CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

Another year has gone and the awful war still goes on. One is glad to forget it for a few hours when engaged in the work of seeking to save men, but a reminder of it is sure to come soon. One awakes in the night with the memory of the inexpressible horror of it still going on and no human prospect of the end as near. It is too awful to dwell upon the sickening details of suffering, not only of the men in the trenches and hospitals and prisons, but of their families, their widows and orphaned children at home; or of those carried captive into the lands of their enemies.

But not only in spite of all this unspeakable suffering and wrong, and the loss of life and property, but by means of them the hearts of true Christians are made to long for the coming of Christ; and even the nations are being prepared to welcome Him, when He shall come to set up His kingdom in which righteousness shall prevail, war shall cease and permanent peace shall be established in all the earth.

God in His infinite grace has cared for His workmen and their work. We have to report a year of still greater spiritual blessing than the previous one, also of relief from financial pressure, and to praise Him for the arrival of several new missionaries to fill up some of the empty places in our fields.

The work so promising in some parts of the field has gone on in real power, converts have been baptized in many new villages, calls are coming from many other villages and the only limit to the work is the limit of missionaries and Indian workers to go and teach the inquirers to prepare them for baptism; and to teach and build them up and lead them on after
they have been baptised. There is a great movement going on in various parts of India, in some places real mass movements, where the people wish to become Christians by whole communities.

The masses of India are awaking to the fact that they are oppressed, not by Government, but by their own co-religionists. Sixty millions, one quarter of the whole Hindu population, have been treated as untouchables by their own co-religionists and kept down in the most cruel bondage and ignorance by the caste system, which recognizes the accident of birth in a certain caste as much more important than personal merit, natural or acquired ability, or real moral character.

As we said a year ago the clamor for Self-Government or Home Rule is made by the very men who have enforced the caste system for centuries, and not ten per cent. of whom have even now begun in any serious fashion to lift up the out-castes or the great middle class masses to a condition of intelligent citizenship. This clamor shows how little they understand what Self-Government implies, or rather what any Government ought to be. The cry now is that the best Government by aliens is a poor substitute for Self-Government.

The fact is that to-day the great middle-class masses of India are suffering from the Brahmins' jāp (incantations) and the money lenders' jāpti (attachment of property for debt). The Brahmin lawyers and the money lenders have secured the fields of tens of thousands of hard working farmers, and now the latter have to pay twice the amount of rent to the lawyers and money lenders, which they formerly paid to Government. For nearly thirty-five years the writer has studied these matters on the spot, and while working as all missionaries have been working for a hundred years in India to lift up the out-castes and the masses, as well as to teach the principles of righteousness and fair play among all classes in India, which would fit India for Self-Government, yet his honest conviction is that any Home Rule which is at present in sight would be a calamity to the masses of India.
The real reformers have begun in the last few years to do what missions have been doing for a century to lift up the out-castes by education, but with the purpose of keeping them within the pale of Hinduism and hindering them from becoming Christians. No one would rejoice more than missionaries if they could feel that the time had come when India was really ready for Self-Government, and that the Indian Church was ready to look after the spiritual needs of the people. We rejoice in what has been done.

We believe that there are able and honest men among those who are sincerely working on constitutional lines for Home Rule, and we sympathize with them, but they do not seem to appreciate the task ahead of them. We believe that such men who are intelligent enough and unselfish enough are far too few to govern India. The best Self-Government could at present be nothing in the nature of a Government by the people, nothing approaching a democracy, but would be a Government by the few and for the few while the masses and the out-castes would have little chance of attaining to citizenship.

Our hope for India is in the Gospel of Christ alone. Thirty years ago the writer saw that not until the teaching of Christ had been accepted by the people of India to such a degree that they were free from caste and could at least love all their own religious community and treat them fairly on the ground of personal merit, could India take her place among the nations of the earth, which God wants her to take.

We rejoice with all our hearts in the progress of the Indian Church, in the development of strong and spiritual leaders. We rejoice that the National Missionary Society has gone on steadily with its work, and pray that it may increase much more rapidly as the years go by. It is one of the most hopeful factors in the evangelization of India, and we long to see the Indian Churches of all missions rally to its support. It is entirely managed by Indians and almost entirely supported by them, but some missionaries and others, who watch its growth with great interest, feel it a privilege to have a little part in its work.
AHMEDABAD REPORT 1916.

By David McKee;

"Be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor. xv. 58.

Another year has passed into eternity with its opportunities and accomplishments, while we have endeavoured to be stedfast in the work of exalting Jesus Christ before a people who are greatly in need of a vision of Him who is able to save to the uttermost all those that come unto God by Him.

In the beginning of the year we continued our touring in Sanand District, where we have been labouring for the last six years amongst a people whom we have learned to love, seeing their great need of a Saviour, and knowing their desire to accept and follow Him. But as yet many have not the boldness to confess Him openly. Nevertheless the seed has been sown and we believe that the time of reaping is near at hand. Our faith is in Him who has promised, "My word shall not return unto Me void."

While camping in the village of Rethal where we have two baptised men, there were eleven others who gave their names as candidates or hopeful ones; but shortly after this we were transferred to Ahmedabad, therefore we were not able to visit them again. And on account of shortness of catechists we were obliged to leave them without any one to instruct them further in the way of life. Dear friends, this is another example among many, which shows the great need of more Indian workers to carry on the work here in Gujarat.

March the 26th we moved to Ahmedabad to take charge of the work there. Our church here has a membership of only 250 and a Sunday school of 75 attendance; while this large city with its teeming multitudes, numbering two hundred thousands souls, is still in the hands of Satan. There are so few to herald the gospel of peace among them.

During this year we have had the joy of administering the ordinance of baptism to eight precious souls. And on Christmas day, after the morning service, we had the pleasure of dedicating to the Lord twelve of His own little ones.

We praise God for the increasing spirit of prayer among our Church people. At the present we have two prayer meetings held in five different places every week, and in four other places they are asking for some one to come and hold meetings with
them. Now it is impossible for us to meet all these calls with our small staff of only four Indian workers, who are already overworked. Therefore may we ask your prayers that the "Lord of the harvest may send forth labourers into His harvest" i.e., Indian labourers.

This year we with our Indian workers have given the gospel to 41,824 people and have held 7,153 meetings; and with this have had the care of the church with its usual Sunday and week day services.

New Year's day we had a general rally. As we have no church building to hold our services in, we had all our furniture cleared out of the drawing and dining rooms. They were soon filled with a crowd of people with shining faces, all evidently come with one intention and that to make this the best day of their lives. After the usual opening devotional exercises and a few remarks on the Word, the meeting was thrown open for testimonies. For about two and a half hours one after another, with often two or three awaiting a turn, gave testimony to God's saving grace, confessing their sins and with tear-stained faces resolving that this year they would endeavour to live and labour for Him who had done so much for them.

Now may we ask your united prayers for the Church and evangelistic work, also that God shall send the needed means to build a place of worship here.

REPORT OF THE C. & M. A. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING SCHOOL
AKOLA.

By J. P. Rogers.

The report of last year's work must not be too long or elaborate. In many ways it has been the best year, and there has been progress made; although it has had its trials and drawbacks, which have somewhat hindered the work.

ENCOURAGEMENTS:—

The workmen and the apprentice lads have done most faithful work during the past year, and have made less complaints of any kind. This has encouraged us much. They are seemingly coming to appreciate the value of all efforts that are being made for them. They are also beginning to look forward to the time when they will settle down and have homes of their
own, and make the work in the workshop their life business. In this they are looking to us to help them by securing building sites for their houses.

**DRAWBACKS:**

These have been largely due to getting the new machinery in working order, in order to accomplish more work with less manual labour. This in a sense has not been a great outlay in expense; but it has drawn heavily on the labour of our best workmen, which is, of course, a great draft on our capital which in one way should be income. We have steadily kept going on, until the machinery is mostly in working order; so we will now have the benefit of it. Another great drawback encountered was shortness of funds, and the great advance in the cost of materials, owing to the war, for the above work. In some cases the price of materials has advanced two to three hundred per cent. This advance has cut out all large outside orders for work, especially in the case of Government work, and work from people of means, who would rather wait and let their improvements rest, till better prices prevail, than pay the advanced price on all goods.

**OUTLOOK:**

The future outlook is not at all clear, as we have fallen behind somewhat within the last year. But with our new machinery we should succeed, provided the work comes in from the public to keep things going. Doubt has often been expressed by different missionaries as to the need of such an industrial work at all, as our famine boys have all been started in the way of learning different trades by which they can be self-supporting; and whether this effort should not be now turned to evangelistic work. Seemingly, the most that can be said on this point is, that if our Indian Christians are ever to have a place in the country, then they will have to be helped in some kind of business. With the prevailing poverty to which they are at present subject, it is hardly possible for them to make a start in business. They need help, and it is right that we should help them on. I fully approve of the plan of making these industrial institutions over to the Indian Christians to be fully owned and controlled by them, without mission management. This is the only prospect of developing anything in our Indian Christians.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

No report of this kind of work will be at all complete without mentioning the invaluable services of our leading men in the workshop. The foreman, Kanwadi M. Swami as internal
manager making all the plans and estimates for different works; looking after the various contracts of work; overseeing the workmen, and being generally helpful in every way, makes a position for which money can hardly supply a man of that type.

Secondly, but not in importance, is our time keeper and accountant, John Mackenzie who, taking all the responsibility of the business correspondence in the office, has developed into a valuable business man, thoroughly trustworthy in every way.

These are our own Mission products, having come to us as boys many years ago.

As to the Christian influence the work in the workshop has upon the non-Christians, it is mostly of an indirect kind. There is every chance of spreading the gospel by having these industrial institutions, as so many non-Christians come to the workshop and see the men, the work, and also hear about Christ. The regular daily prayers are held at noon time.

What the future has in store for us none can tell at present. Should it be plainly indicated that all the effort that has been put forward has served its purpose, as part of our work to God, we can heartily say it was His will.

KAIRA ORPHANAGE REPORT.

By Eunice Wells.

We have great reason again this year for which to praise the Lord. He has been a Father to the fatherless and supplied all our needs.

After the financial pressure of the preceding year, we feel doubly grateful for the abundant supply of needs. We have been able to replenish and repair and still not feel a great strain.

Miss Coxe left the field in January for a very much needed furlough. She had been eight years on the field and the last two years were the hardest of all, because of the heavy responsibility of the orphanage and Christian community. Miss Edna Prichard was holding the work when I returned in February, as all the other ladies had been transferred to other stations. The Orphanage itself seemed very small in comparison to what it was two years before. Many of the girls had married and gone to their own homes. Miss Prichard was ill, but tried to hold her end of the work. It was painful to see the effort she made to take the services. She delighted in the work and has left her impress upon the girls. She left us in April for the hills and was never able to return to us. The Lord took her home September 25 of this year.
In July Miss Conger returned to Kaira to help in the schools, accounts, etc. In November Miss Peter also returned to Kaira, and in September the Lord sent us a new missionary from home, Miss Julia Woodward. So now we are four.

The new missionaries are not able to do very much work outside the study of the language, but their freshness and enthusiasm are a constant inspiration to us who have the “grind” of the work.

At present our orphanage numbers 105 girls and women. About 20 of these are not orphans, but daughters of our Indian Christians who have placed them in the orphanage for education. Most of these girls’ parents were themselves in the orphanage eight or ten years ago.

Some few new real orphans have come in the past few months. One, a little Marwari girl about nine years old, black as an African, but with two shiny intelligent eyes. At our prize-giving yesterday we were telling the missionary who first sent us the child about her and she could scarcely believe that Karan was the same child. She has improved very much, learned her letters, kindergarten games and songs and portions of Scripture as well.

Of the seven deaths among us this year only two were orphanage girls. The five were babies whose mothers had died when they were very tiny and who had been sent here to be cared for.

Eight girls have left to be married. Three of these were girls from Pandita Ramabai, imported for wives for some of our needy young men. There has been such an exodus from the orphanage that we have no more girls of marriageable age.

The schools are prospering. Fifty four girls and nine boys are enrolled. Most of our teachers are college-trained girls from among our own number. One has just finished her three years’ course and one enters college this year.

At present writing our hospital is entirely empty. We have had some cases of pneumonia, but all are well now. Praise God for health.

We conclude that in spite of difficulties, individual failures, and the constant “grind,” our orphanage has not been a failure. There have been only seven baptisms, but there is a class of about 40 girls mostly under fifteen years of age who are under instruction and will soon be baptized.

Our Sunday school includes every member of our church and orphanage and all the outsiders we can get in. 196 in all.

We thank all who contribute to the work and all who pray for us. Your labour is not in vain in the Lord.
MEHMADABAD STATION REPORT.

By L. and J. Turnbull.

In reviewing the work of another year the paramount feeling of our hearts is praise to the Lord for the way He has kept us and given blessing in the work. We are more encouraged than ever before to believe God for mighty things to be done in answer to prayer.

There is much of the past year’s work that cannot be tabulated for man to read, much personal work, and visiting of the sick and needy ones that we believe counts with God. Owing to the pressure of station and secretarial work we were unable to spend as much time as usual on tour in the district, but our Indian workers have kept up the preaching throughout the villages during the year and we have visited them whenever possible to encourage them in their service for the Master. We have endeavoured more than ever to make them feel their responsibility in the work and to impress upon them that God can use them in winning souls as much as He can the foreign missionary.

A band of these Indian helpers have been touring together for the past few weeks. They report much personal blessing in prayer and large crowds of listeners in nearly all the villages they have visited. The flippant spirit of asking the preachers useless questions has been absent in the meetings and there has been a solemn assent to the truth of the gospel. We feel that our Indian workers are in a better state spiritually than ever before; they are realizing in a new way that it is only as they prevail in prayer that they can expect to win souls. They held several night services in a large village where the people have been indifferent to the gospel in the past and had the joy of seeing three young men coming to the Lord for salvation. The regular, native catechist in this place opened a day-school for Hindu children about a year ago and is much encouraged, as the parents of the children come to his home frequently for Bible teaching. Recently the first convert from this village was baptized and others are expecting to obey the Lord in the same way.

There have been thirteen baptisms during the year and twenty children of Christian parents have been dedicated to the Lord.

We praise God for the large number of Christian children there are throughout the district, as the workers with their
families and the Church members are scattered in many villages, but we recognize the great need of each child accepting Jesus as his or her personal Saviour when the child comes to years of understanding.

Four of the converts recently baptized were young women, who have held back from thus confessing Christ for years, but now they gladly testify that He has forgiven their sins and that Jesus is their Saviour.

The Christian farmers in Hebron Farm Colony have harvested a good crop this year and have given a tenth part for the Lord's work. They requested that a good part of their offering be sent for the relief of some of the poor Belgian children and this has been done.

The primary schools conducted by some of the Christian helpers continue to yield good results. Several of the new converts live in the villages where these schools are conducted.

One young man who received a good salary as a teacher in a Government school in Baroda State has come to us for a very small salary because his soul was hungry for God. He testifies that he has found great peace since coming here and he has the assurance of being saved. Although the school here is small, compared with the one of which he was formerly principal, he says that he wouldn't go back to his former position if they offered him a larger salary than he received before.

Regular meetings have been carried on at the mission station throughout the year and services are also conducted regularly at Barejedi, which is an out-station on the railway line about eight miles from Mehmedabad where nearly thirty of the young Christian men and women find good employment in a large knitting factory.

Once again we were able to have all the Christians of the district together for a Christmas service and dinner. There was much good cheer and Christian love manifested throughout the day. Nearly two hundred and fifty men, women and children were present, including the children from the primary schools.

It would have done the Christians at home good to hear the village school boys repeat long portions of scripture and sing song after song that had been taught them by the Christian masters.

These boys will never be able to get away from the result of having their young minds stored with God's Word and definite teaching concerning the way of salvation.

For several years there has been a pressing need of more
missionaries for the India field, both for Berar and Gujarat. We have all been greatly cheered over the recent arrival of four new missionaries. Two of these new workers are Mr. J. F. Brabazon and Mr. J. K. Turnbull who are stationed here at Mehmadabad. We request the prayers of the home friends for them as they study the language, that they may be kept and blessed in spirit, soul and body and greatly used for the glory of our Lord and King.

By the time these lines reach the reader we expect to be on our way to America on furlough, via the Pacific route, but the work of this station and district will still be carried on by some of God's servants. We ask that your interest and prayers for this part of the great vineyard may continue.

REPORT FOR DHOLKA ORPHANAGE.

By S. P. Hamilton.

DURING the year 1916 a few of the grown-up boys left the orphanage nest and are now earning their own livelihood. Some went to Ahmedabad to take up weaving and a few have entered the Bible Training School which has been started recently, so the numbers have been very much reduced. During our stay of two years we have not lost one boy through death and the health record among them has been excellent. On our return from a tour in the Matar district the Lord did a great work among the boys and also among others who are connected with the orphanage. One of the teachers was very soundly converted. While he had been brought up in the orphanage and had been baptized several years previously, he said he had never been converted. The Holy Spirit came down in great power and the result was there was a great breaking down and confession of sin. At the close of these meetings, eighteen boys were baptized.

During the monsoon season all the workers and teachers in our mission gathered at Dholka for two months' Bible study and the Lord made the study of the Word a great blessing to them all. Mr. Back has now taken charge of the orphanage, so we are free for evangelistic work and the Bible training school.
REPORT FOR MATAR.

By S. P. Hamilton.

The main work in the Matar district during 1916 was done by Miss Hansen and Miss Taylor who are the resident missionaries, so as regards our work done there, the report can be given in a few words. During the cool season we spent nearly two months on tour in that district. Our first campaign of ten days began at Daroda where we have seven Christian families and as they do not have the privilege of attending the services at the station owing to their being so far away, we felt we should do all we could to help them. We invited them to our tent each evening for special prayer and teaching and the result was they were all broken up and we truly had a wonderful time. Such meetings are too few in the homeland. There were many confessions of failure and this was followed by a great flood of holy joy. God came down in our midst and we were all conscious of His presence. While we were there a site for the erection of a small chapel was selected and three months later the building was completed.

The Christians there made a great sacrifice in order to build it. They meet several times during the week for prayer. Much has been already written about the Christians at that place and so all we wish to say is that the native people in our mission, who know them, give this testimony that they are true examples of what the Church should be. Our last camping place was at Wasna where a nice little church was built three years ago. The Christians from the surrounding villages meet at this place on the Lord's day. During our stay there we visited all the families in that section and the Lord gave to all a real spiritual quickening. On the last Lord's day spent in that place seven were baptized, which were chiefly the fruit of Miss Hansen's faithful labours. During the year we have from time to time been able to visit that district and hold services on the Lord's day. The work in Matar is growing and the Christians are becoming more established in the Christian life each year.

Before closing this report, we wish to say that one of the greatest assets of our mission in Gujarat is the splendid band of Indian workers. These are part of the spiritual family God has given during these twenty-two years of service. At the time of writing we are on tour and have seven of them with us besides the students of the Bible training school. As we see these young men agonize with God for the salvation of souls
and hear them preach with such clearness and unction the blessed story of the cross, and as we remember that only a few years ago these same men were being taught as children the worship of idols, our own hearts have been much moved and we are led to exclaim, "What hath God wrought!" I hope we shall be pardoned when we say that spiritually they stand head and shoulders above the average preacher in the homeland. Like good Aquilla and Priscilla they could teach many an Apollos the secret of being filled with the spirit. We need many more such men and we ask you what part you will take in the task of increasing the number of our Indian workers.

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REPORT FOR THE MATAR TALUKA.

By Cora Hansen.

THIS morning, as we look back over the year that is now drawing to a close, our hearts go out in praise and gratitude to the blessed Lord whose compassions have not failed, and whose mercies have been new every morning.

The Lord has enabled us to carry on the work during the year without any hindrances, for which we praise Him.

Some precious souls have been saved to gladden our hearts, and the heart of Him, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Among those saved is a dear old woman (the people say she is ninety years of age) who, with her son and grandson, was baptized last March. It is a great joy to see her bright face, as she tells of her hope in Christ, and that a place is being prepared for her in heaven. About a month ago a great sorrow came to her. A grandson about eleven years old and much beloved went to be with the Lord. The little fellow was very bright and could read nicely. He was wonderfully saved, and while sick his great joy was to read the Bible. He passed away repeating verses he had learned in Sunday school. His father and grandmother are greatly comforted in the thought that he is now happy with the Lord. Another boy about sixteen years of age, has also gone to be with the Lord from the same village. He had not yet been baptized, but had the assurance that his sins were forgiven. When he first took sick he told his father, who is a Hindu, that he was not going to get well, but that the Lord Jesus was calling him. A few days afterwards he passed away very peacefully.
An old woman has also died, having the assurance of sins forgiven. We do praise God for those who have gone before and who are now forever safe with the Lord.

A few backsliders have come back to the Lord during the year and seven were added to the church by baptism. There are a number of candidates who we hope will be baptized soon.

Thousands of heathen have heard the story of God's love, in giving his only begotten Son, and have been offered Salvation full and free in His Name.

About 300 gospels and some hundreds of tracts have been sold and given to the people, with a prayer that through reading them some precious souls may be saved. As we look over the field we must say with the Lord, “The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few. Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send labourers into his harvest.”

Dear reader if you can not come yourself, send money for the support of a native evangelist to be your representative in this great work.

BUSAWAL REPORT.

By Charlotte Rutherford.

During the last four months of my stay in Jalgaon, 60 meetings were held, 5 villages visited, and some of them visited several times. Only two weeks could be given for district work. That time was spent in Nasirabad where there are a few old people happy in the knowledge of Jesus. 230 people attended the meetings.

On June 22nd new work was taken up in Bhusawal. At this station the work is somewhat heavier, because of the different branches. The school work was given over to my charge. This is a very interesting part of the work. There is an average attendance of 115. The Bible-women and I have commenced to visit the homes of the children who attend. So far we have found the parents pleased to have us take an interest in their children, and it also opens doors to the Gospel. The Deputy Inspector of Education who recently examined the school was quite satisfied with the results. Five of the senior boys graduated into a higher school.

The Sunday school work amongst the Hindu children in the village is also encouraging. The bigger boys who attend this
school also attend our day school. They are thoroughly instructed in the Scriptures. We are trusting that these boys will accept Jesus. We have an attendance of 50 boys every Sunday.

The English Sunday School has an attendance of 25 children. The homes of the English people are regularly visited, the sick visited, and people in need find us always ready to minister to them.

The days are indeed full, but so long as we see souls saved and the work prospering, we do not mind how much work we do.

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BHUSAWAL,

By A. I. Garrison.

THANK God, through Jesus Christ, for a year crowned with His goodness. The year opened with sorrow and closed with joy. On the first day of January 1916 it was medically ascertained that Mrs. Garrison, who was lying very ill, had tuberculosis developing at the apex of the right lung. We thanked God and took courage, and a few days later called for the elders, who anointed her with oil according to Jas. 5; and the prayer of faith saved the sick and the Lord raised her up, so that in about two weeks she was able to return home and resume her household duties. The year has ended with life and strength for the whole family and a campaign for souls, which has resulted we believe in eternal fruit.

It was arranged to spend the week of holidays from Christmas to New Year in a united effort of all our Indian Christians to win souls in the native portion of Bhusawal. For several weeks previous there was much Bible study and prayer with a view to the preparation of the Christians themselves, and the casting down of Satan's stronghold in the spirit realm. The necessity for every Christian who would be a disciple to bear fruit was constantly urged (John xv. 8). We began on Christmas morning at 7 o'clock and ended on New Year's evening, tired but happy. After early united prayer each morning the Christians were divided into small bands and sent out in different directions to visit from house to house, selling gospels and telling out the gospel wherever opportunity afforded. Each afternoon, after another season of prayer, the whole company, men and women marched with singing and banners flying to a central
spot in the town, where the message of salvation was preached and sung. New Year’s cards were printed in the vernacular with Scripture verses showing the way of salvation, and over 400 were distributed in the shops and homes of the town and were eagerly received. Inquirer’s cards were also prepared, and though the names of only two were actually brought in on these cards, there were many interested and inquiring listeners among Hindus, Mohammedans and Parsis. The week was not without opposition, but God overruled in a very precious way. Perhaps the most encouraging result of the meetings was the zeal of the Christians themselves in the work.

The rest of the year has been spent in quiet service for the Lord both among the English and native communities of Bhusawal. God has graciously given souls, especially among the Anglo-Indian Railway families. A much loved guard, a member of the Church of England, who definitely accepted Christ a year ago, and was just about to unite with the Alliance Church, has just passed in great triumph into the presence of the King.

Some members have joined each Church, and others have died or left, so that the membership is practically the same as last year. The attendance, especially at the English church, is increasing, so that we expect it will soon be necessary to provide more chairs for the crowds. These people have also largely increased their offering over last year.

The multitude of station duties has prevented all but very occasional village and district work.

Services held at Lonavla M. E. church during the hot weather resulted in the salvation of over a score of Anglo-Indians.

Best of all has been the consciousness that the year’s work has pleased and glorified Him.

REPORT OF CHANDUR STATION.

By William Ramsey.

WHEN we arrived at our old station from furlough in America in November 1915, we found the place had been closed for some time.

But on December 5th, we had the joy of baptizing a young farmer from a village about twelve miles distant, whose family had been more or less interested in the gospel since we first preached it to them about twenty years ago. The father had
Long ago destroyed the household idols and refused to join in idolatrous ceremonies, and now the son, a young man of over 20 years of age, has come out and been baptized.

During the month of January 57 open-air services were held, one Testament and 212 Gospel portions sold. During the remainder of the year we worked as hard as ever we did in younger days, but were heavily handicapped by the unfaithfulness of some of the helpers sent us. In March we baptized another farmer living in a village about six miles off. Before we left Chandur for Bombay, 6 years ago, he had often invited us out for a day to his house, and in turn visited us here. He was then inclined to Christianity and at one time we had the tank filled and were all ready for his baptism, but had to postpone it as he was not then ready to give up some of his Hindu religious customs, though quite willing to be baptized. While we were away on furlough, he joined the Roman Catholics and was baptized by them, but on our return he explained to us that he thought they were Christians and so all the same. We baptized him again by immersion at his own request.

Opportunities for preaching the gospel are unlimited, the people are ready and willing to hear, but we have only two workers, a man and a woman, to take advantage of the opportunity.

Some are convinced of the truth, but lack courage to step out. We believe if a break came many would be glad to come right out and be baptized. One good sign is that we have more people calling at the bungalow for serious talks than in former days.

We have several names on our lists this year as being interested in the gospel, but perhaps hardly enough under regular teaching to be called catechumens.

We are greatly in need of honest, faithful workers and can only trust the Lord may soon send them. Our one outstation is at present closed for lack of a worker. We trust some will take this need upon their hearts in prayer.

By Martha Ramsey.

Naturally fond of mathematics, the writer would fain report in figures, but since it is beyond her brain to preach and count at one time, it must be like a story. After an absence of five years it was good to meet the women again, for hadn't they pulled so hard on heart-strings that the homeland had no charms?
One said, "Marthabai, you here! and where might Ramji your master be? Dead is he? No, indeed, he's here too, thank God!"

Another, as we met on the street, "Why, I had said to myself you were dead, but here you are. Come and see me." Still others and others are hearing the Story once again.

Being a woman, one is drawn to women. Being a missionary with a call to "tell them," one "tells" wherever opportunity offers. The Traveller's Rest:--A few dozen of village clerks from near and far are totalling up their books for Government. It takes them weeks, and in the rains too, when roads are impassable. Command respect! Never from India's sons or daughters by haughty mien, but foregather with them to "tell them," and you usually have it. And so the clerks heard again and again.

The Hotel:—No hall-boy, bell-boy, boots nor butler. Just Nathu the proprietor, his mother, who reckons his age by that of "your first porgee" (girl baby), the barber, cook and helper.

A verandah 15 x 5 ft. Head-men from distant towns attending the court-house on a "case." (Poor India! so many "cases." ) At leisure they are, and here comes the chaplain. "Sit down here, Mem sahib," and "here" may be on the floor, on the kerosene oil-tin, or on Nathu's very soiled cushion, but if the places are not all taken, she'll just sit down with her back against the wall, for it's easier so.

And oh, then, that War-horse-spirit! St. Paul called it the "Woe is me." Do you know it? Attention? Yes, indeed. Intelligence? Why certainly. Do they buy Gospels? Of course they do, but not if you just don't care whether they do or not. It means work and prayer.

Now, it is cold season. That must wait over till next report, but we're still telling them.

"Jesus would save, but there's no one (oh, so few) to tell them." "Pray ye."

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**STATION REPORT, KHAMGAON.**

**By P. Hagberg.**

A S dear Brother and Sister Carner occupied this station the first ten months of the year, and we having been here less than two months, we can not report much about the work. After a few days of settling down my first introduction to the work was to look after the cutting and bringing to the orphanage of some 100,000 bundles of grass from the pasture five miles—
away. On that account we have not been able to get out in the district, but hope to do so very soon.

Though new at this station, we are well known in some parts of this district. We were stationed at Shegaon, ten miles from here, in 1908-10. During those two years we often visited the village where we now have our outstation. One man and his wife accepted the message, were soundly converted and baptized. Persecution followed. They however stood firm and have done so during these past eight years. What a joy it was to me the other day to visit them as well as the native Christian workers together with some 40 little boys who, beside the primary education, are also daily instructed in the Bible. They are all attending Sunday School regularly and not ashamed of singing Christian hymns. Most of their parents are still Hindus, but very friendly and open for the gospel. Will you, dear readers, join with us in prayer for an ingathering of souls at this place.

According to the station records there have been 721 open air meetings held in the villages and markets during the year, with an aggregate attendance of 20,664 approximately. The church services at the station have been kept up regularly. The interest and attendance have of late been encouraging.

The native Christian community which largely consists of the girls and workers in the orphanage contributed over thirty-four dollars to the British and Foreign Bible Society during the year, and on the last Sunday of the year made an offering of ten dollars for the suffering children in Belgium. On the second Sunday we were here we had the joy of baptizing six girls at the orphanage. At Bethany (the rescue home) there are at present ten women and fourteen little ones, all happy and well cared for.

The plague has been raging ever since our coming here. We praise God for keeping us and all the native Christians from the scourge so far, and we pray and trust He will continue to do so. We do also feel deeply grateful to God for bringing us safely back to dear India and for keeping us and our little ones well since our return. May He use us for the ingathering of many precious souls and thus hasten the coming of our dear Lord!

By Katherine P. Williams.

We felt it a great undertaking to come into the Khamgaon orphanage to take up the work, for we had no experience in this line and felt unequal to it, but as we look
back over the six weeks spent here we marvel at God’s goodness and the way in which He has helped and supplied strength for the many new and sometimes trying duties. During our short stay here many times have our hearts been caused to rejoice as we have beheld the beautiful Christian lives of some of the girls now growing into young womanhood. Girls who came in as little orphans are no longer orphans, for they belong to Him who has said “I will not leave you orphans.” They show how lovingly and tenderly they have been cared for and taught to love and serve Him with all their hearts. They often are a real inspiration to us.

Then the little tots, our little brownies, are a great joy to us—and I only wish we had time and space to tell you about each one of them. Not long ago Miss Rollier came to me and said, “Miss Williams, if at any time you feel weary just go into the kindergarten room and you will soon be refreshed.” I took the advice and needless to say I was not only refreshed but delighted as I listened and watched them go through their little motion songs which they were practising for Christmas. Our Christmas was a real success and I wish the dear ones in the homeland who sent the wonderful sleeping dolls and pretty sewing bags could have been here to witness the delight of the girls, both big and small. How many times they were brought to be shown to the Aunties and almost as soon as the service was over one girl came to me exclaiming, “See Auntie, what I found in my bag, spool of thread, safety pins needles and hair pins!” How her eyes danced with delight as I admired her bag just as if I had not seen it before.

In looking over the records we find that fourteen girls and babies have come in during the year, while a number have gone out, some of whom have married young men who have been trained in our boys’ training school as catechists. One little babe went to be with Jesus, but He sent us another in her place, little Pushpamala, only three weeks old when she came. Her mother died of plague and no relative would take her because she was an unlucky child and would bring trouble into their home; but we were glad to take her and we love her very much. She is two months old now and a sweet, sweet baby.

There have been thirteen baptisms during the year.

By Jeanne S. Rollier.

On the 27th of October 1916 the Executive Committee appointed Miss Williams and me to the Khamgaon Orphanage and Girls’ Day School, to take the places of
Miss Krater and Miss Little who had to leave suddenly to go on furlough. The work had to be divided differently than it had been, Miss Williams being appointed to take the general over-seeing and management of the Orphanage in all its varied branches of food and clothing, health and sanitation, home discipline and local correspondence besides many other duties, while I was appointed to take charge of the Day School and all the Book keeping and Foreign correspondence for both the Orphanage and the Rescue Home in Bethany.

There is little to report in the work of the Day School since taking charge five weeks ago, except the fact that the prizes for efficiency in school and for good conduct, which Miss Little had promised to teachers and pupils at the beginning of the year 1916, were awarded to them at the Christmas celebration and seem to have been much appreciated. Among the girls who had a special prize for good conduct was Punji, a little waif who eighteen months ago was a forlorn Hindoo beggar and is now a happy baptized believer in the Lord Jesus. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

The teacher who had been trained in the Normal school in Amraoti came back to us and has been teaching in the Day School for the last six months. The yearly examination and inspection of the school by the Government inspectress is to be held in March 1917. I will be very grateful to the readers of this report for prayers that I may be able to do efficiently and for His glory the work that has been entrusted to me.

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CHALISGAON.

By E. Mildred Patten.

CHALISGAON is at the western extremity of the Marathi field, and has a population of about 75,000 people. Chalisgaon city, being a railway junction, brings numbers of people working for a longer or shorter period or seeking work. This makes the pastoral work in itself of considerable importance, as the tendency of those who move about is to neglect to identify themselves with God's people, and the result is spiritual decline and worldliness. We feel much burdened for this class of Christians in Chalisgaon, and would ask those who read this to pray that we may be able to hold them together and make
them feel their responsibility as representatives of the gospel in this heathen land.

The people in the town are for the most part friendly, and the dispensary work which Miss Williams has carried on has helped to win the confidence of the people, and has made an entrance into a number of homes.

There is a primary day school which we carry on by the sanction of the Mission, though not supported by Mission funds, which we consider worth mentioning, because, though numbering only twelve at present, it makes it possible for the children of three Christian families to stay with their parents and attend school, instead of being sent away, and what is of even greater importance, a number of bright Hindu and Mohammedan lads are becoming grounded in gospel truths while getting a primary education. There is also a night school of a few men who gather nightly around a lantern to learn to read and listen to the gospel. Six of these men were present at our Christmas service and sang a hymn with the school-master and recited Jno. iii : 16 as their contribution to the exercises of the evening. At the dinner which all of the Christians enjoyed together, three of those men partook on our own dishes with the Christian schoolmaster; but not having the courage to eat in the presence of their caste people, they sat on a side verandah apart from the others. They all acknowledge their belief in the truth of the gospel and we feel hopeful that this school will bear fruit.

The two native preachers are daily visiting the surrounding villages and are also working among the people in the town. The people do not buy gospels readily. Perhaps someone at home called to pray for the foreign work will take this as a definite subject of prayer. There is such a definite promise that God's Word shall not return unto Him void, that we are sure the enemy makes a vigorous attack upon this special line of work, as it cannot fail to bear fruit.

The work among the women in the district has been done almost entirely by Miss Wyeth, now on furlough, and Miss Williams recently removed to Khamgaon.

The Sunday school numbers about thirty members, and there is an average church attendance of about fifteen adults, to say nothing of the numerous babies and small children who add considerably to the activity of the services, but are not as yet enrolled on the books. The Hindu children of the day school attend regularly and recite the golden text. There is also a weekly prayer meeting and a Christian Endeavour society of about fifteen members. We have weekly church collections and a
monthly offering, also some special offerings during the year, but it grieves us to say that our Chalisgaon Christians are not large givers.

We are in great need of an experienced Biblewoman and spirit-filled preachers, and the crying need just now is money to support them. We cannot bring India to Jesus’ feet without native helpers, and they must be supported if they are to devote themselves to the work of preaching the gospel, and we pray that this coming year many may feel called to help in this part of the work of giving the gospel to India.

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By Isa Moodie.

Dear praying friends in the homeland, you will be glad to know that Mabel and I reached India safely. We had a very narrow escape from being torpedoed, but felt as never before that the Lord had given His angels charge over us to keep us. We were so glad to see the shores of India again and, as the launch neared the shore, to see the faces of some of our dear missionaries, among them my sister, Elizabeth Lothian. It was a pleasant surprise for Mabel and myself, as we did not expect her to be able to leave the Children’s Home at Panchgani just then.

Dear Miss Wells was scanning the boat for a glimpse of Miss Skelly and Mr. Kerr, who are so much needed in Gujerat. I felt sorry they were not with me, as was expected. We all hope they will be able to follow shortly.

The need is so great and the labourers so few. Friends, pray the Lord of the Harvest that He thrust forth labourers into the great field that is white already to harvest. Those of you who have heard me speak of Chandur, its needs and possibilities, will still understand how to pray for me in my new station, Chalisgaon, as the needs and the possibilities are just as great and the work very much the same.

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VIRAMGAM.

The work here was somewhat interrupted by the departure of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Duckworth on furlough. Miss Carrie Peters, who has been filling gaps, reports briefly as follows from Kaira.

“From the 15th of May to December 1st, 2,297 gospels and
New Testaments were sold in Viramgam. Much less can be sold now, because the railway company has refused the colporteurs a platform pass. We are hoping and praying that Mr. Culver may be able to get it again.

The people listen well to the Gospel and I believe there will be a lot of fruit in Viramgam and the villages round about. I have never seen people listen so well to the Gospel as there. I have great hopes for the work, and am glad the Culvers have come to work in this large and promising district.”

MURTIZAPUR.

By Leonard J. Cutler

It seems to be accepted almost without question by large numbers of people that after the War a great revival of religion is inevitable. We hear constantly of what the men will demand and do in regard to religion upon their return from the trenches. Here in parts of India, at the beginning of the War, there commenced a religious awakening which still continues. The region about Amraoti and Murtizapur is one of these parts.

The revival began on New Year’s Day 1915. This year especially has seen numbers of women confessing Christ in baptism. Up to the time of writing a community of 453 men, women and children has become Christian in the last two years and a little more. This past year 118 persons were baptized in November and December alone. The total for 1916 is 239.

Hands have been laid on the sick in Christ’s Name and they have recovered. One woman has come out in the expectation that her nasal cancer will be healed. Others too are finding that Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever.

In one village where there are over sixty Christians, a man said to the catechist during a prayer service, “The headman of the village forced me to take liquor with him.” A woman answered, “Don’t listen to him. No man can make us drink, if we don’t wish. He chose to do it himself, so he ought to be suspended.”
A new convert, on going to see some of his Hindu relatives, saw some raw meat hanging up in the house. On inquiry he found it had been offered to an idol by a higher caste priest, so begged his people for some flour, which he made into bread for himself to avoid eating the consecrated food.

We are gradually introducing the Lord's Supper among the new converts in the villages. I found that the men wanted the cup to go from them to the women, as they felt it would be a humiliating thing to drink the women’s leavings. The many diseases among these new converts require the speedy adoption of individual cups or some other system which will be safe for all concerned. All this may be interesting to read, as showing the Indian point of view, but for us on this side of the water, the problems are very real and present.

Do you realize our need of help? Forty villages with new Christians in them, and only two missionaries, three senior and two junior catechists to teach and establish them in the Word and to teach their children. Besides this, the catechists need small weather-proof houses (costing about $50,00 each) in which to live in these villages. Many more catechists are needed, but what about their support? The Spirit of God is turning souls by the score. Come to our help with prayer and money and a word in season to others to follow your example.

Strong forces are against us, high-caste Hindus, Mohammedans and Roman Catholics. How much can a missionary and his wife and five catechists do for three counties which are calling us to come to them? Each county has hundreds of villages, and each a population of over 119,000 people.

The writer’s time is up for furlough, but how can he go when there are not enough of us now to cope with the work? The harvest is ripe, but where are the reapers? We need a much larger number of Indian workers and people to support them.

In one village where there is a large Christian community, but no Government school, we must have one of our own. The Government will give us the land, but money is needed for a simple school building, a house for the teacher and a place of worship.

If one considers what has been accomplished since the Alliance commenced work in this needy province something over twenty-five years ago, one sees that God has done great things. Come up to the help of the Lord!
THE past year has been a year of the Lord's faithfulness to us. He has been mindful of us and has supplied our needs. We have enjoyed good health and so were enabled to continue in the work. We have had open doors in Malkapur and in the villages about us.

Plague broke out here last March and continued for several months. As soon as the rainy season set in, cholera made its appearance and for several months carried away its victims daily. Before cholera disappeared plague again started and is still spreading. At present over one half of Malkapur's population have moved out into the fields and to other towns. Quite a few who knew us well and to whom we have preached the Gospel have been taken by cholera and plague. We have always urged people to prepare for eternity, as their days might be few.

Our preaching work has been carried on by ourselves, two native preachers and one Bible woman throughout the year. For some time another Bible woman has also helped, making our staff including ourselves 6 heralds of the Gospel. As we have 285 towns and villages and about 160 thousand souls in the county, we need more native helpers. In a town of about 10,000 people we have had urgent calls for a worker, but were unable to send them one as we had none to send.

Our day school has progressed well during the year. We usually have an attendance of 25. Three of the children who were regular attendants have died, two of plague and one of cholera.

During the year we sold 2 Bibles, 4 New Testaments, 1,314 Gospels and about 250 other books and booklets.

Our Christian community at present numbers 15 adults and 11 children. Our need is a small church building. Nearly all our Christians give their tithe and most of this has been put into the building fund. Friends at home have also sent us gifts for this purpose and we have now about one-fifth of the amount needed for this purpose.

Quite a few people show signs of real interest in the Gospel and some are inquiring about the Way. In one village some ten families are near the kingdom. In another town a guru (religious teacher) died some months ago. Before he died he told the people that the story which the missionary and native workers have told is true. We are always welcomed by the
people and trust for fruit. Lately a man died of plague here to whom we had told the story of salvation many times. As he was on his sick bed he told his wife and children that he had neglected to accept Christ, but warned them not to do so, but to listen to what we told them and to accept what we preach and teach. We see many signs of God’s working amongst the people. Thanking God for all the past we take courage and press on in the fight. Pray for this needy field and the workers.

JALGAON.

By K. D. Garrison.

The year just past has seen less aggressive evangelistic work in Jalgaon district than other years. A considerable part of our time has necessarily been occupied with building. We moved out and spent some months in tents while the roof of the mission bungalow was pulled off, and the floors, walls and roof were repaired and rebuilt. Building on the mission field is one of most unwelcome tasks that missionaries undertake, but it is inevitable, and everyone has the experience sooner or later.

Some bazaar preaching has been done in Jalgaon town, and a number of the surrounding villages have had the gospel preached in them. The Government hospital is open to personal work, though not to public services. Some Christian people who have been inmates there have helped in giving out the gospel, and as all of the nurses but one are Christian women, they exert an influence upon the patients, though they are unable to carry on an active form of work among them.

The adult Christian community in Jalgaon during the year numbered forty-seven, with thirty-one children. These Christians are not all the product of our work, as some have come from other missions to Jalgaon to occupy Government or railway positions, and some have left Jalgaon during the year for the same reason. The membership of our little Church numbers twelve, two having been lost during the year by transfer, and one by death, while two more have come to us by transfer. It is still necessary to hold the services in the bungalow, and we long to see a house of worship in this place. Despite the so called “hard time,” a Mohammedan mosque and Hindu and Jain temples have been in process of erection during
the year in Jalgaon, at enormous cost. Still there is no place of worship of the true God. The offerings of the native Christians for the year have been $26, a very encouraging advance over last year.

There are those in Jalgaon who have heard the Word gladly, and are eager to learn more, and some who come often to the bungalow to ask questions about religion. There was one request for baptism, which, however, we were not free to grant, as we were not sure that the motive in asking was sincere.

During the coming year, however, the missionary will be free from other cares, and we hope that some interested ones may be led to publicly accept Christ. We request the prayers of our friends on this behalf.

LILLIAN M. PRITCHARD.

As we review the past year we praise God for the privilege of being workers together with Him. During the past year we have been enabled to reach many hundreds of people with the Gospel. Many of them listen with real interest and purchase portions of Scriptures. We were enabled to obtain from a missionary who is on furlough a lantern with about sixty stereopticon views of the life of Christ, with which we have been able to reach audiences of about two hundred, without which we would have had only about one fourth that number.

During our rounds among the people we have come across several who are backsliders. For some time we thought they were Hindus until they told us they were baptized years ago. By dealing with them personally and showing a little kindness as we had opportunity, they seem to be drawn to the Lord and attend the services at the bungalow.

On Sundays at eight A.M. we now have a Sunday school for English-speaking children, in and near our neighbourhood. We have had as many as sixteen girls and boys in the class.

Occasionally the Lord lets us see a little fruit from our native Sunday school. One boy of about fourteen years of age came to me a short time ago saying he had something he wished to show me. He sat on the floor and untied a dirty bundle which he carried in his hand and to my surprise he brought forth a well bound copy of the Old and New Testament. When I asked him
where he got it he replied that on Saturdays he had gathered old bottles and papers and sold them and saved the money to buy this Bible which he had purchased from the Salvation Army. Three little girls from our Sunday school come regularly to our day school, which is held in the compound. The change in their appearance is very marked. We often make the remark that they look like Christian children.

As we go forth into the new year, please pray that it may be a year of reaping as well as sowing.

SHANTIPUR.

By Jessie C. Fraser.

At the close of this another year our Christian colony of seven families are praising God for His goodness and faithfulness to us all through the year. We can truly say with the Psalmist, "He crowneth us with loving kindness and tender mercies." We had a very precious Watch-night service here.

All gathered together in the church about eight o'clock. Some appropriate messages were given from the Word of God. Hymns of praise were sung, good testimonies were given and all expressed a desire to give more time to the study of God's Word, to private prayer and family worship; For more unity and love for each other this coming year, in order that this Christian village may be indeed a Light house in the darkness. We entered the new year with prayer. We realize too that the coming of Jesus is very near and the great necessity of being "Accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass and to stand before the Son of man." Luke xxi. 36. We are surrounded by heathen villages. The Word is being preached among all the different castes. In five of these villages we have school work going on. Two of our workers have night schools. In two villages near by we have opened Bible classes. There are thirty-four students enrolled. Some of those have attended school over ten years ago and are now young men. We are trying to use every effort to get them taught the Word of God. Oka, one of our Christian farmers who was formerly a worker in this district and is one of our most spiritual men, is now teaching these Bible classes. These young men all have to work in the day time. The Bible classes are taught at night. Oka gives two nights a week to each class, he often does not get home until eleven o'clock at night, but he is so happy for he has the assurance that God has given him this service of teaching those young men "the unsearchable-
riches of Christ.” His great desire is to get them all saved.

We are believing this year for much fruit. Jesus said, “He that abideth in me the same bringeth forth much fruit.” We have over 80 candidates. Some of these are ready to be baptized. We have held 1091 meetings. The attendance was 18,065. We have sold gospels and gospel tracts and have given quite a number away. We have also visited some of the Government schools where the high-caste children are being taught. We give gospels to the masters and gospel tracts to the children. The masters are willing to give us a few minutes to speak of the things of God to the children. In the villages near by some of these masters visit us from time to time. Some we believe are seeking God. We do trust and pray that before Jesus comes we may see many turn to Him out of all these different castes for whom He has given His life.

SANAND.

By F. H. Back.

The Lord enabled me to go out on tour early, so that by the first of January 1916 I had spent about 13 months in the villages, beginning with the Wohtah Mela, a place where thousands of pilgrims gather at the full moon in November each year.

I was in Dholka Taluka, at the beginning of the year. The touring season was in progress, and I continued to tour till March 24th 1916. I made four touring camps from which we toured the villages around them. I did not tour as many villages as in former years, but spent more time in each camping place. The results were better, many people heard the word preached oftener and many hearts were touched, and though none openly confessed Christ by baptism, yet I am confident that there was a work done in many hearts that will bring forth fruit.

From the first of January to the 24th of March, we visited 40 villages, many of them a number of times, held 135 meetings beside meetings at the tent. The number of people in meetings was about 3,665. During the balance of the year we held about 57 other meetings with an attendance of 1,517, making a total of 5,183.

During the winter at a Committee meeting I was appointed to the Sanand Taluka, to which place I moved on April 6th 1916. I spent much of April and May at Shantipur in secular work, but conducted a number of meetings while there. Spent the
rest of the Hot Season at Sanand. In July I was transferred to Ashapur, moved there on July 7th, but in a few days went to Dholka to teach in the Summer Bible School, which continued till September 7th, on which date our native meetings began. Thy lasted till the 10th. I attended Committee meeting on the 11th and returned to Ashapur on the 12th. On the 11th I was again appointed to Dholka, but remained in Ashapur till November 15th, on which date I returned to Dholka, hoping that it would be my last move for some time.

Still being in charge of Sanand Taluka I report below the statistics for the Ashapur Church.

Communicants 30, Christian community 73, Adults not i.e., 6, Children 37. S. S. one average attendance 50, Collections Rs. 9-0-0 other money Rs. 1-6-0 total Rs. 10-6-0.

TRAINING SCHOOL, BODWAD.

By C. and S. Eicher.

Looking over another year we want to begin our report with thanksgiving to the Lord for the blessings of health and healing among us, for His help and joy in the daily work, and for revivals and the salvation of souls. We do also want to thank our many dear friends in the homeland who have helped us so nobly by their prayers and support in this work. Your gifts and sacrifices sent to us direct have enabled us to meet all the expenses of this station without any aid from the regular mission treasury.

The school roll for 1916 records 20 students. Of these 14 were boarders and 6 day scholars. Thirteen were in the Bible training classes. This year five students graduated from the Training School, having successfully completed their three years' Bible course.

A number of new converts from Hinduism among the students made our classwork very interesting and inspiring; it being always so interesting to have them ask and answer questions regarding the Word which was at once so new and precious to them.

Our class for 1917 will probably be made up chiefly of new converts. We hope a goodly number will come. This will give you, dear friends, a chance to have a 'brand new' student of the Word, who wants to study and prepare himself for the Lord's work, to become your representative in India, by supporting him with twenty-five dollars a year only, for his board and clothing.

Miss Beardslee's joining us in this station and work gives us
more chance at the regular preaching and station work besides our classes.

I need scarcely mention that she with her gifts as a teacher has a special ministry in the Training School.

In our itinerating work we find the people kind and favourably inclined toward our message. During the year our hearts have been encouraged by three definite conversions from Hinduism. One a young man of whom I wrote a few months ago, the others a man and his wife. So far it seems they have stood the tests of the usual persecutions to converts and are determined to go through with Jesus. Others are convicted of sin and convinced of the truth.

Will you join with us in prayer for them and pray that nineteen hundred and seventeen shall be the best year in the history of our mission in India.

AMRAOTI.

By W. M. Fletcher.

It is with glad hearts that we write this little report, of the station and district work for this year 1916. The work in this large city of 45,000 people is very hard and difficult; but I am glad to say that the native church work has brightened up the last two or three months. It suffered very much while I was away last year building, and has never regained what it lost. If one branch of the work has suffered, another branch has gained. I mean by this the district work.

At present our hearts are drawn toward the poor village people in the western side of the district, where the Lord is opening the long closed and hard hearts of the low caste people. They have for ages bowed down to idols and have multiplied their gods, who for ages have held sway over them under the unseen power of Satan. They were oppressed by the rich, cast down, and without hope; poor slaves of both men and Satan.

These are now beginning to awake to the fact that there is glad salvation in Jesus for them, and in Him alone. Gently and quietly one can see the Holy Ghost working in the hearts of these dear lost souls. The work spreads from village to village, and all around one is met by enquiring ones. Quite a few have left their caste and people, their sins and ancient religion and have confessed Christ in baptism.

Last March and April, I went to a little village called Mhasipur and it is there this good work has begun. On or about April the 15th we finished building a little house of two rooms for our native helpers to live in and so established an outstation there.
At that time we baptized the **first nine converts from five different villages**.

I put two men, a catechist and a colporteur there to teach these babes in Christ and lead them on and also to teach others with a view to baptism. Many more soon began to express a desire to come to Jesus; and so during the heavy rains this work went on quietly in the hearts of the people. I have just finished a six weeks' tour among them. To my great joy I found that the first nine converts had grown in wisdom and grace and many more were ready to take up the cross and follow Jesus. Among the new converts are four women. Three of these were very hard and would not listen at first and only troubled their husbands who had been already baptized. God heard prayer and by His grace these three have come gladly to Jesus. One of them is a woman of about 25 years of age. She has learned to read and write in nine months beside having to work hard all day in her father's field. This is the common talk of the village. "What! a Mahar woman learning to read! Who ever heard of such a thing?" they say.

One of our workers' wives taught her. While baptizing nine men and women the other day a poor old woman came to me, and asked me to baptize her. She said, "I must be baptized today." I enquired about her, but she was unknown to us all, so had to refuse to baptize till I could go to her village and find out something about her. The poor old soul sat down and cried and when we left she was still crying. I could not rest because of her and next day we went to her village and found six others who were ready to confess Jesus. So we all went down to the river close by and while I was baptizing the others we saw the old woman tugging away at a charm around her neck. She broke the sacred thread and threw it all into the water of her own accord. She was very weak and since then he says that she has gained strength.

The next day we went to another little village and three others came to Jesus and so from day to day wherever we go we find some seeking after the Light. There is hardly a village in the Mhaispur outstation but that has seekers. During the last six weeks we have baptized twenty-two adults and dedicated two children; making now the total for this year thirty-one adults and two children. We believe that before this is over here will be a great harvest as there is the sound of abundance of rain. Will not the dear ones at home pray for these dear people and the Mhaispur outstation? And also for our Brother and Sister Lapp who take our place, as we go home on furlough.
While preaching one evening in a little village, both high and low caste sat around and listened to the words of hope and comfort that we spoke. Two of the low caste men have since been baptized and many more of both men and women say they are coming after harvest. Some of the high caste men are even thinking of turning.

Jesus is passing by and is saving these long lost and degraded people. The harvest is white and ready to harvest. “Pray Ye.” Should any be led to take up Mhaispur upon their hearts and pray for these villages and people, we would like to put before such the needs of the work there. First, more workers are needed, and funds to finish the well which has been dug three parts of the way down; and we need a school room or little church where the village people could come and worship of a Sunday. Such a building is much needed there to enable the missionary to visit the people in the rainy season. He could camp in it for a night or a few days at a time when tenting is impossible and the roads are bad. How glad a little community at home would be to welcome their first little district church. Twice glad would we be here for one at Mhaispur.

All letters about the work in the Amraoti District should in future be sent to Rev. O. Lapp.

AMONG THE WOMEN AROUND ABOUT MURTIZAPUR.

By Mrs. Annie Cutler.

We are pleased to report that the work among the women is marked by decided progress. The truth preached to the Philippian jailor, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy house,” has been pressed upon all enquirers and candidates for baptism. The plan from the commencement of this revival has been to have both husband and wife prepared and baptised together. It has not always been possible to adhere to this, but 1916 records an encouraging advance, not only on the part of the husbands to do their part, and that is much, but the women themselves have also come forward and several have been definitely used of the Lord to encourage others to take their stand with their husbands in confessing Christ in baptism.
This year we have been very interested to find that the word has been passed from company to company of those desiring to become Christians, "They will not accept us without our wives," and on coming to us they often say, "We are ready and our wives also." It, of course, must be understood that this rule is easier to adhere to in this movement, which at present is among the outcaste people, than it would be among the caste people. All, in becoming Christians, have in some measure to suffer persecution, but that of the caste people is infinitely greater in some respects than that of these who are already out of caste, low, ignorant and despised.

Yet God has been pleased to gather in first from this lower class, and our hearts rejoice as we see these precious saved souls already so wonderfully changed by the grace of God, and among whom are men and women of real character, who are being used of the Lord to bring others to Him by their word of testimony and general influence.

Being a woman, I should like in these few remarks to say a word about one or two of my Indian sisters in Christ, and, in bringing them before you, ask your special prayers for them.

Bindibai, the wife of Bapunia, was baptised in December 1915 with her husband. Just those two alone were the first fruit of Gaulkhed village. As her little inheritance of a few acres of ground is in her own village, the family resides there, but both of them have from the first had a true concern for the salvation of souls in the husband's village also, and have been among other instruments in God's hand to this end. Bindibai has from time to time visited there and all had waited eagerly for the rains to be over, so that the missionaries could go and baptise those who were ready. Hence on November 1st, our first touring day this season, we went by special invitation for a day to the village of Shringnapur. Couple after couple, husband and wife, followed each other into the lovely, large Purna river. Bindibai, her face shining with joy, led her sister into its waters, stood with them as they were baptized and led them out again speaking words of encouragement. Back and forth she went until the last one had been immersed. One can never forget that day, nor that scene on the banks of the Purna,—truly now a sacred river! Bindibai has proved herself, though unable to read to write, a true leader among her people. It may be of interest to state that on that day 33 adults and 37
children were gathered into the True Fold. We may add that already they are waiting for us to return, as many more are ready.

Another similar character to Bindibai is dear Tanabai. Baptized at almost the same time, but unknown to each other, with villages far apart, yet she in her quiet way has gone on steadfastly with the Lord. When we went to her village in November last, it was to find that her influence had been exerted to give confidence to many others, and in many respects we look to her as one of the main "pillars" in the little church of 41 souls in Dhanawadi village.

In this class we can count many such characters, but could not now write of each separately. The work is spreading and little companies are now to be found in over 40 villages where before, or even two years ago, there was not a single Christian!

In closing however, one cannot refrain from mentioning some dear women who have sought the Lord not only for deliverance from sin, but also for healing for their bodies. Mankibai, racked with a terrible cough; Sakhubai, so weak and full of pain that she could scarcely leave her home; and two others, who had kept their beds for weeks with fever,—all healed in answer to prayer and the laying on of hands according to the Word.

In August 1915 the little church in Goligaon was first established when, with two exceptions, all the Mahars (a division of the outcasts) were baptized. The women there have made remarkable advance, and it is an inspiration to listen to their bright singing and answering of questions in company with the men. We can only say, "What hath God wrought!"

They have been greatly helped by having a resident Indian helper with them. Oh, how we wish we could place helpers in more of these newly founded churches! It is one of the chief needs; that, and simple houses for the helpers to live in. We are indeed thankful that God is calling out from among the new converts young men with some education obtained in the Government schools to be evangelists. These are being trained in our Bodwad Bible School. Pray that their number may be multiplied. Pray also that others, both here and at home, may be stirred up to give the money for their support.
$25.00 will support an evangelist in training and from $50.00 to $100.00 one in active service.

Some of these young men have little child-wives. Wherever possible, they are being sent to our girls' school at Khamgaon. This will be an untold blessing to both the young men and their wives when they enter upon their lifework, for only too often the wives have not been trained to the level of their husbands, and so fail to be helpmeets in the work.

AKOLA,

By M. B. Fuller.

WHEN we moved from Bombay in February and found ourselves settled in the old bungalow which we bought or God bought for us in 1885, thirty one years before, it seemed like getting back home to me, though Mrs. Fuller had never lived here. In 1895, twenty-one years before, the headquarters of the mission were moved to Bombay to have a home for missionaries coming and going for shopping, dentistry etc., as well as for new missionaries arriving in India and older ones going on or returning from furlough; and also because Bombay was convenient for the chairman of the mission in his frequent visits to both fields, and for banking, arranging passages and other mission business.

Mr. and Mrs. Moyser went on furlough in February, and because of the fewness of missionaries on the field, Mrs. Fuller and I undertook to look after the work of the station for a time.

The work has been pleasant, but with the general work of chairman to do it has been impossible to do, the work of the station as it needs to be done, and on the other hand the chairman's work of visiting all the stations has been neglected.

It would have been impossible to undertake the work of the station with the boys' orphanage and boarding school to look after, except for the invaluable help of the foreman of the workshop, Mr. K. M. Swami, who was the first boy taken by us in 1884, years before we united with the Alliance. He and his wife,
formerly one of the girls taken in the early years, have had the charge of the orphanage more than seven months of the time.

We have four evangelists at present, and the work of preaching has been carried on throughout the year. The people listen well and in some places there are indications of a harvest. One Hindu man and his wife and another man have been baptized, also two young men from the orphanage and seven grown up children of Christian parents, making twelve in all.

The Christian community is increasing in the natural way as there are about forty families of young people whose children are increasing, and growing up and attending schools. A missionary is needed to give his undivided time to the work of the station, the care of the Christian community of nearly four hundred and to the evangelistic work in this large town of nearly 30,000 people and the county round it. We are eagerly looking forward to the return of Mr. and Mrs. Moyser for this work.

We had a happy Christmas gathering at the church and a Christmas thankoffering of about fifty dollars which was divided between the National Missionary Society and the suffering children in Belgium. The appeal for hungry children found a quick response in the hearts of many who were rescued from the famines of 1896-7, and 1899-1900.

On the day following Christmas there was a reunion of all our people in the mission compound, which was a very happy and profitable time, with appropriate addresses and games and simple lunch.

At the watchnight service the church was well filled and we were touched to see the young parents with two or three little children to take home after midnight. God gave a time of real blessing and the new year opens with much hope and good cheer. It is a great joy to see our Indian workers doing so well many things which the missionaries had to do a few years ago.

The Annual Marathi convention held in September was a time of much heart-searching among our Indian workers, and will long be remembered by many of them. The summer school was omitted, but we hoped to have it again the present year.
CHILDREN'S HOME, PANCHGANI.

By Elizabeth Lothian.

IT has been a pleasure to me to be back again in charge of the Children's Home. We have had some slight illnesses during the year, but we praise God His Presence has been with us.

I would like to thank the friends in the homeland, who have helped the children to support our little brown baby in the Bethany nursery at Khamgaon. The first one, little Ruby, died in her second year. This was a great grief to the children, but they have gone on collecting their pennies for another baby.

We should be very glad if the friends in the homeland would remember the missionary children in prayer, that they may be kept true to Him they want to serve.

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By Lucia Fuller.

WHEN I returned to India in February 1916, I felt a strong pull to the Children's Home at Panchgani, because of a little sister there, whom I had not seen for over four years. So with the Committee's permission I went there at the commencement of the hot season, and stayed for four and a half months. For three months of the time I taught in the English girls' school which all our children attend, except Elmore Eicher, our one big boy; and had the pleasure of having three of them in my classes.

It might be well, for the sake of those who do not know, to say that this Children's Home is for the school-going children of our missionaries, who live altogether in places where there are no English Schools, and where the climate, for the larger part of the year, is not suitable for American and European children. Rather than put our children into the boarding department of any of the English schools at various hill-stations all over India, it seemed best to the mission to rent a house, put it and the children in charge of the right woman, and let the children attend school as day-scholars. Panchgani was chosen for its climate, convenient location and good schools, and Miss Lothian, eminently the right
woman, put in charge. While she was gone on furlough, Miss Beardsley, another right woman, took charge, with help at times from Miss Patten, and from Miss Martha Loud of the Rest Home at Lonavla.

Last year there were ten children: Jean Ramsey, who helps to mother the little ones, Elmore and Bert Eicher, Muriel and Margaret Turnbull, Faith Cutler, Frances Fuller, Gladys Fletcher, Lauren Carner and Ruth Auernheimer. From fifteen-year old Jean Ramsey, Irish and hotly Pro-Ally, to seven-year old Ruth Auernheimer, tiny, demure, and given to coming first in her class, they are a lively lot. If any one has the idea that missionary children are a grave, sanctimonious breed, he would better go to “Sans Souci,” which is the rather prophetic French name given the Home by the Parsi landlord, and find out.

This year there will be a few changes. Lauren Carner, who has promised to marry the whole Sans Souci family when he grows up (not excluding the boys), is already in America, bless his loving heart; Muriel and Margaret Turnbull, who will be much missed, expect soon to leave for California; and little Gladys Fletcher for Australia, where we hope she will get plump and rosy before she comes back. To take their places, so far as can be seen now, will be only three, Mabel Moodie, Florence and Gordon Hagberg, all very recently returned to India. So the Home will have the least it has had in it since the beginning, when there were nearly twenty.

The children all dearly love “Auntie” Lothian, for much the same reason that the classic lamb loved Mary, for she has a big mother heart, that must always be doing for them. The children consider themselves the best off of any school-children in Panchgani, because of their freedom and home-life; and, of course, Panchgani; the place where their parents live; and those other dreamlike, delightful places where grandparents and aunts and uncles live and apples and all manner of goodies abound, compose the major part of their world at present. So Sans Souci means not only “Care-free,” but a fair measure of contentment and happiness besides.
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N.B.—Mr. Kherr and Miss Shelley arrived after Jan making 52 on field. 21 on furlough


Some of the figures are estimates where exact numbers were not given. Missionaries on furlough 2.
List of Alliance Missionaries.

BERAR

AKOLA
Mr. & Mrs. M. B. Fuller
Mr. J. P. Rogers
Miss Lucia Fuller

AMRAoti
Mr. & Mrs. O. Lapp

CHANDUR
Mr. & Mrs. W. Ramsey

KHAMGAON
Mr. & Mrs. P. Hagberg
Miss J. L. Rollier
Miss K. P. Williams
Miss Bjoland

MALKAPUR
Mr. & Mrs. S. H. Auernheimer

MURTIZAPUR & DARAPUR
Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Cutler

KHANDESH

BHUSAWAL
Mr. & Mrs. A. I. Garrison
Miss C. Rutherford

BODWAD (P. O. Nargaon.)
Mr. & Mrs. C. Eicher
Miss H. Beardslee

CHALISGAON
Mrs. I. Moodie
Miss E. M. Patten

JALGAON
Mr. & Mrs. K. D. Garrison

PACHORA
Mr. C. W. Schelander

GUJARAT

AHMEDABAD
Mr. & Mrs. D. McKee
Miss Lillian Pritchard

DHOLKA
Mr. & Mrs. S. P. Hamilton
Mr. F. H. Back

KAIRA
Miss E. Wells
Miss Peter
Miss B. Conger
Miss J. Woodward
Miss Skelley

MATAR (P. O. Kaira.)
Miss Cora Hansen
Miss M. Taylor

MEHMADABAD
Mr. & Mrs. L. F. Turnbull
Mr. J. F. Brabazon
Mr. J. R. Turnbull
Mr. S. Kerr

SANAND & SABARMATI

SHANTIPUR (Jetalpur P.O., Ahmedabad)
Miss Jessie Fraser

VIRAMGAM
Mr. & Mrs. J. N. Culver

LONAVLA (Poon District.)

PANCHGANI (Satara District)
(Children’s Home)
Miss Lothian

ON FURLOUGH:

Mr. & Mrs. O. Dinham
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Moyser
Miss E. Wyeth
Mrs. F. M. Bannister
Mr. & Mrs. E. R. Carner
Mr. & Mrs. W. Fletcher
Miss H. Bushfield
Mr. & Mrs. P. Eicher
Mrs. C.W. Schelander
Miss M. Woodworth
Mr. V. Erickson
Mr. & Mrs. A. Duckworth
Mr. & Mrs. H. V. Andrews
Miss Coxe
Miss E. Krater
Miss A. Little

BOMBAY:

PRINTED BY M. G. JOSEPH AT THE “BOMBAY GUARDIAN” MISSION PRESS, GIRGAUM.
PUBLISHER AND MANAGER: REV. S. H. AUERNHEIMER, MALKAPUR, BERAR.
EDITED BY REV. WM. RAMSEY, CHANDUR, BERAR.