EVER ONWARD!

"How speaks the present hour? Act!
Walk upward glancing;
So shall thy footsteps in glory be traced,
Slow, but advancing.
Scorn not the smallest of daily endeavour,
Let the great meaning ennoble it ever;
Droop not o'er efforts expended in vain
Work, as believing that labour is gain.

"What doth the future say? Hope!
Turn thy face sun-ward!
Look where the light fringes the far rising sky
Day cometh onward!
Watch tho' so long be the twilight delaying,
Let the first sunbeam arise on thee praying;
Fear not for greater is God by thy side
Than armies of Satan against thee allied."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Some of the good friends and supporters of our missionaries and their work who have been sending Money Orders to India recently, have wondered why they have received no acknowledgment of its having been received at this end.
We wish everyone who sends a Money Order to any of our missionaries would kindly write to the one to whom it is sent a week or two after sending it, giving the number and date of the Money Order, and also the name of the town or city from which it has been sent. If this is done and the Money Order goes down, the missionary can inform the Bombay Post Office and get the money. In all cases the sender should carefully keep the receipt given him by the Post Office until he hears that the money has been received.

Please note that the letter should not be sent by the same mail as the M. O., or both may be lost if the steamer goes down, but if sent a week or two later, one or other will probably reach its destination in safety. Sometimes a missionary does not know that a Money Order belonging to him has been lost until months after when he gets a letter wondering whether or not the money ever reached him.

Their friends in the homeland will be glad to know that Mr. John Turnbull and Miss Julia Woodward have both successfully passed their first-examination in the Gujerati language.

Plague has broken out in Kaira, Mehmedabad, Ahmedabad and Dholka, in some cases Christians have died in the mission compounds at these stations. Please unite with us in prayer that God will preserve His people from this scourge and make them a blessing and a help to others who are suffering.

As usual this, being the February number, contains the Annual Report of the work of 1917. We pass it on to our readers with thanksgiving to God for what He has enabled us to accomplish, with gratitude to our Board and to the supporters of the work for their sympathy, prayers and financial help during the past year and with courage, hope, and determination to accomplish more in the coming days.
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

By Rev. M. B. Fuller.

The year 1917 began under the dark cloud of nearly two and a half years of war, and the cloud has grown darker and more threatening as the months have gone by, and the hearts of men have been well nigh failing from fear but this is just the time when Christ has bidden us to lift up our heads because the day of redemption draweth near.

The days may grow darker still or they may soon be brighter again but the coming of Christ to reign on this war-crushed earth is drawing near and in this all God's children in every land may rejoice.

But with all the pressure of the war God has been looking after His work and His workers in all the various mission fields and it has been very inspiring to read of the increased amounts of money received by various missions, and for our own mission the year has been one of freedom from financial pressure. There were hard years in time of peace, and this the hardest year of the war, has been a testimony to God's power and faithfulness.

There has been much political agitation in India and a good deal of "unrest" but that must be expected in India for some years to come, India is awaking to a national consciousness for which all thoughtful people ought to be truly thankful. With nearly 320,000,000 people India ought to be one of the great nations of the earth. But mere numbers do not make a great nation as we see in the sad case of Russia and China at the present time.

The outcastes must be lifted up and given a place as citizens and made fit for citizenship in a democracy, and the same is true of the great masses of the farming population before India can take her place among the democracies of the world,
or the self-governing colonies of the British Empire, and for this end the great mass movements toward Christianity are doing more than mere political agitation can do. We welcome all social reform work by whomsoever it is being done but we have found nothing like a living faith in Jesus Christ, the crucified and risen Saviour of His people, to lift people up and make them fit for the responsibilities of citizens. If missionaries could find something better than the Gospel to transform men they would gladly preach it, for they are not here to waste their lives in second and third rate work.

In our own field there were never such openings for the preaching of the simple Gospel as there are to-day. The people are waking to the fact that they need something and the Gospel appeals to them as the thing they need. In some parts of India the mass movements are going forward in great power and we praise God for the beginning in our own field.

We need more missionaries to take up the still unoccupied counties in our Marathi field. We need hundreds more Indian workers and we pray and ask our friends at home to pray for them and to pray for those we already have, for each one of them is a target for the fiery darts of Satan. As a roaring lion or as an angel of light he is set upon their downfall.

We have been glad to welcome back to the field Mr. and Mrs. Dinham and children and Miss Bushfield, Mr. and Mrs. Moyser and Miss Wyeth and Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Eicher, and children and with them three new missionaries, Misses Moore and Backlund and Mr. Smith.

But there is one beautiful family missing. Our dear brother and sister Duckworth and their six dear bright children lost in the awful disaster near Cape Town were the first martyrs of our mission to the frightfulness of war. We sympathize deeply with the relatives of these dear ones who mourn their loss.

Still even with this real sorrow, we have much reason at the beginning of the new year to praise God and take courage. There have been no deaths in our ranks during the year.
EVANGELISTIC WORK.

In India, as in other lands, the work of our Alliance Mission has ever been chiefly evangelistic, our object being to present the simple message of the gospel to the masses of the people in the shortest possible time. All other work, such as schools, orphanages, workshops, or training institutions are either the outcome of that work or subordinate to it and are only considered valuable according to their results along evangelistic lines.

Most of our missionaries are working in districts so thickly populated and containing so many towns and villages that it is impossible for them to visit each town or village and preach in it more than once in three or four years. No one will deny that a man may yield to the truth and be saved when he hears it for the first time, but generally it requires telling again and again before it begins to grip the heart or sink into the consciousness. If some of us who were born in Christian lands and educated in Christian homes had to hear the message for years before we yielded to the truth, how much more do the people in heathen lands, to whom it is all so new and strange, need to hear it often.

Another drawback is that the missionary comes to them as a man of another race. They have seen the white man accomplish some wonderful things which they or their fathers never even heard of; may not this wonderful religion they tell about be good and right for them and yet not for us, or surely our pandits and learned men would know about it.

There have been occasional instances in which men have yielded to the truth and been saved the very first time they heard the gospel, but in the majority of cases the message has to be repeated over and over again before it sinks into the heart and grips a man's life. Some of us know by experience how true this is even in Christian lands where prayers were said at mother's knee, and the message had all the influence of a Christian home and parental example to impress it on the mind and influence the choice; how much harder is the struggle in heathen lands where the influence of the home is all the other way, where often only the men and boys hear the gospel at all, unless in the few places where lady missionaries or Bible women are able to enter the homes, and where the story told by the missionary is just the opposite to all that has been taught them from childhood up to manhood. Surely we ought to praise God that under such conditions there are any conversions at all for
each one is possible by His power alone, and is a testimony to
the wonderful life and power of His Word. In most of our
stations there have been baptisms during the past year, but be-
sides these nearly every missionary can give several instances
where the Word of God is known to have penetrated the hearts
and homes of the people, bringing the knowledge of the forgive-
ness of sins and Jesus Christ as the Saviour.

The touring season last year was very short owing to the
long continuance of the rains so that in many places the usual
number of villages could not be visited, and the prevalence of
plague in many places also hindered the work. One missionary
reports that in his district the prevalence of plague has led to a
revival of Hinduism, new temples and shrines being built to
appease the anger of the gods, and the people becoming more
strict in their religious observances. In other places men
are being paid to go about preaching Hinduism in opposition to
the truth taught by the missionaries.

Before passing on to a little outline of the work done in the
different stations, we wish to thank the many friends of the
missionaries and of the work in the homelands, who have helped
by prayer and gift during the past year. In addition to the
regular sums sent each month by the Board for the maintenance
of the evangelistic work, many of the stations have received
sums of money direct from donors for the support of Catechists,
evangelists, colporteurs and Bible-women. The Board has done
nobly the past year regarding the missionary allowances
and the support of the Indian helpers, and yet our work would
be very seriously crippled without the help sent directly to
the field by many whose earnest, loving letters of sympathy and
love greatly enhance their gifts, and encourage the hearts of
overworked, wearied, and sometimes discouraged missionaries.
The time such gifts reach us, the amount sent and the purpose
for which they are designated often show the direct guidance
and loving care of our Heavenly Father in foreseeing and
providing for the needs of His people and of His work.

Taking our Marathi stations in order along the line of the
Great Indian Peninsular Railroad, east from Bombay, we come:
first to

Chalisgaon

A town and also a district with a population of about 75,000,
among whom work has been carried on the past year by Mrs.
Moodie and Miss Patten with a couple of Indian evangelists.
Mrs. Moodie writes that ten people have forsaken their idols and:
idol-worship, saying they would like to be baptized, but have not courage as yet to openly take this step. The presence of the Lord has been felt in a very real way with us as we preached the gospel and prayed with the sick. Some people in far off villages which we have not often been able to visit have asked us for teachers but we have none to send.

Pachora.

For the greater part of the year this has been worked as an out-station from Jalgaon, Mr. and Mrs. Lapp having been there only a short time after their return from furlough before they were transferred to Amraoti. This Taluka contains 115,000 people among whom Mr. Andrew Johnson worked long and faithfully in former years and we are sure the seed sown will yield a rich harvest in days to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Dinham have just re-opened the station with a fairly good staff of Indian workers and we believe we shall soon have reason to rejoice in an ingathering of precious souls.

Jalgaon.

This, being the capital of East Khandesh and a town of over 20,000 inhabitants, is an important centre for evangelistic work, besides being the chief city of a district of the same name containing 100,000 people. Here Mr. Schelander is working while his wife is in America caring for the education of their children. It is from this station that the report comes that the prevalence of plague led to a revival of Hinduism, building of new temples, and the more strict adherence to religious observances. It is characteristic of our brother that besides ministering to the little body of believers in the station, he spends most of his time with two native workers going from town to town, and village to village with the good news of salvation. He writes that many of the simple village people seem interested in what we say and usually give assent to the truth but say "the idols have come to us from our forefathers so we cannot give them up." The low-caste people in some villages have expressed a desire to come out, but they wait for one another. A schoolmaster came to my tent on Christmas day and continued reading the Bible until dark. On leaving he said to the catechist, "I believe Jesus to be the true incarnation of God." The great need in this district is woman's work. In one village where the men were all out, the women asked us to stay and preach to them; we did so and a good number said they would pray to Jesus henceforth.
EVBNGELISTIC WORK

Bhusaval.

The next town along the railway is Bhusaval, capital of a taluka of the same name containing a population of about 78,000. Since the Rev. A. I. Garrison left here on furlough the work has been carried on by Miss Rutherford and two Indian helpers. Miss Rutherford writes "for five months plague raged incessantly and all work among the Hindus was hindered. One thousand deaths were reported and there were many more which were not reported. Fifty-five villages have been visited with the message of the gospel besides work in the city here, 2,331 gospels have been sold and many tracts distributed.

Bodwad.

About an hour's ride in the train from Bhusaval brings us to Bodwad where Mr. and Mrs. C. Eicher are in charge of our Training School, where young men are trained for evangelistic work. An important part of the training of these young men is the preaching of the gospel in the surrounding towns and villages and, in the cold season accompanying Mr. and Mrs. Eicher on their evangelistic tours. Bodwad Taluka contains a farming population of about 140,000. There was one baptism last year. A further report of the work done in this station will be found under the title of Training Schools.

MALKAPUR REPORT.

By Rev. S. Auernheimer.

The past year has been a year of the Lord's faithfulness to us. He supplied all our needs and enabled us to live and witness for Him in this needy place. The year has been a year of seed sowing. We had open doors for witnessing for the Master. The people welcomed us and our messages, but for some reason or other we have not been able to reap as we had expected to do, at the beginning of last year. We were enabled to baptize two persons, but had hopes of more. A number of persons who were very hopeful enquirers a year ago, have been influenced against us, by a man who came out for the Lord last year, but who has since then openly denied Christ by saying that he had not accepted Jesus, and that he had not been baptized.
Many, who were thus friendly to us, and interested in the Gospel have been advised to beware of us and our workers. In this, the work has been hindered, and we find a coldness and an indifference where formerly there was a real interest in the Gospel. Satan does all he can to hinder souls coming to the Lord. In several villages we had assurances that the Lord was at work, and we feel that we must trust the Lord to frustrate the enemy and his work. Will the reader please remember these souls in prayer, that they may come out for the Lord even though an enemy is at work to hinder it.

One of our workers—Bapu Kesker—received his call for service yonder during the past year. We miss him, and his love for, and faithfulness in the work. He was not strong in body, and so was not able to do full service, but he never let weakness become an excuse for not doing what he could do. He died preaching the Gospel, or at least in the attempt to do so. The day of his death, he attended the daily prayer service at the bungalow, after which he started off for the evening preaching service with the other workers. As they reached the place where they expected to preach, he felt too ill to remain and so started for home. Before he reached home, his strength gave out and he had to sit down by the roadside, and later had to be carried home, and an hour or so later his spirit had departed.

We have taken on another worker, but need still more to be enabled to reach the 285 towns in our district. Pray that the Lord may send forth more workers, and that some at home will take up the support of these workers.

During the year we sold 4 Bibles, 10 New Testaments, 4,654 Gospels, and 360 other books, besides distributing hundreds of good tracts. We held 885 services, and preached to over 14,000 people at these services.

We have not yet received the plot of land for a church building, nor have we sufficient funds for a needed “House of Prayer.” We greatly need a place for worship, and also need workers’ houses, as the houses we rent, are not in a good location, and for this reason very few people visit or call on our workers. Pray that the Lord will speedily supply these needs.

In a village several miles from here an old woman gave up idol worship, and as far as possible has accepted the Lord Jesus as her Saviour, but so far has not had the courage to acknowledge Him in baptism. A number of others are near the kingdom in the same place but fearing of what others will do, they
have thus far not come out for the Lord. Please help us to pray them through.

In another town some 15 miles away, a man died recently who was a worshipper of Jesus for some time. He, too, was afraid to come out openly for the Master, but the people in his town always told us that he was one of our kind. For a number of years he would do no work or business on Sunday. He possessed a Bible and other books which he read continually. The last time I met him, he said that some how he felt that the Lord would soon come for him. I asked him if he was ready for death, and his reply was, "Yes, Jesus is my Saviour, and why should I not be ready?". I talked a long time with him, and he seemed ready. A few weeks later plague entered his town, and he was taken. We trust to meet him yonder.

There are others here and there who are interested and many may be saved, but are afraid to come out openly, for fear of caste or friends. We long to see these take their stand for Jesus, and shall appreciate if the readers will unite with us in definite prayer for this large district, with its 285 towns and villages, and its 160,000 people.

Khamgaon:

This is a large cotton ginning centre about ten miles on a branch line running south from the G. I. P. Railway. It is the capital of a Taluka of the same name with a population of about 200,000. Here is situated our Girl's Orphanage and also Bethany Rescue Home, but the evangelistic work is in charge of Mr and Mrs. Hagberg. Mr. Hagberg writes:—During the year there has been 500 open-air preaching services held with a total attendance of about 13,400, some fifteen surrounding villages visited frequently, and during the cold season, we reached about sixty of the more distant villages; on the whole we were kindly received by the people. We tried hard to sell our stock of gospels and Christian books but found that in several places the school teachers were quite opposed to us and advised both children and adults not to buy the books. Notwithstanding this we sold 480 Gospels and 164 other Christian books. We have two hopeful enquirers, one of whom is a teacher in the high school. He has attended our Sunday services of late and usually brings some of the boys with him. He is reading the Bible and seems quite interested, please pray that he may be converted.

At Shegaon, ten miles away, there are seven Christian families. We visit them frequently both for open-air preaching.
and to encourage and help them. We greatly need a good man to be permanently stationed here.

For account of out-station at Tiwan Takli, see under head of Schools.

Akola.

This, being the old capital of Berar, is a large and prosperous city with government offices, schools, many factories for ginning cotton, and other native industries. It is the headquarters of our Alliance work in India and here we have a fairly large church, a Boy's Orphanage, Industrial Workshop and farm. The work here for the past year has been directly under the charge of our Chairman. Rev. M. B. Fuller ably assisted in the women's work by Mrs. and Miss Fuller.

There were sixteen baptisms during the year 1917, some of which seemed to indicate that something like a mass movement towards Christianity was beginning in a few of the villages, and since then requests for visits from teachers and preachers have been received from several places. The evangelistic work here, as elsewhere was hindered much by the prevalence of plague, on which subject we have a very interesting article by Miss L. B. Fuller which is too lengthy to publish here but we hope to insert it in our next number.

Murtizapur, Daryapur.

For a number of years past these two Talukas containing a population of 245,000 have been worked by Mr. and Mrs. Cutler. Last year they had six outstations with a force of twelve Indian assistants and one Bible-woman. There have been 144 baptisms during the year and 80 children dedicated to the Lord. The revival continues to spread and there are so many enquirers, some true and some with less disinterested motives that we do not feel like trying to give any definite number but believe the Lord is bringing many to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. We hope that this year will see a new bungalow built in Daryapur and another missionary family there to care for these souls who greatly need some one living among them to shepherd and care for them.

Amraoti.

Six miles on a branch north from the main line brings us to Amraoti, the capital of Berar. This city with its strong old walls is a good illustration of the seclusion of Hinduism and hardness of heart towards the gospel. The population of the city and district in which Mr. and Mrs. Lapp are now labouring is-
183,000. Last year we had 19 baptisms. The women as a rule are shy about following their men in baptism but just the other day one old woman gladly followed her husband into the water without any urging on our part. We have two outstations and a force of 5 catechists, 2 Bible-women and two colporteurs. There are about 20 catechumens or inquirers some of whom we trust soon to baptize.

Chandur.

This station marks the Eastern boundary of the Alliance work. It is 430 miles East from Bombay and has a population in the district of 199,500 living in 395 towns and villages. Many of these were visited in the cold season. Between 25,000 and 26,000 are reported to have heard the gospel during the year. Several hundreds of Scripture portions were sold and thousands of distributed.

One outstation was opened during the year with one of our oldest catechists, whose wife is a Bible-woman, in charge. One man has already been baptised as a result of this work and a promising Sunday School has been started.

We have lists of more or less promising enquirers in two or three parts of the Taluka and are trust that God will give some who are really convinced of the truth, the needed courage to step out openly and be baptized.

EVANGELISTIC WORK.

Gujerati Field.

Going north from Bombay, about ten hours in a fast mail train brings us to the capital of Gujerat, the large city of Ahmedabad.

Where Brother and sister Andrews labourd for several years getting hold of large numbers of the young men employed in the various factories and workshops of this large city. At present Mr. and Mrs. McKee are stationed here caring for this and the adjacent Sabarmati District, with a combined total of about 270,000 people; the city of Ahmedabad itself having a population of 250,000. Here the plague raged incessantly from August to December causing over 20,000 deaths. In many parts
of the city houses and streets are entirely empty and all business at a standstill. One felt so sad to hear the wailing and the cries as the dead were carried out, at first singly and then in carts, to the burning ground where at times it was hard to get sufficient wood to cremate them. Brother McKee writes "it was during this calamitous time we realised the preciousness of the 91st Psalm and the preserving care of our Heavenly Father. We had nine baptisms during the year and there are at least seven more catechumens or enquirers whom we trust soon may take that step; pray that none of them may go back from the truth. It is sad to see so many, after hearing and acknowledging the truth, dying in their sins.

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DHOLKA.

By Rev. S. P. Hamilton.

At the threshold of 1917 we were camped in a little grove five miles from our station. As we had quite a band of Indian workers in addition to the students of the Training School, the little white tents grouped in a friendly cluster recalled the words, "How goodly are thy tents O Israel." At one side of the camp was pitched what is called the "prayer tent" but which is also used as "the tent of meeting" for those who come to inquire about the way of life. This tent is only $8 \times 10$ but seated native fashion it can accommodate twenty or more persons and in this place God has met many a hungry soul. Each morning at five o'clock our workers and a few of the students met there for prayer and we shall never forget those early hours for they proved to be the main-spring of the day. From that camp we visited a town in the Matar taluka each Lord's day and held meetings for the little flock at that place. God met us and souls were wonderfully wrought upon by the Holy Spirit. As a result the Christians were very much quickened and one man was splendidly converted and added to the church and we are glad to say he has been running well ever since. Two of the Christians of the Dholka taluka were also present and were deeply convicted of failure in their lives and with tears streaming down their cheeks confessed their wrongs before all. In our evangelistic work we usually held two meetings each day, God wonderfully blessed in the evening meetings and hearts were very much touched, especially of the high caste people; many of them
came to our tent and told us of their conviction of sin. Although no one had the courage to come out, we have no doubt as to the ultimate results of those meetings. We had hoped to tour in those same villages this season but the prevalence of plague in that section has prevented us from doing so. At the time of writing we are on tour in a part of the district we had never seen before. We find the people very friendly and several have come to the tent to make inquiries and to purchase portions of the Word. Plague is very bad in many of the villages and doubtless many will fall victims to the dread disease. As we go forth these days to tell the message of the Cross we are conscious of the fact that many will hear the message for the last time. To us the thought is a very serious one and we want to be able to say, "I am pure from the blood of all men." Surely we are in duty bound to give ourselves as fully for these about us as Christ gave Himself for the salvation of the world.

MATAR.

By Miss M. Taylor.

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

LAST FEBRUARY when we came in from touring Miss Hansen went to Mehmadabad to take charge of that station while Mr. and Mrs. Turnbull are home on furlough. For nearly a year we had worked together in Matar, and she being a missionary with many years' experience always took the heavy end of things. I therefore, missed her very much and when she left, I felt as though the last prop had gone from under me, but God's promise to help and uphold by the right hand of His righteousness has been verified.

He has upheld; He has helped. Praise Him!

We have a church here and a Christian community of about two hundred, also a day school on the compound. The Sunday School and other meetings have for the most part, been well attended. Even during the rainy season the people came from distant villages often wading through water to the waist.

The rain fall was very heavy this year, and the roads so filled with water that for several months we were unable to do much village work. At that time the Indian Workers were all in Dholka studying.
I being quite alone had more time to pray for the work, for the Christians and for the heathen who must hear the message of salvation through us if they ever hear it at all. Surely they were not wasted days, for God has worked and is working. Has He not said, "If ye ask....I will do?".

I had a ministry to the sick and suffering ones too, during the shut—in days. A small supply of medicine is kept on hand for those who come with their boils and other sores. There is a hospital only two miles from us, but they have more faith in the missionaries’ medicine, so come to the bungalow for treatment. After binding up their sores we had the opportunity of telling the story of Him Who bore both our sins and our sicknesses in His own body on the tree.

I am reminded of a young high-caste man who came one morning. After plastering up his boils with sticking-salve—by the way, I should like to here thank the good friends in the homeland who keep the mission supplied with the salve. Let me say it has relieved many a suffering one—I asked him if he wished to see the bungalow. He was a bit timid at first and looked as though he did not know whether he ought to venture in or not. He finally followed, as there were none of his own people about to see, and I said to him, “Now you sit down and I’ll play the organ for you.” Instead of sitting on the floor as their custom is, he made the best of his opportunity to be a gentleman by seating himself in the rocking chair. He said he had never been in a European house before so had probably never heard an organ nor seen a rocking-chair. He didn’t look very comfortable sitting on the edge of the chair. Before he left he heard of Jesus, the mighty to save and strong to deliver.

Since the first of December we are touring in the district and hope to continue for three months at least. I praise God for the dear Indian Helpers He has given me—men and women who know God; who are able to help bear the burden, and preach Christ in power to their own people—great crowds gather to hear. Plague is raging every-where and the people are falling like grass before a scythe.

How sad that they are dying by the thousands “without God and without hope!” There is life for a look at the crucified One. Pray that many may look and live.
LAST February I was transferred from Matar to Mehmadabad to keep house for the new missionaries who are studying the language and also to look after the district work.

In the early part of the hot season we had the joy of seeing an old man turn to Christ and receive forgiveness of sin.

One morning while my Biblewoman and I were passing through the town, we felt the Lord would have us visit a certain place.

After having a meeting with the people we went to speak to an old man who was very ill near there.

The Holy Spirit had been dealing with him for he was anxious about his sins and afraid to die. We told him of the Saviour’s love and related the story of the thief on the cross. The Lord helped him to believe and we left him happy in his new-found Saviour.

He had gone to be with Christ the next time we went there. What a joy it will be to meet him in heaven!

Bubonic plague spread through the villages during the rains and numbers of people died. After the wet season people moved out into the open fields but still many died.

A young man, who attended our school a few years ago, moved away to Ahmedabad to work. When plague broke out in that city he came to his own village which was then free from the scourge. We had the chance of talking to him about his soul and pointing him to the Saviour. One day he told us that he was very unhappy and wished to have his sins forgiven and become a Christian. He asked us to pray for him.

A few days later we visited the village again and found him very ill. He told us that he had the assurance that his sins were forgiven but was too ill to talk much. Before he passed away he asked his heathen relatives to leave his bedside as he wanted to pray to Christ. His last words were, “Lord Jesus, take my spirit.” Praise God for another soul saved!

A short time ago a school boy in a village was dying. He loved His Saviour and his teacher. Seemingly the breath had left his body when he suddenly revived and asked for paper and a pencil to write to his teacher who was not there at the time. He wrote a few verses from the first chapter of St. John and asked that they might be given to his teacher then he passed away. This made a deep impression on his heathen relatives.
Miss Peter and I went on tour the first of December. We had been out only five days when plague entered our camp and seized one of the native workers but God answered prayer and he is now recovering.

Soon after, the disease broke out on the mission compound and one of the worker's wives was stricken. She died after two days' illness. Just before she passed away she said, "Jesus is calling me. I am going." Then turning to her husband she said, "Take care of the children." She left three little boys. A little girl born the day before was laid to rest with the mother.

Although we live in the midst of sickness and death, our hearts are kept in "perfect peace" as they are stayed on Him. Pray for the work in Mehmadabad.

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SHANTIPUR.

By Jessie C. Fraser,

"I AM the Lord I change not; therefore the sons of Jacob are not consumed." As we review the past year with its changes of times, and of seasons, hail storms, and torrents of rain that lasted on and off for about six months of the year, and after the rains we were surrounded on every side by plague, sorrow and death. We have been greatly comforted and encouraged by the above promise knowing that our Lord changes not. "All may change, but Jesus never, glory to His name." All we who are living in this beautiful peaceful village can truly say with the Prophet Jeremiah that the "Lord's compassions fail not. They are new every morning great is Thy faithfulness." Because of so much rain and the roads being filled with water we were not able to go to the villages as in former years, and now hindered by the plague we are not able to carry on our Bible classes. The seed has been sown and we have the assurance that in His time there will be a people gathered out of all these surrounding villages to the praise of His name and that Jesus shall "see of the travail of His soul, and shall be satisfied."

In Jetalpur and in some other of our villages most all of the people have had to move out into the fields, numbers have died.
of the plague and are still dying, such a scourge we have never
witnessed in this Taluka before, and because of so many plague
infected rats falling dead we have had to stop our workers from
going to preach in the villages as they were in danger of bring-
ing the plague infected fleas in their clothes to our compound.
We have had our workers who were out in the villages come here
to live until the scourge is over. Three of our workers that
went to Dholka for Bible study in June are still there. I have
had to ask the missionary in charge to let them remain there
because of the plague as we have no way of putting them up here.
I have had also to ask the people who come from the villages
not to come to our meetings for the present. There were high
caste people coming from plague infected families to us for
medicine which we have had to stop. It was hard for us
to do this as we counted it such a privilege to witness for Christ.
We who live here do praise the Lord that no rats have fallen
on our compound thus far, and we also praise Him that He
has spared our young men and boys who attend our Bible
classes who are so exposed as they are right in the midst of the
plague. There were several that were to be baptized and this
we have had to postpone. I ask the prayers of our readers for
these young men that in this time of deep testing they may be
kept true to the Lord and in that day when He comes to make
up His jewels not one of them will be missing. We have now
13 different families living here. There are 27 children; they are
all happy and playful. We had a very blessed and happy
Christmas. A good meeting in the morning in which the older
Children had a very special part. They sang xmas hymns and
recited portions of Scripture. In the evening we dined
together and all took part in bearing the expense. We were all
grateful to the Lord for His wonderful goodness to us. We
have a good school teacher here for our Christian children and
they are getting on nicely with their studies. We have the
S. S. Picture Roll which helps to keep them interested in the
S. S. lessons. We are thankful that all who live here are learn-
ing to keep the Sabbath and regard it as the Lord's Holy day.
The number of meetings held during the year including the
Sunday meetings here 733. with an aggregate attendance of
48,391. The offerings for the year $12. From the village
people for school fees $4. Our Christian farmers' crops have
been greatly spoiled by the prolonged rains their rice and cotton;
is fairly good. Thanking God for all His goodness in the past
we take courage and press on for the "Battle is the Lord's"
and not ours.
VIRAMGAM, SANAND:

The former of these large Talukas is the place where Mr. and Mrs. Duckworth lived and laboured for many years and to which they were returning when they went down in the ill-fated "City of Athens" near Capetown. At present Mr. and Mrs. Culver are the resident missionaries. Viramgam has a population of 150,000 and, owing to scarcity of missionaries in Gujerat the neighbouring Taluka of Sanand containing 81,000 has also been placed under our brother's charge. Though the Railroad authorities have put a stop to our selling Gospels on the station platform, we have sold 979 copies throughout the year. Among the enquirers we have five which we regard as hopeful and trust some of them may soon be baptized. In common with other stations our work has been much hindered by plague and is at present almost entirely stopped. Pray for us and for the people.

CHURCHES.

In almost all our stations where there are not large numbers of Christians formed into an organized Church, there are little bodies of believers who meet each Lord's Day, and often at stated times during the week, for prayer and waiting on the Lord. Sometimes where there is no building set apart for the purpose, these meetings are held in a room of the mission bungalow, on the verandah, or sometimes in one of the native houses. We are glad that God is no respecter of persons or of places but "in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him," Would not the great apostle who wrote "Salute Priscilla and Aquilla—likewise the church which is in their house" have owned these little assemblies of the saints as churches of the Living God; therefore let us "not despise the day of small things," but praise God for them, and pray that they may abound more and more.

There are however, in addition to these, several larger churches which deserve special and individual mention. The church at Akola is the oldest church belonging to our mission, in India. Rev. William Moyser is the present pastor, but for the past year it has been under the care of the Chairman, Rev. M. B. Fuller.
When the first building was erected many years ago, it was built entirely from the offerings of the people. In time the church grew so that it became necessary to greatly enlarge it. The old building was torn down and the commodious building in which the people worship today, was erected on the same site. Considering the distance which many of the people have to travel to be present at the services there is generally a good attendance and the offerings for the year amounted to about $157.

Next comes the church in Ahmedabad. In this large city of 250,000, the Alliance has a church of 317 members or baptized believers who have no building set apart in which to meet for the worship of God, the Sunday services being held in the Mission bungalow; surely this a fine example of "the church in the house." One can easily imagine the inconvenience of clearing out the furniture on Sunday morning to make room for the church. They do not sit on chairs as we do, so that these are taken out and all sit closely packed on the floor, this arrangement having the merit of making room for about three times the number which it would accommodate if all sat on chairs. This arrangement, bad enough in fine weather when the furniture or part of the audience can be kept outside, becomes almost impossible in the rains when all must be under cover. The offerings of these poor people, many of whom are scarcely able to provide for the support of their families, amounted last year to about $32, so it is clear that if ever they are to have a church building, it cannot be by their own unaided effort. Surely some of our readers will be willing to share this burden which has been resting on the missionaries in Ahmedabad for years.

Bhusawal is perhaps the only thoroughly organized English Church of our Alliance work in India. Being a large railroad centre, the membership is largely made up of railway employees and their families and so subject to considerable fluctuation through transfers etc., this makes the following report given by Miss Cannon the more encouraging. Miss Cannon, though not a missionary of the Alliance, has been working for years in fellowship with our missionaries and is at present acting as pastor of this church. She writes,—

When I took over the work the people were in blessing, and not one has gone back from following the Lord, indeed some have wonderfully grown in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The Sunday morning adult Bible class is proving a means of grace to those who attend and
giving them a love for His Word, while the attendance at the Sunday evening meetings is good and very encouraging. We appreciate the willingness our missionaries have shown in coming to take a service for us occasionally, and their messages have been a blessing to us. The week night service has more than doubled the numbers in attendance.

The Christian Endeavour Society is proving a blessing to the young people, leading them out in prayer and testimony and we have lately organized a Junior Christian Endeavour beginning with nine active members. The Sunday offerings and monthly subscriptions have far exceeded those of former years, in fact the latter have doubled. Just lately the Lord has given us the joy of seeing nine yield themselves to Him, the work on the whole is encouraging, and the outlook hopeful.

The last of the churches which we have selected for special mention is the church at Matar, Gujerat, which numbers about 200 members, or baptized believers, with twenty hopeful enquirers receiving teaching with a view to baptism. The point in the report which we wish to emphasize is the devotion of its members and their faithfulness in attending the church services. If the reader will turn back to the report of the Evangelistic Work for Matar, he will find the following statement in Miss Taylor's report, which we think well worth repeating. "The Sunday School and other meetings have been well attended, even during the rainy season the people came from distant villages, often wading through water to the waist." etc. Surely such devotion as this ought to stir our hearts in these degenerate days when even good Christian people take their religion so easily; but let us study the report a little farther and we get the following picture,—A young lady missionary, living alone in her station, ministering to a church of about 290 members and in charge of the evangelistic work in a district with a population of 70,000 people.

This year the rainy season, was a long one, and we see her for a considerable time "shut in" and on her face before God for her people and for the work. Does not this explain the secret of the devotion and faithfulness of her people and success in the work? And does not the work which this young woman is doing speak of a great need on the mission-field, which should be a loud call to many in the homeland to give themselves to God for such service.
SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Of these, one or more is to be found in every mission station. They range from the group of noisy children under a tree or in some other shady place in the centre of a village, only kept quiet by constant story-telling and the exhibition of Bible pictures, up to the well-ordered Sunday School where the International Sunday School Lessons are taught to regular classes, in a suitable building, by thoroughly qualified teachers. We might also point out that in some cases at least the term Sunday School is a misnomer as the school is held on weekdays. A man who on Sunday studied the lesson with the missionary in the adult class of the home Sunday School, went to one village on Monday, another on Tuesday, a third on Wednesday and so on throughout the week gathering a class in each village teaching them to sing hymns, repeat verses of Scripture and giving out what he himself had learned. It greatly aids the attendance at such schools if the man is able to give each of the children who attend and repeat the verse, a coloured picture-card, and we thank those in the homeland who have kindly aided us by sending cards from time to time.

A great deal of work done in this way does not find its way into reports. Sometimes our friends, the heathen, are very suspicious of our intentions and the writing of names or endeavour to keep a roll might lead to the disappearance of the class. As an example of the groundless suspicions which are afloat in some places regarding missionary work, we may say that in the case of a man recently baptized, he told the missionary that he was ready for baptism long before, but held back because he thought if he became a Christian, he would be sent to the war, and we know of instances where the people in villages would not stay to listen to the catechists preaching, lest they should take their names and send them in to government, and they be compelled to military service. Of course these suspicions are entirely groundless, as our people have no connection with government and besides, there is no compulsory military service for natives in this country, but false rumors are often spread among ignorant village people by persons interested in opposing missionary work. Notwithstanding all opposition, the good work goes on and increasing numbers of bright boys and girls are each year, being brought under the influence of Christian teaching, and many own Christ as their personal Saviour.
Training Schools.

In order to train promising young men for the work of catechists and evangelists, we have two Training Schools in our mission. One for the Marathi Field at Bodwad, presided over by Rev. and Mrs. C. Eicher and the other at Dholka, Gujerat, presided over by Rev. and Mrs. S. P. Hamilton. This school was re-opened last year after saving been closed for a considerable time, there being no missionary available to take charge of it.

Mr. Eicher's report says "At Bodwad we had a busy year with encouraging results in our school-work. Of the twenty-nine students enrolled for the year, three studied in the first year of the worker's course. Of seventeen who took the Training School Examination, twelve passed. Several of the new converts and day-scholars attended but one Bible class daily in addition to their secular studies.

We have many new applications coming in for 1918 class which promises to be the largest on record, providing we can get sufficient financial support for them. We would remind our kind patrons, that owing to the high prices of food and clothing, it will require at least $30 instead of $20 this year for each student. We are in great need of more workers for the speedy evangelization of our Marathi Field. Please help us by your daily prayers and in many other way God may lead. The work is spreading, hearts are turning to God from idols, the field is ripe, but, we need the reapers.

Dholka Training School.

Mrs. Hamilton writes:

"After a lapse of several years, the Training School for Indian workers was re-opened at Dholka in October 1916 with fourteen students, all of whom, except two, had been brought up in the Boys' Orphanage, and had gone to Ahmedabad for employment in the city, while a few were employed by the mission in different capacities. When they heard that the way was opened for them to get a training for the Lord's work, they gladly availed themselves of it, though it means living on lower salaries than they are actually receiving at present. In the first week of December we went on tour and took the students with us. They were able to carry on their studies just as they had done at the station, with the added advantage of preaching at night in the"
towns, and we did not return to the station for two or three
months. They are all keen students, as the results of their
examinations show. They finished the two years of study
arranged by the mission for Indian workers, in thirteen months,
which we think is a record. Owing to prevalence of plague we
have put only four into outstations and the rest are still with us.
They are good men and are now on six months probation; at
the end of that period we trust they will be accepted as perma-
nent workers by the mission. We shall be glad if our people at
home will unite with us in prayer for them, that their lives may
be very fruitful in the work, and also that those who can afford
to do so, may assume their support. Seeing the end is so near,
we believe it is God's purpose to send heralds everywhere and
give men a chance to be saved before "that great and terrible
day of the Lord."

Orphanages.

Of these there are four, two on the Marathi and two on the
Gujerati side. The orphans received into these institutions in such
large numbers during the famines, have now grown up, many of
them are married, some are in mission employ, having gone
through the Training Schools; while others are in government
employ; working on the railroad, or in various mills and work-
shops in the cities. Not many orphans, are now being received so
that in some instances, on the Marathi side especially, where the
numbers were never so large as on the Gujerati, the nature of
these institutions is gradually changing, and they are becoming
more like boarding schools for the protection and education of
children of Indian Christians.

In Akola most of the boys are old enough to attend govern-
ment school, so the work of the mission is limited to looking
after their home life and religious education and there is no longer
the necessity and expense of keeping up a separate school for
them.

Khamgaon Girls' Orphanage has for the past year been under
the management of Miss Williams and Miss Rollier, the former
taking charge of the home life of the girls and the latter of the
school-work, accounts and correspondence. Miss Williams,
being much worn and in need of furlough, has sailed for
the homeland, and Miss E. Wyeth, who has just returned from
America, has taken her place. There has been a fairly successful
year in school work, a considerable number of girls having passed
into higher grades at the annual examination which is not con-
ducted by a missionary but by a government inspectress who
visits the school for that purpose. Failing to find a suitable Christian teacher for the upper classes Miss Rollier has been compelled to engage a Hindu for this purpose and he seems, so far, to be doing good work. It is hoped to form a Normal class out of the fifth and sixth standard girls, who may be trained as teachers.

Regarding the religious and home life of the girls, we feel sure our readers will unite with us in praising God for the answers to many prayers for these girls, as shown in the following report handed in by Miss Williams before leaving.

It is with gratitude to God that we recount the blessings of another year at Khamgaon orphanage. Not one of the least of these has been the supply of all our temporal needs for which we thank the "Giver of every good and perfect gift" also the many kind friends in the homeland who have so nobly sacrificed to make this possible. We are glad to tell you too that the sacrifice has not been in vain and we are sure you would feel amply repaid could you see this company of bright, intelligent girls, happy children and babies, these whose lives would have been different, oh so sadly different, had they not come in touch with the love of Jesus.

The theme uppermost during the year has been the coming of the Lord Jesus, and most of our girls and women have proved, by their conduct, their desire to please Him and to be ready for that day. Especially during the past six months have we seen the marked change in many lives and a great deal of the time there has been a spirit of prayer pervading the atmosphere, the result proving that, "Prayer changes things," many times on hearing an unusual sound of voices in the compound, on investigating, we would find one group of girls here and another there pouring out their hearts in prayer with petitions for cleansing of heart, and strength to overcome and live aright, not omitting the confession of sins both of commission and of omission. Several times requests were granted to rise before the appointed time to pray. We say humbly and thankfully there has been little cause for discipline during all these months which has made it easier for Miss Rollier and myself and, needless to say, happiness for all concerned. This of course applies to the middle and older girls. Our hearts have been gladdened by a number of definite conversions during the year; one which we specially wish to mention, that of little Nimbooni of ten or eleven years of age from the Daryapur district where so many are turning to Christ.

Her husband who is in training for the Lord's service was
anxious to get his little wife away from her Hindu relatives, succeeded in getting her father to bring her to Khamgaon. Soon after her arrival, one day I asked her if she was a Christian, to which she said “no” when I asked “do you not wish to be one?” she again sullenly replied in the negative. This condition did not last long however and now with beaming face she testifies to what the good Jesus has done for her, and is eagerly looking for the day when she will be baptized. Some time after Nimbooni’s arrival another little wife Tulsie aged twelve, whose husband is also in the Bodwad Training School, came to us. Tulsie gave every evidence of having been thoroughly converted and is a happy and most welcome addition to our Khamgaon family, with twelve year old Saku, we now have three little wives, all getting on nicely with their studies.

While the general health in the Orphanage has been good there have been some cases of sickness and a few accidents, but we have proved again and again that “Jesus is the same yesterday, to-day and forever.” We record to his glory a number of marked cases of healing and at the close of the year we thank him that we are not only an unbroken family but a larger one. We have taken in the past year, seven little ones between two weeks and two years old as well as a number of older children ranging from three to twelve of age.

The Boys’ Orphanage at Dholka, Gujerat, under the supervision of Rev. F. H. Back, is partly an educational and partly an industrial institution, weaving, farming and gardening being carried on in connection with the school. As is natural among a number of boys anywhere, so in Dholka, some are faithful and care for spiritual things, being fairly obedient to those over them; while others seem to care more for themselves, being more interested in food and clothes, than in the more important things of life. The Gujerati boy, like a good many other boys, does the duty allotted to him but without taking much interest in it, until the Lord gets hold of him and then there is change.

Some, in whom self-interest has got the upperhand, are willing to work early and late if it is to their own advantage, but this is not the spirit we want to see or to encourage in our boys. It does them no harm to work hard but we would like to see them do it from a higher motive than just the love of the money it brings to them. Mr. Back is very anxious that he may be able to win the hearts of all his boys for the Lord before they go out into the world and become fathers of families with
all the added responsibility and power to influence others, which such a position brings.

Financially, the past year has been a good one, but owing to advance of prices, we are no longer able to support a boy on $20 a year. It will cost as much, or more, to support them the coming year than it did in famine years. Our farm and cattle are in a prosperous condition as God has blessed us outwardly this past year. Pray with us, that those boys who have not yet yielded to the Lord, may quickly do so, that He may be glorified in their lives.

The Gujerati Girls’ Orphanage at Kaira is also a hive of industry, under the care of Miss E. Wells. Here we have farming and weaving in addition to school work.

The prevalence of plague in Kaira and the surrounding villages makes it an anxious time for those in charge of so many children, and the disease is not yet abating in the vicinity. It is at such times that we realize the power of God to keep in peace those who put their trust in Him and in the orphanages, as well as in many of the mission stations the 91st Psalm has often been a comfort and a stay.

An active evangelistic propaganda is carried on in connection with this orphanage, two Bible-women being at work in the surrounding villages. A Church of 106 members has been formed, in connection with which regular services are held every Sunday with prayer meetings through the week. During 1917 there were twelve Baptisms, and there are 37 catechumens or enquirers on the list. The offerings for the past year amounted to $100.

We thank our Heavenly Father for His protecting care and the many mercies received from Him during the past year, and we would not neglect to also thank the many kind friends of our work who standing behind us in prayer and gift, make it possible to carry on the work.

Note.—For number of children in these institutions, see Statistical Table.

Day Schools

As its mission to India is primarily evangelistic rather than educational, our mission has not pushed the formation of day schools in the villages with as much vigour as some other missions have done, and what little has been done along that time has been rather the enterprise of individual missionaries than the work of the mission as a whole. A good day-school is carried
on at each of the orphanages, except Akola, where the boys attend the Government school, but it is rather of those established in the villages for evangelistic purposes that we wish to write under this head.

The number of these schools at each station and the attendance can be easily found by reference to the Statistical Table appended to this report.

Mehmedabad, Gujerat maintains five such schools in different villages, and at several other stations there are more than one. Except as the attendance varies, all these schools are so much alike in character that the description of one or two may be taken as samples of them all and they, are mostly situated in villages where there are no suitable government schools.

One of the largest is in Bhusawal where the city municipality gives a small annual grant towards the upkeep of the school. It was for several years under the management of Mrs. Bannister who is now in the home-land, and who took a great interest not only in the school and the children, but often visited the parents in their homes, taking a Bible-woman with her; in this way she obtained entrance into some homes with the message of the gospel, which would have been closed to her but for the children attending school. This school is now under Miss Rutherford’s supervision, and there were 100 boys and girls on the roll last year; but plague broke out and the school had to be discontinued for three months. Some of the brightest boys died of the dread disease and others were removed to other towns to escape it, so the number at present is much smaller.

The school at Tiwan Takli near Khamgaon was opened some years ago by Miss Krater who took a great interest in the work among young people. It is now under the supervision of Rev. P. Hagberg, who writes of it as follows:—The school is in a prosperous condition, with about 60 children in attendance. Nearly all are from Hindu homes, and about half from the higher castes.

Almost all the children attend the Sunday school as well as the day school and many of them the Sunday afternoon preaching service as well, listening very reverently and attentively. They enjoy the singing of Christian hymns, and get daily instruction in the Bible. Several of them are quiet convinced of the truth and refuse to worship idols; even their heathen parents give this testimony concerning them.
ANNUAL REPORT OF BETHANY RESCUE HOME FOR THE YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 1917.

In September I returned from furlough and came up to Khamgaon the scene of former labours, and took up the work in the Rescue Home. Having arrived here just at the close of the financial year I am not in a position to report as it should be, the work done in the Home during the past year but the happy, contented, well-kept family that greeted me with loving salaams spoke forcefully of the tender care that had been bestowed upon them by Mrs. Hagberg who had carried on the work, with the help of the efficient matron Kashibai Karli. The following information has been given me by Mrs. Hagberg.

The fact that there has been very little sickness in the family is a matter of great thanksgiving. Of course this statement does not include the eight babies who came to us varying in age from four days to sixteen months. Some of these were unfortunates had a hard fight for existence because of opium habits and the change to artificial foods. Every effort was made to keep all of them here but they were His and He took four of them to be with Himself. "Of such is the kingdom of heaven." Besides the babies two women were rescued.

Among those who were discharged from the Home was a heathen young woman who from the very first drank in the truth with thirsty soul, and soon after her arrival here (over two years ago) accepted Christ as her Saviour. She has been happily married to a Christian widower and her two children who had been with her here were taken with her to her new home.

Another young woman had been deserted by her wicked husband about four years ago and came to us about the time the Home was opened. She had been a great help in the care of babies, was sent to the orphanage and is sewing mistress for that institution at present. One little girl who was old enough to enter school was also transferred to the girl's orphanage.

There are at this time seventeen young babies and children and nine women making in all twenty-six inmates in the Rescue Home.

We could not close this report without returning thanks to God for spiritual blessings bestowed in binding up of broken hearts, and deliverance which made free captive souls. We would praise God too that all temporal needs have been met, and thank the dear home friends who by their gifts have made this possible.

HELEN C. BUSHFIELD.
CHILDREN'S HOME.

Panchgani.

THIS is the Home for Missionary children in the hills, where they live under the loving care of Miss E. Lothian, while attending school. Miss Lothian writes:—We started the home last year with six girls and two boys, but as the months went by, six more were added to our household. The children have had good health throughout the year, except for a few cases of influenza and whooping cough.

We praise God for keeping us safe from the plague which was raging in the bazaar near by.

Good progress has been made in studies this year and several prizes obtained. Jean Ramsey carried off the class-work prize as well as the prize for Scripture, given by the Lord Bishop of Bombay; Mabel Moodie gained the class and examination prizes in her standard; Faith Cutler won the drill prize of the lower school; Frances Fuller earned all three prizes in her class; Bert Eicher, who attends the Boys' High School, also won a prize, and Ruth Auernheimer got class-work and examination prizes.

Faith and Frances who went in for the Trinity College Music Examination, obtained their certificates and Jean Ramsey passed the Junior Cambridge Local Examination and got the certificate.

There is a Sunday School held in the Home and every child's name is on its roll. The collection last year amounted to $12 which was given towards the support of a little Indian baby in the Bethany Home.

One instance of God's loving care for the children was shown when, one day during the Monsoon, Faith Cutler went to take down her rain-coat which was hanging near the door, as she lifted it she saw a snake in its folds, we called a man and found that the snake was ensconced in the sleeve of Jean's rain coat which was hanging beside the other one. The man soon killed it and we thanked God when we found out that it was a King Cobra, four and a half feet in length.

We thank God for all His mercies of the past year and look forward to even more success, with an increased family, this coming year.
REPORT OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORKSHOP AT AKOLA.

By J. P. Rogers:

In making out my final report of the workshop on the eve of retiring from active management of the work, a few words as to the past, and what good the workshop has been to our Christian community here in Akola, may not be out of place.

It is now thirty years—a few months short—since the first move was made to start an industrial work for the benefit of the Christians, and so buildings had to be erected and machinery supplied. The buildings have been enlarged from time to time in order to meet the different requirements of the work as it went on, until now, buildings and also machinery are in good shape to go on; although a part of the buildings and machinery put up some years ago, rather temporarily, are in need of attention.

The management of the workshop has been under the care of our Missionary brethren from time to time. The primary object, of course, has been to give trades to our Christian lads, who come from the orphanages; therefore, a financial success could not be expected in the least, But as to the real object of the work I may say, it has been a success. During the period under review seven Mechanical Engineers, twenty-five Fitters, and about forty Carpenters, have passed out from our workshop and are now holding good positions in Railway works and in Mills, and drawing good salaries. Besides, there have come to us from other Missions young lads for training, wholly supported by the Missions concerned, and have, thereby, been benefitted by the workshop. The workmen that are now in the workshop, most of them, have been with us from childhood and have learnt their trades, married and settled down in Akola. They have been a great help to us in the work.

Before the War broke out the work was in a fair way to make a financial success; but the War has changed the outlook entirely, and thereby upset all the plans; so for the present there is no way to make a forecast of the future. The prices of all materials have increased and in some cases quadrupled. Large orders for work and contracts have entirely fallen. The small orders that come in daily hardly pay our monthly bills. It is hard to explain to the people why the prices are advanced so high, and when explained, they turn away, and say they can wait till the War is over.

It has been my purpose during all these years that eventually this work should pass on and be carried on by our Indian Christians for the benefit of their own community, and not as a
part of Mission work. For eventually, if the Lord tarry, the spreading of the Gospel to their own people should be in their own hands, so for this part of the work the time seems to have arrived to make a beginning.

The brother who now takes over charge of the work is not by any means a novice, he having been in the workshop from childhood and has had practically the whole management of the work for the last three years. To help him in the work, he has a young man, who is the time-keeper and business correspondent; he is faithful and a God-fearing young man and thoroughly understands his part of the work.

Should the work continue and prosper as we trust it will, when the War is over, and things settle to normal conditions, no doubt, there will be many openings, and increase of trade all around. This, as well as other parts of the work should have our prayers; especially, that it may mean to the Christian Church here in Akola and to the surrounding country, the value and blessing of a Christian business concern.

Personally, I will still spend considerable of my time in the workshop; so that may still be of some use to the work, in giving advice, &c., but in no way answerable regarding the management. This will be done by the brother who succeeds me in the work, and he will be answerable to the Mission Executive Committee.

The India Alliance.

This is intended as a monthly message from the Alliance Missionaries to the friends of their work. It will also deal with the general questions of mission work by original or selected articles, and will seek to deepen the interest and stimulate the prayers of all who may read it, by showing the encouragements as well as difficulties of the work.

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