

India are being taught. Upward of 15,000,000 persons are now able to read. In the 6,737 mission day schools are gathered 240,000 pupils, and in the Sabbath Schools more than 150,000 receive Christian instruction. Fully 42,000 Zenanas are visited every year, and 35,000 women and girls are taught by mission workers in their homes.

Medical missions in India are a powerful evangelizing agency. They rapidly disarm the people of their caste prejudices; and while the recipients of their benefits, the patients, in addition to the living lesson of a Christianity which they can see, are attentive and receptive listeners to the Gospel message. There are now 87 male and 50 female medical missionaries, who with their 168 native medical assistants, treat in their 48 hospitals and 87 dispensaries, more than 400,000 patients annually. Many thousand villages are yearly represented in the mission dispensaries in India. Thousands of homes, and many districts have been opened to the Gospel message, and scores of stations planted as the direct result of, or by the aid of this Christlike pioneer agency.

So apparent had been the progress of the Gospel in India that the Hindu Tract Society says of missionaries: "They have cast nets over our children by teaching them in our schools, and have already made thousands of converts, and are continuing to do so. They have penetrated the most out-of-the-way villages and built churches there. If we continue to sleep as we have done in the past, not one will be found worshipping in the temples in a very short time; nay, the temples will be converted into Christian churches. Do you know that the number of Hindu religionists is decreasing every year? How long will water remain in a well that constantly lets out, but receives none in?"

In 1812, Rev. Mr. Chatter being the pioneer. Now there are four large societies at work, in addition to the Salvation Army. A large number of the churches are self-supporting and industrial missions have been remarkably successful.

There were, in 1890, in the three oldest societies working in the island, namely, the English Baptists the Wesleyans and the American Board of Foreign Missions (Congregational), 211 stations and sub-stations, with 80 male and female missionaries. There were 127 churches, with 8,450 church members, 105 ordained preachers and 2,368 teachers and helpers. These three missions had also 657 schools, with 43,672 pupils. Jaffna alone has 9 self-supporting churches and 125 mission schools.

## Young People's Department.

### "IF I WERE A GIRL AGAIN."

When Margaret went up to bed, she stood for a moment self-absorbed in the middle of the room, then she exclaimed aloud, "Oh I wish all the girls could have heard it!" Then as the suggestion flashed over her, she cried joyfully, "I'll write it down just as they said it."

The next moment, with her pad in her lap, she was sitting under the gas, and with her sharp pencil began to scribble:

"This afternoon the Sewing Circle met here, and when I came in after school I peeped in the front parlor door, and the ladies were such a busy, pretty sight that I stood to look, and then one of them, a dear, beautiful old lady, said something I liked, and I stopped to listen.

"She said, 'If I were a girl again, I would be more thoughtful of my mother. Not until I had girls of my own to love and work for did I begin to realize what my mother had done for me.'

"Then another lady, middle-aged, with a sharp, worried face, spoke quickly: 'If I were a girl again, I would learn to do something to support myself. Here I am, forty-two, as you all know, and I can't earn my breakfast unless I go out and do housework. Nobody cares for an unskilled workwoman—and that's what I am. It's a blessing to me that I don't have to earn my breakfast.'

"'If I could be a girl again,' said a lady with a sweet voice, 'I would never leave Sunday-school. You can't think how I envy the girls who have grown up in a Sunday-school as if it were a home. And they are as much at home as I am among my children. I've been out of Sunday-school thirty years, and it is a loss that can never be made up to me.'

"(I have been out of Sunday-school a year. I left because I didn't like my teacher. I am going back next Sunday.)

"'If I could be a girl again,' a placid-looking lady said, 'I would never give up studying; I would never allow myself to lose the habit of learning things. Why, it is even hard for me now to learn a long Bible verse; I must choose a short one, or humbly write it on a slip of paper to look at the last minute.'

"'And if I were a girl again,' spoke a lady with a quick tongue, 'I would never let myself speak of anybody's faults—no, not anybody's. You can't think how you get to see faults, if you let your mind run on them.'

"Then a lady in the corner spoke sadly: 'If I could be a girl again, I'd begin by not being ashamed to be a Christian. I would take a stand, and stand. You who have ever failed cannot think how it helps to have people know what to expect of you. By shilly-shally you don't know what to expect of yourself.'

"'If I could be a girl again,' came from somebody, 'I would make myself write letters. To-day when I write one of my awkward letters—and I never do write a letter if any one else will do it for me—I regret that I hated to write letters, and would never learn to make it easy. I always feel that I have lost something when I hear of people who have letter friends. My sister writes the happiest letters to twenty invalids; she is doing a "cup-of-cold-water" work in a way that I never can.'

"'And I,' said a little woman, 'would learn to sew. I am as awkward with my needle as though it were a hoe. And my needle makes as good work as a hoe would.'

"Everybody laughed, and then such a pretty woman said: 'If I could be a girl again, I think I would rather be a homely girl. I was pretty, and people told me so, and I was spoiled. I loved admiration better than bread and butter, and twice I lost promotion in school for having beaux and going to parties. Not but that a pretty girl can have good sense.'

"'If I were a girl again,' said an intellectual looking lady, 'I would not give up everything for study; I would be a womanly and housewifely girl as well as a student. And if I had one taste which dominated all the others, I wouldn't let all the others run to waste. I was deep in mathematics when I couldn't spell my own language as correctly as a girl of twelve. And my penmanship was disgraceful.'

"(I have given up geometry because I hate it, but I will begin again.)

"'And I would try to make friends,' remarked a silent looking lady. 'I forgot when I was a girl that I would