

Foreign Mission Board

W. B. M. U.

"We are laborers together with God."

Contributors to this column will please address MRS. J. W. MANNING, 240 Duke Street, St. John, N. B.

PRAYER TOPIC FOR MARCH

That the Spirit's power may graciously descend upon mission helpers, schools, outstations, and that all who are halting may now decide to live for Christ. For Mission Bands and their leaders.

The Decennial Conference.

The fourth Decennial Conference for all India and Ceylon, convened in Madras in December last, from the 11th to the 18th inclusive, and was probably the most satisfactory gathering of the kind in the history of Indian Missions. As India includes Burma, there were representatives from there also. Allahabad had the honor of the first conference some thirty years ago. Twenty years ago, Calcutta; ten, Bombay; and now, Madras in due course has had its turn. The opening of the East Coast Railway during the last decade has brought the southern part of India into much closer contact with the far north, so that now, Calcutta is only forty-eight hours from Madras, though many came from points that required a much longer journey. All the evangelical denominations were represented in the Conference by about two hundred delegates and a hundred or more visitors, who were admitted by ticket, for which they paid two and three rupees respectively. The personnel of the conference was such as should encourage any discouraged worker who might be present, and proved beyond all doubt, that men with large natural endowment, and with broad acquired equipment have not lost heart in the fear, that their powers would be wasted on the desert air, if they gave themselves to some department of the Foreign work. There were old men, gray in the service, with trembling voices, and hearts filled with burning zeal for the cause of God, in this idolatrous land, the sight of whom sometimes brought a lump to one's throat, as we thought of all they had experienced. And there were young men, and men in middle life, God's soldiers, standing by a purpose true, against what seems to the human eye, almost immeasurable odds. And many times I thought,

"Faith is a living power from Heaven,
Which grasps the promise God has given,"
and praised him for the power of the religion of Jesus Christ over the hearts of sinful men and women. For the women were there too, and did their part with their usual ability and devotion. I was only a visitor, so can speak appreciatively of the workers.

Delegates were appointed according to the numerical strength of the mission, at the rate of one for every fifteen missionaries, not including wives, as only gentlemen and lady missionaries are responsible to the Boards. The Church Mission Society, the Wesleyan and Episcopal Methodists were especially to the front, and the committee of management must have done a large amount of hard work, and they discharged their duties with much credit to themselves, and satisfaction to the general public. It is said, that this Conference is far in advance of any of its predecessors, and that questions were discussed with the utmost freedom, courtesy and Christian love, that, ten years ago, could not have been broached. One of the most striking things to me, was the actual unity of thought and purpose, that moved the whole Conference along the lines of a new life in Christ, a called and Spirit-filled Gospel native ministry, and the desire on all sides for larger efforts to bring about real self support among the Indian churches. Again, everywhere there was the thrill of expectancy, a looking up to God, and claiming with the assurance of faith a large outpouring of His spirit on all India. All seem to feel, that God's time is surely here and hearts are fixed and eyes are toward the Lord. It was stated here that the wave of revival that has swept over Australia and Japan had its origin in the call to prayer, that went out from India some four or five years ago, and now we hope that the blessed showers of God's grace will fall on this thirsty land and cause it to burst forth into singing.

There were eight large committees. One each on the Native Church, Evangelistic Work, Educational Work, Literature, Medical Work, Industrial Work, Women's Work, and one on Comity and Public questions. These committees were in session three days in rooms of the Y. M. C. A. and the Christian College and finally all came together in Victoria Hall and reports were presented in turn. We will send a published report of proceedings to Secretary Manning, and later on, he may gather something from its pages that will interest you. The literature committee divides India and Ceylon into seventeen language areas, and proposes that a man be set apart in each one of these to develop, in connection

with the different Conferences, a larger literature for the growing reading public.

One of the best addresses of the Conference was delivered by Mr. J. Campbell White, lately of the Y. M. C. A. of Calcutta, who is now going home to become Secretary for the United Presbyterians. He is full of enthusiasm for the evangelization of the world in this generation, and as far as in him lies, he will do his part. He has no doubt of the ability of an awakened church led by Christ, but will the church submit is the question. He stated that every third second some soul passed from India into eternity, and made a computation, which any one can do, from that point. When a church is moved with the life of Christ, such appeals as he made will not be necessary. Another fine address was given by Mr. C. S. Eldy of the C. A. of Madras, and still another by a missionary from Arabia, who stirred all hearts by his story of work and needs among the Mohammedans.

Dr. Torrey of Chicago held some meetings in connection with the conference and while they were much enjoyed, probably there was a feeling of disappointment, in which Dr. Torrey shared, that all which was hoped for, had not been realized. In this connection, a remark made by Dr. Theoburn years ago comes to mind, that to convert a soul in India, a much larger manifestation of the power of God is required, than for the same work in America. India is probably a different soil from any which the plough share of God's truth, in the hands of Dr. Torrey has ever yet touched. Still, he left India with a settled conviction, that the country was on the eve of a great blessing.

While in Madras, heavy rain fell on the line, which breached the east coast railway, so we had to return another way which took three days, instead of twenty four hours.

OLD FRIENDS AND CHRISTMAS.

In Madras, we met Mrs. Armstrong and her daughter Katie, and asked them to spend Christmas with us at their old home, Chicacole. They were already talking of visiting our conference, so gladly accepted our invitation. They arrived the day before Christmas with Mr. Freeman, who is so well, so strong and so happy, that the sight of him, makes one feel cheerful. Miss Archibald had her evangelistic school festival that afternoon, in which all were interested, and later on, I went with Mrs. Armstrong to look up some of her former friends. It was pathetic to see how she inquired for one and another, even by name, and how she yearned over and prayed for some whom we found. Old memories came over her like a flood as she went about this house and compound, and while I know she enjoyed it, I am equally sure that in this pleasure, there was pain. We greatly enjoyed having her, but regrets were present also, as we thought how much poorer our whole field probably is, owing to the loss of the influence of this earnest woman. And for her years, Katie is not a whit behind her mother, and she gave us most interesting accounts of her work in Burma. They attended part of our conference, and all enjoyed them, then left us for their home across the Bay. Dr. and Mrs. Byggs were also with us for several days, and the counsels of the former, as well as the spiritual ministrations of both were most helpful and highly appreciated. Now we are at home again, with another year before us, and I know that the prayer of every heart is, may the Lord lead.

Our cold weather has been short, but there were a few days of the coldest weather we ever saw on the plains of India. The mercury was down to 51° in the early morning. But it is warm for the time of year, here now, and it will be warmer soon.

THE BOXES.

These came while all were together at Vizianagram, and contents distributed. The hospital was well remembered and returns many thanks to its kind friends. There were fourteen quilts in all, five from Aylesford, three from Windsor, one from New Germany, one from Luenburg, one from Mahone, one from Tremont, and two lined with blue flannellette which were not marked. There were twenty-one sheets, only one of which was marked, and that bore the name of Mrs. Slack of Windsor. There were forty-two towels and the same number of pillow covers. Quilts and sheets, etc., all good size, but some of them too nice perhaps. Now may not you all rest from your labors along this line for a time, and when more supplies of this nature are required I will inform you. I know the young people like to do it, and surely the reflex influence is good. We have paid the freight and for that amount could not have purchased half the quantity of material received. So this is much cheaper for the hospital than supplying it here, and this is leaving the moral effect out of the account entirely. With your gifts have come your prayers, and now that the former will come into use, continue the latter more devotedly than ever for real conversions from among those who attend. One woman and one man were bap-

tized a few weeks ago as a direct result of this work. I will write some private letters also which will further explain matters.

Now we are entering the New Year and we feel the need of being supported by your prayers and by a sort of yearning interest in this work, and will you not remember how rapidly people are passing into eternity and endeavor to realize their position before God, and ask yourselves what is your responsibility in this matter? Pray also that a lady doctor may come for the hospital, whose whole heart will be in the healing of the soul as well as the body.

The prayer of faith availeth much.

Yours in the work.

C. H. ARCHIBALD.

P. S.—The United Presbyterians of India are sending home an appeal to their constituency, in which they are asking for one male missionary for over 50,000 people. They have laid it before the Lord and are believing that they have been heard, and are already thanking him for hearing them. To urge the appeal at home, Mr. J. Campbell White, herein referred to, has been asked to go home and assume the work of Secretary, and he is going. Will some of you remember that some fourteen years ago your missionaries made just this appeal, and will you try to think what you did with it? Has this any relation to our present.

C. H. A.

Sackville.

The Society known heretofore as W. M. Aid Society of the Sackville Baptist church no longer exists. We will henceforth be known as W. M. A. Society of Main St. Baptist church. Our Society comprises forty members with Mrs. John Humphrey as President, Mrs. J. F. Faulkner, Treasurer. Our December meeting closed with a social tea and a collection of \$6.50. Our regular February meeting was held at the home of our Sister, Mrs. C. W. Richardson. Twenty-two present at the meeting. This sister has been a member of our Society for over a quarter of a century, though for years illness has debarred her from meeting with us, except at rare intervals. It was therefore with peculiar pleasure, that we presented Mrs. Richardson with a certificate of life membership. Presentation was made by our president, a suitable reply was made by our sister whose pleasure was only succeeded by her surprise.

MRS. R. E. MITCHELL, Sec'y.

Amounts Received by Treasurer of Mission Bands FROM FEB. 1 TO 18.

Argyle Head, H. M. \$2; Cavendish, Bay View, F. M., \$6; Truro, Immanuel, H. M. \$1.65; Advocate, H. M. \$5.50; Yarmouth, Zion, to constitute Hazel Goudy life member, F. M. \$10; H. M. \$6.85; Luenburg, support of San Yasi, F. M. \$13; Mt. Sable River, F. M. \$9; Gabarus F. M., \$3.50; North River, F. M. \$4; 3rd Yarmouth, F. M. \$3.52; H. M. \$1.22. MRS. LIDA CRANDALL, Treas. M. B. Chipman, Queens Co., N. B.

Serving.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed.

Whose deeds both great and small,
Are close-knit strands of an unbroken thread,
Where love ennobles all.

The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells:
The book of life the shining record tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes
After its own life working. A child's kiss
Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad,
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong.
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense
Of service which thou renderest.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

Eruptions

Pimples, boils, tetter, eczema or salt rheum,

Are signs of diseased blood.

Their radical and permanent cure, therefore consists in curing the blood.

Angus Fisher, Sarnia, Ont., and Paul Keeton, Woodstock, Ala., were greatly troubled with boils. Mrs. Delia Lord, Leominster, Mass., had pimples all over her body; so did R. W. Garretson, New Brunswick, N. J. The brother of Skidie E. Stockmar, 87 Miller St., Fall River, Mass., was afflicted with eczema so severely that his hands became a "mass of sores."

These sufferers, like others, have voluntarily testified to their complete cure by

Hood's Sarsaparilla

This great medicine acts directly and peculiarly on the blood, rids it of all humors, and makes it pure and healthy.