

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.]

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY.

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BAPTIST W. M. UNION.

Our mission societies like to know what their sisters in other denominations are doing in the same lines of work. Last week the Woman's Baptist Missionary Union of the Maritime Provinces met in annual session in Halifax. It was the twentieth annual meeting of the Union, and the attendance was larger than in any previous year. The reports showed good work done, and a steadily increasing interest. The amount of money raised during in the country west of the Niger, of \$1,118.11 over the preceding year. We congratulate our sisters on their success.

A VISIT TO JAWTARA.

BY HEM NOTH SARKAR.

To avail myself of the midsummer holidays, I repaired to Jawtara—a place a little over three hundred miles to the north of Balasore, where I work—in the Santal Pargannah, the home of the Santals, one of the varied classes of aborigines. They are of dark complexion, of comely countenance and strong physique, wholly given to demonism and fetishism, uncivilized, ignorant of letters, born of the plough, clad in tatters, sheltered in mud huts, amused to sun and shower, accustomed to sleep on the bare floor, sometimes out of doors both in summer and winter, hardly fortunate to sit down to two meals in a day; the poorest of them live on "mou,"—a kind of sweet-scented flower procurable in the jungle. Their sumptuous banquet on marriage occasions, or on a gala day, consists of pork and home-made wine. Tipsy men and women, irrespective of age and sex, sing and dance in a ring to the timbol suspended from the necks of men standing in the centre. Only the cases of immodesty are promptly and severely punished by the head men of the village at the court of "Panchayet,"—village council, and the civil and criminal cases at the British court of justice.

The women, both young and old, carry on their heads fuel from the jungle to dispose of in the town. They sometimes parade leisurely through the streets singing snatches of songs, go to the market to buy and sell, move frankly and freely in the circle of men, which is altogether uncommon among the high class Hindu society. It is indeed gratifying and encouraging to find abroad such communities in a land where strict seclusion of the females is enjoyed by the hard and fast social rules and customs of time immemorial.

These people look like sheep without a shepherd to lead them beside the green pastures and the living water. They

need to have their souls nourished and strengthened. They are dying for want of the Bread of Life. They do not realize about it as they need. There are a couple of missionaries, man and wife, of faith denomination, and a native assistant to strike the gospel gong home to the ear of their people. There is a general cry of the scarcity of laborers in India. Until, and unless the Lord raises pastors, preachers, teachers of the gospel from among our own people, it shall be a stupendous work for a handful of foreign missionaries to shake the deep-rooted foundation of idolatrous India. Dear reader, pray to the Lord of the harvest for that happy day.

A market in India is a good harvest field to glean and gather the sheaves into the storehouse of the Lord. One Thursday I accompanied my host two miles to meet such people in a market. I saw a throng of about two thousand in number, who came from the surrounding villages. It is a good stroke of policy in India to strike up a tune in chorus to draw a crowd before to begin to say, "The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you." So did we. The gospel preacher must be quite at home in the "Shastras" (Holy Scriptures) of the land, and must hold up the dark side of them, in order, first, to shake the ancestral faith of the hearers, and then to bring home to their hearts the love of Jesus. We had not spoken long, when among the men we came upon stubborn sceptics like Thomas, thorough-going inquisitors like Matthew, and the bitter enemies like Saul of Tarsus; among the women, many a Martha encumbered with worldly affairs, and Mary eager to ponder on and treasure up the Word of the Lord. Another art to catch the hearts of heathen children is to unroll the International S. S. Lesson pictures before them. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but alas! my countrymen know not the Saviour of the world.

May the Lord bless the people that the glad tidings may echo through their souls and bring them ere long under the cross.

Balasore, India.

A NOBLE AFRICAN WOMAN.

A slave woman named Ogunro living in the country west of the Niger, longed for freedom and worked hard until she secured it. Then she travelled to another region to enjoy life.

There she was converted to Christ. This gave her a new longing. What she now longed for was to tell the Ilale people, among whom she had been a slave, what good things she had learned. She went back to Ilale, worked hard, earned money, got a church built, and late in 1903 she placed the church at the disposal of the nearest Christian pastor.

The Church Missionary Intelligencer now reports that five young men from Ilale have been baptized through these efforts of the ex-slave. It seems that Anglo-Saxons have no monopoly of the strenuous life. The Christian name given to Ogunro in baptism was the appropriate one of Dorcas.

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(OPPOSITE POST OFFICE.)

MURINE FOR TIRED EYES.

FOURTH DISTRICT SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Fourth District W. M. Society will be held at Blissville, Saturday, September 10th. Local societies should send their reports and contributions to the Secretary as promptly as possible.

(MISS) DELLA M. GEREAU,

Wassiss Station, S. Co. Secretary.

P. S.—Children's Mission Band reports and contributions should be sent to the Secretary-treasurer, Mrs. M. Atkinson, Waasis Station, S. Co.

THE WOMEN OF RUSSIA.

According to Dr. Wolf von Schierbrand, writing in the September *Delineator*, the curious and appalling discrepancy between the lot of the *grande dame* in Russia and that of the women of the middle or lower classes is the result not so much of greater wealth, as of a complete reversal of standards. The Russian aristocracy is cosmopolitan, and its women are, like the women of the powerful advancing nations of western Europe, an independent force, leading in society and domestic life; but the women of the bulk of the nation are still Oriental, and more the slaves than the helpmates of their husbands. The condition of these women is miserable in its degradation and hopelessness. As the author concludes, "Their outlook and their opportunities seem to be less advanced and their social status on a lower plane than in almost any other European country."

FREDERICTON CRADLE ROLL.

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—A cure for leprosy is reported from Rangoon, Burmah, where Capt. E. R. Rost, of the Indian Medical Service, has succeeded in cultivating the bacillus of leprosy. He has made substance from the cultures which he has called leprolin, which when injected into lepers has marked beneficial action, alleviating the symptoms of the disease. Over 100 cases of leprosy are being treated in Burmah by injections of this substance, and the treatment is also being tried in 30 places in India. Already four cases have been reported cured, and in the great majority of those under treatment the improvement is said to be marked.

—The recent discovery by Mr. Allen, a Dublin veterinary surgeon, that ordinary turpentine is an antidote to carbolic acid has aroused great interest. A well-known chemical expert in Dublin tested the efficacy of the antidote on a dog. A dose of carbolic acid was first administered, and when the ordinary symptoms of carbolic poisoning had been developed, oil of turpentine was applied, and the dog recovered within a short time.