

Contributed Articles.

HOW FUNDS CAN BE RAISED.

This is the principle topic in our mission circle just now, and perhaps other circles are agitating the same question. The pressing need of funds, if we would successfully carry on our work for the women of India, is felt by all. Many of our circles have been adding to their membership during this quarter, and receiving the annual fee. Quite a sum has already been raised by our societies in this way, but we must remember that this is only the beginning of our work.

During a recent visit to Illinois and Wisconsin I met with several mission circles and with one mission board. Our American sisters have been at work successfully for years, and their meetings are characterized by an earnest, prayerful, enthusiasm that warmed my own heart. I asked a great many questions about their manner of working, how the circle meetings were made interesting; what their best plans were for raising funds; and about many other things that would help us in our work.

One good plan which seemed to be generally adopted in the places I visited was to hold a Foreign Mission Social once a month under the auspices of the circle: all addresses, essays, readings, and music at these socials bearing directly on the work in foreign lands, and how it can be further advanced. A large map containing all the American Baptist mission stations is hung in plain sight. One of the members of the circle, or some friend of the work, frequently gives a map exercise, tracing the course of the missionaries, and speaking of the rapid progress made in foreign work. The great need of more laborers in this harvest field is shown by the vast space as yet unoccupied. A collection is taken up at the close of each social for the funds of the circle. These socials accomplish a double purpose. They draw in a class of young people who cannot attend the afternoon meetings, and interest them in the work. Then the programme is varied, taking in young and old, brothers and sisters, until these monthly socials are eagerly anticipated. They also serve to spread missionary intelligence in the community, and people are much more willing to contribute to the foreign mission work, as they know more about it. More sympathy is awakened for those who are now toiling in those distant lands, and earnest prayers are offered for them. By these socials the young people learn to follow the progress of the work, and the missionaries are no longer strangers to them, but friends. Another good idea is the way those cir-

cles interest the children of the Sabbath Schools. "Mission Bands" are organized among them, a small membership fee is charged, and regular meetings are held by these "bands" and their older friends. Some warm hearted lady is chosen as superintendent who understands child nature. Stories of the missionaries in India, of the wretched condition of the people there, of the great help that even a child may give to this work by doing all he or she can do for it—such subjects as these are talked about in a simple, easy manner, so that the smallest can understand. Then their copper collections are taken up, and added to the circle's fund for work among the women and children.

Of course plans like these take a great deal of energy, patience and labor, but they are for the Master. "The love of Christ constraineth" and all is done with prayer for His blessing.—And so their work increases year by year. New missionaries are sent out, schools are sustained and the W. F. M. Society is recognized by the American Board as an active working power.

Shall it not be so with us, dear sisters? Shall we not press forward in the work, doing with our might whatsoever our hands find to do? As the daily papers bring tidings of the famine in India, and our hearts chill at the thought of hundreds driven to despair, of mothers offering their children for sale in the streets that they may buy bread, we realize a little of their distress. Starvation is a fearful death, but even it might end in brightness. The pauper has often exchanged his beggar's garments for the spotless robe of Christ's righteousness, his want and misery for the land where he "shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more—for the Lamb which is the midst of the throne shall feed him, and shall lead him unto living fountains of waters." But this famine has a deeper meaning. These people are starving body and soul. No one has told them of the "Bread of Life" and they are dying without Christ. We, in our land of plenty, rejoicing in the bountiful harvest our Heavenly Father has given us, and still more in the glorious gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,—

"Can we whose souls are lighted
With wisdom from on high,
Can we to men in night
The lamp of life deny?"

Dear sisters, as the great need of these people comes up before us, let us labor more earnestly to raise funds for our foreign mission that God's work may go on, and the dark lands be brightened with the knowledge of our risen Redeemer.

B. L.

Brantford Sept. 27, 1877.

FAITH'S RECORD.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

In these days when scepticism holds such sway in the hearts of the people, and I fear in many of God's children, although they may not recognize it—nor would they own it even to themselves—it may be well to show how God is the *living* God now as much as in the days of Moses and Elijah; and although not revealed to us in the burning bush, or by fire from heaven, is no less "THE SAME yesterday, to-day, and forever." His word remains just as true: "Ye have not because ye ask not, or because ye ask amiss."

This fact has been most emphatically demonstrated in the work of the Hospital for Sick Children, begun and continued on the principal of *faith in God*.

When it was decided that such an institution was required, it was also decided after much prayer, to establish it on this basis—

1st. In order to prove to ourselves that God would honor us when we trusted only on Him, as He had George Müller, Dr. Cullis, Dr. Shipway, and many others who in simple faith on His own word had established and successfully carried on large institutions in Bristol, Boston, and Chicago.

2nd. That the Father would by the success attending this work, strengthen the faith of His own people.

3rd. That we might set something tangible before the children of God, whereby they might see that He does not forsake, even in our day, those who rely on Him.

It is now two years and a half since this work was commenced. During that time over two hundred children have been taken in, cured of their various diseases, or relieved, where the cases were incurable; some receiving from the institution steel splints and supports, costing often from \$5 to \$20. Over \$3000 have been received without asking any individual for a single contribution, simply by the exercise of prayer and faith.

God also has blessed the means used for the recovery of the children: for although so many have passed through our hands, only one death has occurred. There are nineteen little ones now in Hospital, all sick,—lame, crooked, or paralyzed. Many of these have been in bed half their young lives, yet bear their confinement so cheerfully, that we "children of a larger growth" often get a silent rebuke from their example.

Many times our faith and patience have been sadly tried. We have had to learn to "trust upon the Lord, and to wait patiently for Him," in order to get our "heart's desire." But would that I could write this in letters of fire before the eyes