

INDIA.

SCENES FROM THE ZENANA MISSION-ARIES.

"The rainy season in India is always rather trying. Leaking roofs, low damp crandahs, spoil clothing and books, and a host of reptiles, venomous or disgusting, or both, are some of the drawbacks to comfort which counterbalance the enjoyable coolness of the air after a good heavy down-pour of rain, and the delightful evening ride after a hot days work. This summer we have killed no less than six snakes in, or quite close to, our house, not to mention centipedes, and even a scorpion. One snake, of a most poisonous species, and more than three feet in length, was found crawling near Miss Strolin's bedroom; it was speedily killed, and is now in a bottle of spirits of wine on our mantle-piece, an ever-present reminder of our preservation from a great danger. Its skin is most beautifully marked with black rings and dots, and it is really a splendid specimen. The monkeys are often very troublesome in the schools; they jump down from the neighbouring roofs, and invade our class-rooms in the coolest fashion imaginable. I may be just in the midst of a scripture lesson, when cries of fear from my pupils and a general commotion make me look around, and I discover a huge, horrid monkey grinning close behind my chair.

One day, while teaching a bright little pupil in a house near the school, the mother came past with a large red flower in her hand, which she placed on the ground, and began to pray to it, and to prostrate herself before it. When she had finished, I said to her, 'What! Do you know no better than to do that?—you, who have heard so much about the true God!' 'True,' she said, '*I know there is nothing in it, and it is all false, but I am only an ignorant old woman, and it is our custom,—how can I leave it off?*' And then she went on to say, 'My two children know better; they have learned of you; *they will never do it; but as for me, as I have done so I must do.*'"

MISSION TO LEPERS IN INDIA.

There are 107 lepers supported by the friends of the above Mission in connection with five institutions. The details transmitted by the Missionaries in charge of the above asylums, afford a sad insight into the realities of leper life in India. They set strongly before us the necessity

for the work carried on by this Society, and may well stir the hearts of God's people to a yet more earnest effort to lead those poor suffering ones to Him who "Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses."

The Rev. A. Rudolph, the Missionary in charge of the Sabbath Asylum, says:—

"It may appear strange that a life of so much suffering and privation should not lead more readily to the acceptance of the Gospel; but it is not suffering that converts the soul. The Holy Spirit may use affliction as a means; but it is not the power unto salvation. He alone can change the heart.

Among the besetting sin of these poor creatures avarice stands out prominently. The leper clings as much to his earthly possessions, few though they be, as those who are rich in this world's goods. It is curious also to notice how carefully the leper nurses his caste prejudices. But we must not judge these unfortunate beings harshly. If disease has maimed the body, it has no less weakened the mental faculty. It must be remembered they have no education, and but few means of occupying the mind profitably. In the Asylum we have opportunity daily to notice how true a type this disease is of sin—a mutilated body with the power of locomotion much impeded, the senses of taste and smell dulled, the eyesight often destroyed, hearing affected, the faculty of speaking in some cases almost gone, and even feeling so far lost that the hottest vessels are handled, and the hand burnt without the injury being noticed till it becomes apparent to the eye. How true a type of the leprosy of the heart that has no perception of divine things, that sees no beauty in the Saviour, that is dull in hearing the divine commandment, 'Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over unto lasciviousness to work all uncleanness with greediness."

RECENT CENSUS.

The first general census taken in India is nearly completed, and some of the facts revealed respecting England's immense possessions in the east are interesting. The area of India is 1,322,583 square miles, or a little over one-third of that of the United States. There is a population of 253,391,821, or over five times the population of the United States. The males exceed the females