

The Woman's Missionary Society.

[This Department is in the interests of the W. M. Society. All communications for it should be addressed to Mrs. Jos. McLeod, Fredericton.]

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TO THE WORK.

The sisters of our societies seem to have forgotten their pledges in regard to our column. I have looked every week for reports of work and been disappointed. Then the thought came to me, you are a member, too, what about your responsibility?

In Woodstock we still hold our monthly meetings at the homes of our sisters, and also a public meeting in the church the first Wednesday of each month, presided over by one of the sisters of our W. M. Society. We usually have a programme, or a missionary prayer service, and always a collection, half of which goes to home and half to foreign work. Our public meetings have had the effect of creating more interest for missions in our church. Still we have need of further work along these lines.

Mrs. Sunder has charge of the Mission Band, and the children, through her teaching, are getting the right foundation for future work and usefulness, and will be much better fitted than we are when they come to fill our places.

Our Y. P. S. C. E. do not overlook the great work of missions; they have an evening quite often on this important subject. Next Friday's meeting topic is, "How Intemperance Hinders Missionary Work." We are to have a programme, and this, with World's Temperance Sunday following, will surely bring the evils of intemperance before our people, and should arouse them to more aggressive work in our own town, where such work is sadly needed.

How easy it is when we are comfortable in our homes to sit at ease; but is this what God wants or expects of his people? God is absolute Monarch wherever he is King at all. He marks the path without ever consulting us. God's plan for us is progress. Onward! Forward! Work to-day, "the night cometh when no man can work."

We have much to encourage us to help in the great work of the world's redemption. Let us esteem it a privilege that we are called to work. To-day the Gospel has free scope through all lands. This fact alone speaks loudly of progress and advancement. More men and women, far more, are going forth in obedience to the Lord's command than in any other age. Swift ships and swifter trains bear men to and fro on the errands of the Lord as well as on business or pleasure. The past forty years has done more for Africa

than the previous 1,000 years, and more for Asia and Europe, too. British rule in India has led to many notable reforms; so, too, in every land where the British flag has been flung to the breeze. That war clouds are still alarming us is no reason for discouragement. As great gales sometimes hasten the coming of spring, and break down the barriers erected by winter, so the conflicts of the nations, and the outrages committed by cruel men, serve to emphasize our need for the sway of the Prince of Peace, and nerve our efforts to overthrow, overturn, and utterly abolish "the dark places of the earth" that are filled with horrid cruelty.

We are nearing the close of another year. May every passing year mark the vanishing of some great wrong, some hateful error, some form of sore oppression, and let it be our joy that we are workers together with our mighty and all-merciful King.

Yours in the work,

MARY SLIPP.

Woodstock, N. B.

A FEW FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT OUR MISSION.

(Continued.)

Midnapore is 75 miles by rail from Balasore. It was the third station opened by our workers. The missionaries here are Rev. and Mrs. H. R. Murphy and Rev. and Mrs. J. H. Oxrieder, supported by the General Conference, and Dr. Mary W. Bachelier and Miss Ella H. Butts, of the W. M. S. Mr. Murphy has charge of the evangelistic work in Bengali throughout the Quarterly Meeting. This means that he must look after the work of eight preachers, six of them being at five out-stations, the nearest of which is eight and the farthest fifty miles away. Besides this, he has a colporteur, and a school in each of the three out-stations. In Midnapore his duties are many. He is in charge of the Bible school, where our preachers are trained. This has two teachers besides himself, and eleven students. He has charge of a grammar school for boys and another for girls, looks after the church, if necessary, sees that eight Sunday-schools in the bazaar are carried on, and has various other duties. Mrs. Murphy is his general assistant, besides carrying on what is perhaps the most successful kindergarten in the mission.

Mr. and Mrs. Oxrieder went to India specially for the English work at Kharagpur, the new railway junction and city eight miles south of Midnapore. They live at Midnapore because we have no house at Kharagpur yet. They go back and forth by rail, and have an interesting work in English, including regular Sunday services, and pastoral visiting. Bro. Oxrieder also has charge of the mission farm at Santipore.

Dr. Mary Bachelier has a large amount of medical work, and is greatly beloved by Christians, Hindus and Mohammedans. She also has charge of the work of nine zenana teachers with 121 pupils.

Miss Butts is lady principal of the Bible school, which means that she teaches the wives of the students, and has a class in English for the men who wish to learn English. She also has charge of sixteen primary schools in and near Midnapore, and of several Bible women.

The church at Midnapore is entirely self-supporting. It has a membership of 129, and the Sunday-school numbers 124, besides which there are 445 in other Sunday-schools in and near the city. There are two Endeavor Societies, with a membership of 57.

Of the out-stations, Palasbani, Babagadia and Contai have little churches, each with seven members. Palasbani is twenty miles west of Midnapore, and has a Bible woman and a primary school, supported by the W. M. S. Babagadia is about twenty-miles south of Midnapore, and is visited occasionally by one of the preachers from Midnapore. Contai is about fifty miles southwest of Midnapore, and has two preachers. Only part of the journey to either of these places can be made by rail.

Of the other out-stations, Kharagpur, mentioned above, has a preacher. Bhangra Mora is eight miles southeast of Midnapore, and has a preacher and a school. Sat Bankara is twenty miles north of Midnapore, near the railroad, and has a preacher and a school. Chundrakona is twenty-seven miles northeast of Midnapore, somewhat off the railroad, and has a preacher and a school.

The work in the Balasore district is chiefly among Oriyas, though there are a few Bengalis, and some Telugus at Chandbali. The work so far mentioned in the Midnapore district is chiefly among Bengalis, with the English work at Kharagpur. We now come to the work among a third people, the Santals, many of whom live in the western part of the Midnapore district. The headquarters of this work is at Bhimpore, eighteen miles northeast of Midnapore, over a country road. Here are Dr. and Mrs. A. L. Kennan, General Conference missionaries, and very busy people they are. Dr. Kennan has to direct the work of eleven preachers, most of them located away from the central station, and his wife looks after eleven Bible women.

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At the central station they have a grammar school, industrial school, kindergarten, and two orphanages, one for boys and one for girls, with 54 inmates in all. Then there are 47 primary schools scattered around in the jungle, with as many teachers, three inspectors, and 1,381 pupils. In addition to this, Dr. Kennan has more medical work than any other of our missionaries.

The church at Bhimpore has a membership of 258, and is the largest in our mission. Thirty-one were added to it by baptism year before last. The Sunday-school numbers 179. Two C. E. Societies have a total membership of sixty-three.

There are two other Santal churches. One is at Ulda, 25 miles southwest of Midnapore, with 16 members. The Sunday-school numbers 42, and the C. E. Society 11 members. A preacher and a school are located here. The other church is at Kenduasoli, seven miles northwest of Palasbani, and numbers six members, with a Sunday-school of 18 members. This is the home of our independent Santal missionary Tonu. Chitrapathar, 16 miles south of Midnapore.

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