and some special thought that was helpful, I think we were all refreshed in these meetings. Mr. McLéod, as retiring President, addressed us on Christ as a missionary, and gave utterance to some inspiring thoughts. His address will probably be published in some periodical. It will do us good to read it.

The reports from the various fields were read and some time was given to prayer after each report or each group of reports. Listening to these accounts of one another's work and asking information concerning interesting points in the reports is an exercise most greatly enjoyed by some of us. We were sorry to see that comparatively little growth in numbers had taken place in the church, probably there has been some growth in many other ways. We did not get a summary of the Sunday School statistics for the Maritime Province mission, but the Ontario and Quebec fields reported 149 schools, 272 teachers and 3906 scholars, this being a net gain of 46 schools, 58 teachers and 854 scholars.

A large part of one session was devoted to a discussion on the liquor and opium questions and to prayer for temperance workers and the victims of intemperance. A committee was appointed to secure statistics in regard to the use of liquor and opium by both Christians and non-Christians.

Next year our conference gives way to quinquennial conference in which the American Baptists missionaries join us. I hope that we may all have greater progress to report as the result of our work in this the last year of the 19th century.

After our Union Conference closed we of Ontario and Quebec spent two days and a half over business connected with our mission. Then the Godavari Association met at Samalkot for four days, during which the Telugu brethren and sisters had a good time. So ended the anniversaries of the 19th century.

JOHN CRAIG.

ZENANA WORK REPORT FROM JULY TO DECEMBER, 1899.

BY LOTTIE GIBSON.

"Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit saith the Lord of Hosts."

During the last six months I have visited a larger number of houses than ever before, 86 in all, out of a total of 88, making altogether 276 visits reaching about 300 or more different women with the Gospel. Of these houses seven were new ones. The above represents only 91 days work, owing to a spell of illness which lasted over a month. The houses visited by me are not all strictly zenanas, as some castes permit their women to go out into the street at all times. Brahmins and Coentees which are the next highest and Goldsmiths all permit this liberty. I have no Brahmin houses, but sometimes meet the women in a Coentee house, they make a very intelligent audience as a rule, but are difficult to reach because of caste prejudices. I have quite a few of the other two castes, however. Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the work this term also, is the increase in the number of new houses, which means of course, fresh women most of whom, if any, have never heard the name of Jesus even. And in every case it has been through their own pressing invitation that I have begun to visit them. There is no need for us to seek fresh work, it is always offering and I do realize at times that it is more than I can do single-handed.

Lessons in reading are not always easy to give because the pupils are often young mothers whose time and thoughts are all taken up with their new toy, the "baby." Two young women who were