

# India Mission News.

Vol. 1 DHAMTARI, C. P., INDIA MARCH 1922 No. 2

If it is WORTH WHILE sending this little sheet to you every month it will be your privilege to tell us so.

SUPPORT for our CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS for which we had grave concern is now practically assured. The individual support scheme has been enthusiastically endorsed by the Home Church judging from the quick and generous response to our appeals.

POLITICAL CONDITIONS in India have much improved. Gandhi's arrest and imprisonment have caused no disturbances. We hope and pray for the welfare of India.

All the MISSIONARY CHILDREN excepting Ernest Smucker have gone with their mothers to the hills. All the children who are old enough are in school.

An INTERVIEW with the GOVERNOR of the Central Provinces was enjoyed by several of the missionaries. His Excellency is greatly concerned for the welfare of his people. His sympathetic interest in our proposed new Leper Asylum will be made practical in the form of a building grant as soon as money can be made available.

BRO. FRIESEN AND FAMILY and Dr. COOPRIDER left Bombay for America on the "Kaiser-i-Hind" on the 18th. They trans-ship in England. We wish them a safe voyage.

### NEWS FROM THE STATIONS.

#### SANKRA

Sixty-eight poor Christians need employment in order to earn their daily food.

A kiln of 100,000 brick is about ready to fire. The kiln is built on the American plan and by the man whom Bro. J. S. Hartzler trained when he was in India.

A temporary shed for the Primary Sunday School has been built. A new church is greatly needed at this place.

#### BALODGAHAN

On account of no funds work on the new church is stopped.

Three couples were united in marriage on the 24th.

Sixteen widows were admitted into the Home bringing the number up to 110. The buildings were constructed to accommodate 60.

The number in the relief camp has been reduced to twenty. Most of these are blind or crippled. Two are mutes.

Communion was served to the Balodgahan congregation. 283 participated.

#### GHATULA.

We have moved into the new bungalow and the Bible School is nearly ready for the roof.

The political non-co-operators have boycotted our village school but there are indications that the villagers will send their children again soon.

On the 29th Bro. Bahorik and sister Gaitri were united in marriage.

#### DHAMTARI

The foundations for the new Sundarganj church have just been finished. Further work must now stop on account of lack of funds. The congregation now worships in the English school building.

The Indian brethren are taking over responsibility for the Senior and Junior departments of the Sunday school and are doing well with the work.

The carpenter shop has recently been taken over by two of our Christian carpenters who take full financial responsibility. One of the missionaries acts as their advisor and is custodian of their money.

#### MAHODI

The roof is being put on the new bungalow at this place.

A woman who had had a quarrel with her husband has applied for baptism in order to get even with him! Of course she could not be accepted on such a motive.

## Do You Know?

That on January 1st there were seven organized congregations represented by the India Mennonite Conference.

That in these seven congregations were nearly 1200 Christians.

That there was a Christian community of nearly 2000.

That the number of Christians is increasing at the rate of one a day.

That we have six ordained Indian deacons in the seven congregations.

That the India conference maintains a Home Mission of its own.

# India Mission News

Vol. 1. | Dhamtari C. P., India April—May 1922 | Nos. 3,4

This is the "hotseason number" and as most of the missionaries are at the hills we combine April and May numbers.

Bro. Brunk who has been appointed to investigate the field of home industries in connection with our Christian community, in company with sister Brunk visited industrial centers in South India and attended an Industrial Conference. They report a profitable trip and have received a good deal of valuable information.

Born at Naini Tal, India, on May 22 to Bro. and sister Kaufman, a daughter—Ruth Kathryn.

Weather prophets predict an early monsoon due normally about the middle of June. Recent showers brought the farmers everywhere into their fields with their plows and already considerable sowing has been done.

The two new church buildings — one at Sundar-ganj and one at Balodgahan — are still waiting for further funds before the work can proceed. We are thankful for several donations that have come for this work during the last month.

## NEWS—ITEMS FROM THE STATION.

### Balodgahan.

The new girls school building is nearing completion. It is hoped to have it ready by the rainy season.

The farmers are busy getting their fields ready for rice sowing.

On account of relief work being closed many people are out of employment. While this is being written some are outside the door pleading for work in order to get something to eat.

A woman, the wife of a blind man, was gathering jungle nuts from which to make oil to add a little to her income. A limb broke and she fell to the ground and was picked up unconscious. An ankle bone was broken.

On Sunday May 14, twenty-five souls were received into church by baptism.

### Ghatula.

The station being temporarily without a missionary Bro. M. C. Lapp and Bro. Smucker took a trip there to look after the work. Bro. and sister Geo. Lapp stationed here are soon expected home from Darjeeling.

The roof of the Bible school building is being put on. Efforts are being made to complete it by July 1, so the classes of the Bible School may be accommodated in the new building.

### Girls Orphanage.

Health in the orphanage has been very good all hot season. There was a little fever and sore eyes among the girls. Two scorpion bites and one broken arm were among the unusual.

Many of the girls who have parents are at home some for the entire two months of vacation and some for only two weeks.

On May 5 Shivarasing and Sonai Bai were united in marriage.

The Hindi language examination for missionaries was held in April. Some of those in charge of work at the Girls Orphanage had the pleasure of taking part in this examination.

### At the Hills.

Ten missionaries and six missionary children are living in one house at Darjeeling. Yes, it is a bit crowded but compared with the intense heat of the plains we feel very comfortable. The temperature is about like April in the States.

The Waryes, Millers, and sister Smucker are spending their hill vacation in language study.

The older missionaries find the hills not alone a place of rest but also of inspiration. Many other missionaries besides our own spend their hotseason leave here. To associate with them in religious meetings and discussions, gives new methods, renewed courage and a stronger faith. This is a very valuable by-product of the hill vacation.

## Where Your Money Goes ?

The Church through the Mission Board sends us at present a little more than \$2300. 00 a month.

\$100.00 goes for Medical Work consisting of hospital and dispensary at Dhamtari and one dispensary each at Balodgahan, Sankra, Ghatula and Mahodi. \$230. 00 goes for Evangelistic work. This includes the support of 32 Bible Women and 20 Evangelists, the Bible School at Ghatula and religious literature.

\$634. 00 goes for Educational work consisting of seven primary village schools, two combined primary and middle schools, and an English High School. In these schools are about 900 pupils and taught by a staff of 50 teachers.

\$336.00 goes for the upkeep of nine vehicles, feed for oxen, night watchmen, mail carriers, postage and stationery, office help, minor repairs and other similar expenses.

\$1000.00 (approximately) goes towards the support of 550 boys and girls, 100 widows, and 20 old men.

NOTE—The amount for charitable work has lately been increased.

Are you satisfied with your investment ?



# INDIA MISSION NEWS

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Vol. 1

Dhamtari, C. P. India, June 1922

No. 5

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Giving to Missions does not only mean the giving of money for immediate expenditure in the form of food and clothing but it also means the establishing of permanent institutions which are constantly witnessing for Christ. This means a permanent investment for the Kingdom.

If the Mission buildings could speak they would be able to tell interesting stories of the experiences the missionaries had with their construction. There are few experiences more trying to the patience of the missionary than this phase of mission work.

In the construction of Mission buildings it is necessary for the missionary to be his own architect and contractor. He must burn the brick, make the tile, burn the lime from lime stone gathered from the field, make the doors and windows, ordering the timber for these as well as for the roof from the forest.

The land problem is even more trying. In buying land one often has to deal with a half dozen owners all of whom must be consulted. This takes time—sometimes several years. Then when the land is purchased the

"owner" is only a tenant. He can not sell again without the consent of the proprietor whom he must pay handsomely for the permission.

### NEWS FROM THE STATIONS.

#### Ghatula.

The Bible School students are nearly all here ready to begin work on July 5th.

A girl from a neighboring village came with her mother to dig earth from a murrum (red earth) pit near here. While taking out earth from a deep hole a quantity came down from above breaking her back and crushing some bones killing her almost instantly.

Sister Lapp is troubled with rheumatism of the joints.

The village school is enjoying the "sowing" vacation. A canvass of the villages was taken and all have promised to send their children again. They are beginning to realize that boycotting the school meant also harm to their children.

The Ghatula congregation has arranged to conduct eight village Sunday schools.

The Christian workers, especially the Bible Women, are much better received in the villages than formerly.

#### Balodgahan.

On the night of the 3rd the roof of the new Girls' Orphanage kitchen burned off.

The following weddings took place during the month. Punai Bai, matron of the Girls' Orphanage to Yashaiya of the Boys' Orph. The former will teach in the Girls' School and the latter is attending the Bible

school to prepare for evangelistic work. Kejai, one of the teachers in the Girls' School was married to Baldu, a Christian carpenter of Dhamtari. They will reside at the latter place.

Sister Stalter accompanied ten Orphanage girls to Bilaspur where they will attend school.

Bro. and Sister Warye returned from the hills on the 28th.

Sister Good with her teachers is attending the Teachers' Normal which opened at Dhamtari on the 22nd. It began with good interest.

#### Sundarganj.

A man and wife from Murrumsilli, where work on a large irrigation reservoir is in progress, have applied for baptism. They seem to understand the step they have taken.

The Sundarganj congregation worships at present in the school house. Sunday schools and prayer meetings are held where there is room. The need for a new church is very urgent.

#### At Naini Tal.

Our missionaries at Naini Tal had the privilege of attending a conference for the "Deepening of the spiritual life" during the first week of June. It was a very helpful conference.

The meeting of the Bible Society—North India Branch—was held here on the 13th. The work of the Society is interesting and of great importance to missionaries and missions.

David, Sarah, and Mary Esch went into the school dormitories for the rest of the term—to December.

Bro. Kaufman arrived here to spend several weeks with his family.



## What Property Does the Church own in India:

### I. Classified as to Stations.

Sankra ... ..	\$ 6,300
Balodgahan ... ..	17,800
Balodgahan (Orphanage) ... ..	17,500
Sundarganj ... ..	34,200
Medical Station ... ..	6,500
Ghatula ... ..	9,200
Mahodi ... ..	5,000
Village Schools ... ..	2,800
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	\$ 99,300

### II. Classified as to Institutions, etc.

Girls' Orphanage ... ..	\$ 8,700
Boys' Orphanage ... ..	6,600
Widows' Home ... ..	2,000
Carpenter Shop ... ..	2,000
Bible School ... ..	4,000
Churches ... ..	1,700
Schools ... ..	20,700
Bungalows and Equipment ... ..	38,800
Farm, Stock, and Equipment... ..	9,000
Medical buildings ... ..	1,200
Real Estate (including medical) ... ..	2,700
Evangelists houses ... ..	1,900
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	\$ 99,300

NOTE—The Leper Asylum is the property of the Mission to Lepers and is not included in the above. No mud buildings of which there are a number are included in the above estimate.



# INDIA MISSION NEWS

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Vol. 1 | Dhamtari, C. P. India, July-August 1922 | No. 6, 7

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Missionaries are unanimous in declaring that the problems connected with the training and education of their children are among the most difficult they have to encounter.

This is due chiefly to the fact that schools to which we may send them are so far away necessitating their absence from parents from six to nine months of the year.

Plans are well under way for the establishing of a school at Naini Tal for the children of American missionaries with American staff and curriculum.

Missions who wish to join this school are asked to contribute \$500 per year so that the school may be properly financed. We will not be able to send our children to this school unless the Church at home contribute this amount.

A firm of Indian brethren are taking over some of the work of the Mission Carpenter Shop in order to conduct it as their own business enterprise. It is encouraging to note that they are able and ready to do this.

Bro. and Sister P. W. Penner of the General Conference Mennonite Mission visited the Mission for nearly a week.

## NEWS-ITEMS FROM THE STATIONS.

### Sundarganj.

Bro. and Sister Miller have taken charge of the Boys' Orphanage and the Hindi Middle School.

Some funds have come for the Sundarganj Church building but about \$6000 are still required.

### Medical Station.

The hospital work is again carried on in its former buildings about a mile from Dhamtari. Under Nurse Wenger's supervision it is beginning to look business-like. A separate day dispensary is maintained at Dhamtari.

Dr. Esch gave special treatment to 20 orphan boys who had bad eyes. One small boy had one eye removed.

Asra Bai, our Indian nurse, has been very sick but is slightly improved. Pray for her complete recovery.

### The Leper Asylum.

The special treatment given to many of the lepers is showing a marked improvement in a number of cases.

Dr. Esch has offered the lepers prizes for the best garden maintained during the season. The lepers are working hard on their gardens.

### Balodgahan.

There are three applicants for baptism from the village.

The Girls' School opened July 10 with an attendance of 260. Money was borrowed to proceed with the construction work on the new school house so as to start classes in it.

A panther has been prowling around frightening the girls in the Orphanage.

The old church building is crowded every Sunday so that 175 of the little girls in the Orphanage can not find room and must attend a separate service.

No more than half a crop of rice may be expected in this section owing to shortage of rain. Rice growing in that part of the farm which can be irrigated from the new reservoir is in good condition.

A little money has come again for the much needed new church building for which we praise God.

### Sankra.

At present we have four fly-shuttle looms going on which people are taught to weave cloth. Two small looms are operated for teaching school children tape weaving. We also have two carpets in looms. Two sisters are kept busy spinning both woolen and cotton thread.

The school children are making good progress in sewing by hand. Both boys and girls are being taught to sew.

A class of seventeen, all excepting two being young people, were received into Church fellowship by baptism. They were happy to take the step. Pray for them.


### Ghatula.

A village barber near here expressed his desire to become a Christian.

The enrollment in the Bible School is 17. Six of this number will graduate this year.

Our Mission school is still the object of attack by the "non-co-operators" and a sudden end of the school is feared.

The total weekly enrollment in our station and village Sunday Schools is about 350.



## Have you thought about this before?

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1. We must send our children nearly a thousand miles to school involving three and four days' travel.

2. The school year is nine months during which time the children are away from home. The mothers are usually with the children at the hills for a few months every summer.


3. During the absence of the children undesirable influences are often brought to bear upon them and the parents are not with them to help them.

4. Think of the anxiety of the parents when the children are reported sick!

5. There are at present nine of our children in school at Darjeeling and Naini Tal ranging in age from six to fourteen.

6. Missionary parents going on furlough often prefer to leave children over fourteen in America. This is a hard struggle for both even if a suitable place can be found.

7. We are grateful to say that all of our children who are old enough to do so have united with the Church and are endeavoring to live the Christian life.





# INDIA MISSION NEWS

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Vol. 1 | Dhamtari, C. P. India, September 1922 | No. 8.

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It is a short-sighted and unstatesmanlike policy to neglect the training of men and women for usefulness in the world. In India the training of our Christian people is especially important and urgent.

The Bible Training School at Ghatula takes most of the time of two missionaries and two Indian helpers. Students receive a four-years' training in the Bible. We need many more workers and we are looking to the Bible School to supply them.

We also conduct a Normal for our Christian workers who are regularly at work. This year's three-weeks' normal is just about to close. Nearly all of the fifty-five workers were able to attend. The subjects were given the workers nearly a year ago and during the Normal they were given special instruction by four missionaries.

A similar Normal for School teachers was organized earlier in the year. This promises to be a very great help to the teachers as well as to increase the efficiency of our schools. Both Bible and school-methods subjects were taught.

Have you heard about that Home for school teachers that is so badly needed in connection with the Girls' School at Balodgahan? Only a thousand dollar are required and until the home is constructed the school will be greatly handicapped.

### **Sundarganj.**

Eighty-one boys are enrolled in the English school. Of this number thirty-eight are Christians, thirty are Hindus and thirteen are Mohammedans.

Two hundred and seventy-two boys are studying in the two departments of the Hindi school. Of this number two hundred and thirty-four are Christians and thirty-eight are Hindus.

The Bible is taught in both these schools daily to all pupils. The per cent of Christian boys will increase as our Christian community grows.

Two hundred and forty Christian boys in the Orphanage are being taught as follows: Carpenters—five, blacksmithing—two, stone masons—one, plasterers—one, tailors—eight, washerman—one, cooking—two. Five are studying in the English school, two hundred and two in the Hindi school and fifteen are too small to attend school.

The house father of the Boys' Orphanage was an inmate of the former orphanage. He knows and speaks English.

### **Medical Station.**

This is the way some come to the Mission hospital. A woman was so badly beaten by her husband that she sustained severe bruises besides having her left leg fractured just above the ankle.

An orphan girl of about five came with an infected wound on the back of her neck full of maggots.

Three young men have applied to the Doctor for medical training. Their case will be taken up later. It costs about \$75.00 a year to send a boy to a medical school in India.

As the rainy season closes Malaria is again prevalent. A number of our Christian people are suffering from it.

### **Balodgahan.**

All of the two hundred and forty girls in the orphanage who are old enough attend school. Having come into the Orphanage because of the famine many are dull, girls of ten and eleven being in the first class. They are being given special attention so they will be an asset to the Mission later.

Nine girls are attending school in another Mission preparing to teach and nursing in our Mission. Some of these girls are only fourteen years old.

Sister Good is conducting a teachers training class for the benefit of her school teachers. It is a fine thing.

Health in the Orphanage is at present very good there being only six in the hospital.

Abundance of rain has fallen during the month which has wonderfully improved prospects and farmers are now expecting a good crop of rice.

Stones for the new church were quarried from the Government quarries for which a royalty is chargeable. Considering the purpose for which they are used Government kindly gave the stones free which amounts to a donation of about two hundred dollars.

## A start in the right direction.

Although we are not old as a Mission and are working among a backward class of people and were not able to give much attention to the work of giving specialized training to our people on account of lack of missionaries yet we have made a small start as shown below:

Two Indian trained nurses.

Seven school teachers who have had training in normal schools.

Eighteen other Christian teachers with some training.

Eight graduates from the Bible School.

Forty-seven other Christian workers some with considerable training.

Six Christian carpenters and one blacksmith who completed a special course. *2 Shoemakers.*

A dozen cooks, as many farmers, some weavers and others.

Most of this number should be increased at once, some even doubled. We are planning to enlarge our training facilities.

Will you help us with prayers, men, and means?

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. 1 | Dhamtari, C. P. India, October, 1922. | No. 9.

It is not necessarily the work we do that wears us out but the work we see ought to be done but can not be done on account of lack of time and strength. This is what is nerve racking.

As you notice on the last page there are only eighteen missionaries per million of the population of India. The fields are white to harvest but there are no reapers in many fields.

This condition constantly tempts missionaries to attempt more work than they are able to supervise properly and the results are not satisfactory.

There is also the temptation—often the absolute necessity—to establish himself in a central office and undertake to control his work from there without proper contact with work or people of the district.

If this method would throw greater responsibility on the India worker and give him a real share in the work of evangelizing his fellow countrymen it would be well. This, however, is unfortunately not always the case.

At home there are usually several applicants for every position but here the situation is usually reversed.



## NOTES FROM THE STATIONS.

The Medical Committee consisting of Dr. Esch, Sisters Brunk and Wenger and Bro. M. C. Lapp met at Sankra to discuss matters pertaining to the medical work. Among other matters they decided to begin operations on the European ward.

Sister Warye had a severe attack of malaria and jaundice which caused us considerable concern. Although she is much improved she is not fully recovered but is gaining strength each day.

Bro. M. C. Lapp was ill but is also improving.

The brethren Lehman and Kaufman spent several strenuous days examining Mission accounts.

Bro. Miller made a trip to Calcutta at which time he sold the monthly remittance from the Board at 344 exchange.

Mr. Bishwas of the India Sunday School Union arrived here expecting to give a number of talks on Sunday School work.

Sister Kaufman who was with her children at Naini Tal since March returned to the plains at the beginning of the month. Bro. K. went to help her on the journey home. Paul and Baby Kathryn came along, Russell remaining in school until the end of the term.

Bro. Brunk met with a committee of Indian brethren to consult as to the best means of encouraging home industries.

Communion services were held at Balodgahan, Sundarganj, Leper Asylum, Maradeo and Sankra. Ghata and Mahodi will have theirs in November.

Photographs and descriptions of orphanage and other poor children were prepared for sending to the Mission Board for purposes of special support. This phase of our work is being supported in a fine manner by the people at home.

Work on the new Sundarganj and Balodgahan churches is going on slowly but will be pushed more rapidly when there is money enough ahead to justify it. Please remember these churches in your prayers and gifts.


Two missionaries of the Church of the Brethren and two of the General Conference Mennonite Mission visited several of our stations during the month.

Rice harvesting is well begun and the fields are teeming with reapers wielding the sickle. Everywhere they may be seen "bringing in the sheaves". The rice crop is fairly good this year.


The following missionaries have taken the Hindi language examination during the month: Sister Miller, Sister Wenger, Bro. and Sister Warye.

Last month's "News" stated that one thousand dollars is required for the Teachers' Home at Balodgahan. This is a mistake as it should have read "Two Thousand". We are looking for the money soon. Will you do your share?

On the 16th there were 37 cases of malaria in the Girls' Orphanage.



**GLEANED FROM THE DIRECTORY  
OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONS,  
*India, Burmah and Ceylon-for 1922.***



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The Total population of India, Burmah and Ceylon according to the 1922 census is 323, 440, 166.

Of this number 5,454,764 are Christians.

There are in India 5925 foreign missionaries and 802 Indian workers. The foreign workers represent 163 different Societies.

For every million of the population there are 18 foreign missionaries.

According to a proposal made by a Survey Committee "well occupied" mission territory would require at least a hundred workers per million of the population. Less than 25 per million would be considered practically unoccupied. According to this only Delhi and two provinces in Ceylon are well occupied and more than half of India is practically unoccupied. What message does this have for you at home ?

The Central Provinces have a population of slightly less than 16 million. There are 401 foreign missionaries which gives 25 missionaries per million of the population.

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. 1 | Dhamtari, C. P. India, November, 1922. | No. 10.

Splendid opportunities for service farther afield are continually coming to us.

The recent famine brought large numbers into our institutions. These must be taught and trained to become useful citizens. The majority will come into the Church.

Government's decision to vernacularize education gives new opportunities for the educationalist in the form of vocational schools. Such schools if properly conducted will be a most important contribution to India.

The economic problem is causing us great concern but we are not disheartened for we are convinced that somehow the problem will be solved. The stability of our Christians depends largely on their economic improvement.

A large leper colony is soon to be established about five miles from Dhamtari on a site of 114 acres acquired for that purpose. This when completed will take most of the time of two missionaries—a man and his wife.

There are unlimited opportunities in the Mission for literary work and a missionary if set apart for such work could be kept busy. The great dearth of good Hindi literature is very keenly felt as the educational facilities in the Mission are being more fully developed.

Our Mission Schools need closer supervision, more efficient teachers and more effective methods if they are to make the contribution they should to the success of the work here.

There is an immense field open for medical research and the medical practitioner in this field is limited only by his own capabilities. A doctor could spend his entire time in a well equipped laboratory.

The direct evangelistic work in our Mission has up to the present not received near the attention its importance and urgency demand. The opportunities along this special line of endeavour are very great.

It must be plainly evident to you who read these brief paragraphs that we need your earnest prayers, some of your best men and women as well as some of your hard earned money if we are to enter the open doors suggested above.

#### **News items from Ghatula.**

Our Thanksgiving service was well attended and the offering amounted to over thirty-five rupees. Grain, vegetables, cloth, etc., were given with the money offerings.

Bro. Esch and family and Sister Wenger were our first guests of the season. They were with us over our communion service on Sunday the 19th. Bro. Esch preached for us as Bro. M. C. Lapp, our bishop, could not be with us as that time.

Bro. and Sister Steiner and two children of the General Conference Mennonite Mission were with us on the 24th. We very much appreciated their visit and also the helpful suggestions they gave regarding the work.

The rice harvest is nearly completed in this district. Our own plot of ground is yielding a good crop. This plot was given to the church of this station by a Hindu widow, who owns five villages, as a thank offering for what some of the missionaries had done for her.

#### **From Mahodi.**

Communion services were held on the 19th at which time 39 partook of the sacred emblems. Three members were absent. One young man was baptised.

At our thanksgiving service about twenty-three rupees were given by the congregation for the support of our Home Mission station.

Sister Kaufman has organized a special sewing class for children of our Christian community. It is remarkable the progress some of the children have made in a short time.

We are greatly in need of a church house here. At present church and S. S. services are held in one of the rooms of the bungalow but this is far from satisfactory.

## Interesting Facts about India

SELECTED FROM

*BUILDING WITH INDIA—Dr. FLEMING.*

In India the average life is 25 years. In America it is 44.

India's death rate is 32 per 1000. In America it is 14. Infant mortality is three times as great as in Western countries.

From 40 to 100 % of the people of various parts of India are infected with hook worm.

The ration of per capita wealth stands as follows : India-1; Japan-3.7; Canada-18.5; United Kingdom-22.8; United States-27.9.

Over 200,000,000 of the people of India are engaged in agriculture. These live in 700,000 villages. In one of the villages recorded the average per capita debt is twenty-four rupees on which the annual interest is nearly five rupees.

Out of 38,000,000 children of school age 8,000,000 are receiving any kind of education. In India as a whole only one in seventeen people can read and write. That is less than six per cent. In the United Kingdom it is 92 %.

India has twelve newspapers and periodicals per million of the population. America has 225.

## INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. 1 | Dhamtari, C. P. India, December, 1922. | No. 11.

We come to the end of the year. We cannot undo our past mistakes but we can seek God's guidance for a closer walk with Him in the future.

We also come to the end of the first volume of the India Mission News. The question very forcibly comes to us, Has it so far justified its existence?

During holiday week important meetings were held at Dhamtari. On the 27th a conference was held on the economic problem with which our Indian people are confronted. The same evening the Bible Conference began and lasted until the 30th. The next day we held our Annual Sunday School Conference. Christians from all our stations attended these meetings and were greatly benefited.

Not the least important of the meetings were the Christmas services and exercises held at the several stations. We try to make Christmas the best and brightest day of the year and it is always greatly enjoyed. What was done in detail in many of the meetings may be read in the following pages.

**Sankra.**

The Christmas season brought with it much joy. About eight hundred Sunday School children met for a Christmas programme which consisted of songs and quotations of Scripture verses. Practically all of these children came from non-Christian homes.

Beside the above meetings similar meetings were held in our out stations. In Nawgaon about 125 children met and in Tengna about 75 children were present. The work among the children is sowing the seed for the future harvest.

The Christian people also had a very good program in the church consisting of songs and short talks. One speaker spoke on how Christmas should be observed. Many good thoughts were presented.

**Balodgahan.**

The people looked forward to Christmas as the best holiday of the year. Even the very poorest prepared for the day by getting themselves new clothing and special food.

All the Christians of the station had a happy Christmas. Special services were held and the school children repeated Scripture verses and sang songs. In order to make more room in the church all the benches were removed but even then the church was packed and many had to remain outside.

Work on the new church is going on and if means keep coming we hope to have it completed during 1923.

**Ghatula.**

The Christmas service was held in the Chapel hall of the Bible school. Some of the brethren had cut Scripture verses out of colored paper and put them on the walls. The village school children were present and helped in the exercises by repeating Scripture verses and taking part in songs. A short talk was given by the pastor. A number of Hindus were present and seemed to enjoy the services. At the close of the service Indian sweets were distributed among the Sunday School and village school children. The Christian people invited us out to their Christmas dinners of chicken curry, rice and several kinds of bread.

**The Leper Asylum.**

A month before Christmas preparations began for the lepers' Christmas. Clothes for 204 lepers and 23 untainted children had to be made. Bundles of special gifts were sent from England and these with the clothes were distributed in a special appropriate service on Saturday before Christmas. The lepers were very happy.

On Sunday before Christmas 18 lepers were baptized. On Christmas morning every leper who could come was present at the service, dressed in new clothes. The service was held outside since the church is too small. The program consisted of songs, Scripture verses, and short talks. Through the kindness of friends in America we were able to give each leper a bag of sweets.

**Mahodi.**

The Christian people began early preparation for Christmas. Clothes must be made for each member of the family and oil, sugar, and flour must be bought for special Christmas dinners. A large place in front of the bungalow was prepared for the Christmas service and at the appointed time on Christmas morning people began to come. There were quite a large number of non-Christians present from the village.

The service consisted of special songs, repeating of Scripture verses and appropriate talks. The children did their part very nicely. At the close of the service Indian sweets were given to the children.

**Dhamtari.**

A business man in Dhamtari recently remarked that since the coming of the Mission he had found it the first creditor that would ask for bills if they were not sent promptly.

Long days, often from 4 A. M. to 11 P. M. were required to do all that needed attention during the cold season by missionaries in India and at Dhamtari this is often the case.

An English Government officer recently wrote asking if the Mission could furnish Christian clerks for his office as they were invariably to be trusted.