

## NEWS FROM INDIA.



Missionary physician in India went with an English lady to call on some of her patients. Word was sent that they would not be ready to receive visitors till four o'clock. Truly when we saw them we were not surprised, for it must have taken the extra hours to take out all their jewellery and put on all the fine paint and clothing.

A gentleman in a blue-and-white turban received us, and we were shown into a very large room, covered with a carpet, but there was nothing else there but a few bamboo chairs and a heap of silk and cashmere shawls, excepting that against the wall were about twenty pairs of boots and shoes, red, blue, and other colors, with pointed toes and no heels.

When the first lady appeared she almost took away my breath by her astonishing appearance. Her face was painted red and yellow, with a streak of black across her forehead and around her eyes; her finger and toe nails were stained dark red. Her wide yellow satin trousers were fastened round the ankles with huge gold anklets, and from these hung so many jewels that they nearly covered her feet. Her jacket was richly worked with gold. She wore heavy bracelets at the top of her arms as well as on her wrists; around her neck she had put on one gold chain after another, the lowest reaching to her waist. In her hair was one blue and one pink ostrich feather, two wreaths of orange blossoms, and a band of silk; and over that on one side was a black, and on the other a white, gold-spangled veil. On her fingers were nine enormous rings. Her voice was almost as shrill as that of a peacock. She seemed much pleased to turn the musical box with her jewelled fingers.

The second lady now appeared, dressed in all the colors of the rainbow, and, being very shy and foolish, did nothing but giggle, and went to the other end of the room. The door opened again for afternoon tea, carried on a brass tray, the teapot being covered with one large cashmere handkerchief and the cups with smaller ones.

One question weighed on the mind of the yellow-satin trousered lady, and this was, "How do you like my clothes?" The only answer I could think of was that I had heard and read of such grand clothes, but had never seen anything like them before.

As I could only nod and smile, and the Persian lady told and unfolded her hands so that every ring might be seen to advantage, I turned out my handbag, and she was enchanted, especially with a work-case, with its little holes for cotton and thimble. Then to crown all, I showed her how to use a safety pin, and made her a present of one.

It was a sad visit, for these poor women have no thought for anything but jewels and dress. They did not want to hear anything about the Bible, nor to look at our pictures; and when we spoke of the ornament the Lord cared for most, "a meek and quiet spirit," they accepted the remark with a rude laugh. —Lucy I. Tongue, in the *Missionary Link*.

A wee maiden, a member of King's Messenger Band, has tried her hand at writing a short work of fiction. It is entitled "The Good Boy," and it shows that she has a high ideal in regard to boys, and that she sees the beauty of self-sacrifice, at least for them. We give it with a few alterations:

A boy was sitting on the steps of his house thinking. He had some money in his pocket which his papa had given him on his birthday, to do whatever he wanted to with it. He thought and thought, and at last he said, "I will go up to the church and give it to the missionary." And he did, and the missionary said he was a good boy, and then he told how he had wanted to keep it to buy "drumsticks" (a kind of candy), but would not, and after that he saved up all the money he could get until he had \$4.00, and he took it up to the church, and it did so much good he was called a missionary. He never spent his cents for foolish things, and he grew up to be a man and had a Sunday school class of his own. ELLIE.

## TAKE NOTICE.

The basis of competition for the Banner this year is the greatest number of new subscribers to PALM BRANCH. Now who will win the Banner and at the same time work for the general good? In the scale of subscriptions for PALM BRANCH, given in the report for the year, our Branch had the largest number by three hundred! Surely this is great encouragement to go on.

We print Miss Thorne's excellent paper in PALM BRANCH, because it gives the portrait of an ideal Recording Secretary for Circles and Bands as well as Auxiliaries.

Please use the blanks that we sent to you for renewal. Filled in by you they will contain all the particulars that we need. They can be used for new subscriptions too.

FOR SALE.—Pictures of the Chinese girls of the Rescue Home, Victoria, can be had for fifty cents (50 cts.), by applying to Mrs. Pendray, 92 Belleville St., James Bay, Victoria, B. C.