

MISSIONS TO THE INDIANS.

A MODEL INDIAN SCHOOL.

One of the editors, in search of information about Indian Industrial Schools, spent a very pleasant day last month at the Mohawk Institution, near Brantford in Ontario. The school is under the care of the New England Company, an English organization, established in 1655, and which formerly carried on missionary operations in several lands, but has been obliged in late years by failing funds to restrict its work, until now it has only its missions on the Grand River, and at Chemung, near Peterboro'. The latter is a day school, under the care of Mr. Kennedy, a Presbyterian. The former, which comprises much the larger part of the Company's work, includes the Industrial School already mentioned and several missions and day schools on the Six Nations Reserve, which extends down the river from Brantford. The whole of the Society's operations are under the supervision of the Rev. R. Ashton, a clergyman of the Church of England, who has been principal of the school for some twenty years and who takes great pains to put such visitors as are interested in Indian mission work, in possession of the results of his experience.

The school has an average attendance of over 90 pupils, equally divided between boys and girls and ranging in age from eight to eighteen. There are three school-rooms where the elements of an English education are taught, prominence being given to object lessons and to music. Each school-room has its own cabinet organ. Evident pains are taken to teach the children to speak English, and there seems to be a constant effort to avoid the besetting sin of Indian schools, the parrot-like repetition of lessons that are not understood. Most of the day school teachers on the reserve, and some in the Institution, are Indian girls trained here. The Industrial department includes, for the boys, the working of a farm of 470 acres, part of which is cultivated as a market garden; and for the girls the work of the house and the making of clothes for the pupils. There is no attempt to teach trades. The rising bell sounds in the morning at half-past five, and at half-past seven the farm boys have their teams hitched and ready to leave the yard. Discipline is maintained by a system of rewards, consisting in the right to wear from one to three silver stars as good conduct badges on the dress, permission to visit the city and enjoy treats of various kinds. The punishments are mainly of the nature of deprivations, viz., of good conduct badges, of holiday privileges, and of any other food except bread and water. For certain aggravated misdemeanors resort is had to corporal punishment. There is a system of money payments for work by which a pupil's earnings may aggregate some six cents a day. No talking is allowed in school room or dormitory, but there is a recreation room provided with checkers, ninepins and illustrated papers. The boys, when in