

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Jan. 1929. § No. 1.

Since the last number of the Mission News has been published have been held the special Christmas meetings at all the stations, and also the annual "Jalsa" at Dhamtari. There was nothing especially new in the meetings held this year, but every station had its goodly number of programs, general dinners, meetings, serenading, and services. Christmas is the largest holiday of the year for Indian as well as for all other Christians, but it seems the Indian can make much more of a holiday than can most other people. The holiday with its attendant activities furnishes an effective avenue for evangelization.

The Jalsa was held from the evening of the 20th to the 30th of December. A general morning service, sectional meetings in the afternoon followed by a general meeting at the Church, and an evangelistic service in the evening was the daily program followed. Many from the outstations also came in to attend these meetings.

Dhamtari.

On January 9th the fall shipment of clothing from the home Sewing Circles to the charitable institutions was looked through and distributed to the various institutions. If only those who prepare these garments could be here at unpacking or distributing time they would indeed say the effort was worth while.

The Auditing Committee has been at work auditing the accounts of the missionaries. They spent the greater part of January 23, 24, and 25 on the books of the Mission Treasurer, which always constitute the most exacting work of this Committee.

J. N. Kaufman made two trips to Dondi the latter part of January in connection with some changes in the boundaries of the Mission property there. At the suggestion of the Deputy Commissioner of the Drug District in which Dondi is located the boundaries will be altered so as to make the plot more uniform and symmetrical.

The Inspector of Schools of the Chhattisgarh Circle visited the English School on the 21st and 22nd of January and gave valuable suggestions for the improvement of the school.

Wood for fuel is becoming more and more scarce in this area. That which comes to Dhamtari is carted in from a considerable distance and thus the price is considerably increased. A cart of wood now costs us from \$1.50 to \$2.00.

Evangelistic meetings conducted in the town of Dhamtari have awakened considerable interest. A number of questions were asked by people who desired to know more about Jesus' way of Life. A tendency to revere Christ as a great prophet and teacher is very noticeable and we need to keep stressing the Gospel that Christ is the only Saviour from sin and death.

Dr. Foote, specialist from Hastings, Nebraska, who spent some time visiting in our Mission, spent most of the first week in January with Dr. Troyer at the Mission Hospital. During this time some 20 tonsilectomies were performed, 12 cataracts were removed, quite a large number of glasses were fitted, besides numerous eye examinations and miscellaneous operations and treatments. The hospital staff is very grateful for Dr. Foote's excellent professional service which he gave so gratuitously. A number of the missionaries and their children also were among Dr. Foote's patients.

On the 23rd January Dr. Troyer's family was saddened when Mrs. Troyer gave birth to a child that did not live. Mrs. Troyer is doing nicely at the time of this writing.

Balodgahan.

During the Christmas holidays 12 of the girls from the Orphanage had their tonsils removed. Dr. Foote supervised the operations.

The girls in the Orphanage have been divided into family groups and are now doing their own cooking. They

are happy with this arrangement and it is valuable in better preparing them for home life.

The missionaries from Shantipur enjoyed Christmas dinner with the people from the Balodgahan station at the village bungalow on Christmas eve.

Probably a word in appreciation of the work of the Sewing Circles in America would be in order. The Balodgahan institutions received a lot of clothes from the Circles in America. The clothes were nicely made and filled our requirements very well. We appreciate the spirit of the sisters who so kindly filled these orders for us. We feel that the work was not done for us but that what you did was done unto the Lord, and we pray that God may bless you for the service. Pray for us also that we may be faithful stewards.

Ghatula.

Bro. Friesen moved Bro. and Sister Vogts' goods from Dhamtari to Ghatula and the Vogts have taken over the work of the district from Bro. and Sister Lapp, who expect to leave the station on furlough the early part of February.

Dr. E. C. Foote and sons from Hastings, Nebraska spent the holiday season at our station. They spent most of their time in an effort to bag a tiger. They were on the trail of a man-eater and Dr. Foote sat in a *machan* over a mangled human body for eighteen hours, but the tiger did not return. They killed a bear, hyena, large deer, jackals and some small game during their hunt.

Mukut, our Deacon, will serve the Vogts as language teacher for the next few months.

Harriet Lapp had her tonsils and a birthmark on her tongue removed by Dr. Foote. She has recovered nicely.

Bro. Kniss from Mohadi writes: "A number of our friends in the Homeland favored us with a donation and the result is that we received from the Lord in the last month a new Chevrolet motor car for which we are thankful. We mean to use this gift to His honor and glory. There is no question but that a car is a great help in the missionary's work."

Appointments for the Year 1929.

DHAMTARI

Medical Station: Dr. Troyer—Medical; Building and Evangelistic work at Medical Station; Medical work at Leper Asylum & Kurud Clinic.

Mrs. Troyer—Bible Women, Hospital Evangelistic work; Supervision of Drug Room.

Miss Hartzler—Superintendent of Hospital including keeping of Medical Accounts. Language Study.

Sunderganj: J. N. Kaufman—English School, and Hostels; Carpentry School; Old Men's Home; Telephone line to Chitod.

Mrs. Kaufman —Girls' School and Girls' School Kitchen.

M. C. Lehman —Boys' Orphanage; Evangelistic work including Bijnapuri; Primary Schools including Dhamtari, Bhatgaon, Maradeo, Bagtari, and Gopalpuri.

Mrs. Lehman —Orphanage work; Bible Women including Bhatgaon, Bagtari, and Gopalpuri.

SHANTIPUR

J. D. Graber —Leper Asylum; Untainted Boys' Home; Evangelistic work including Maradeo, Seodi, and Kanker City; Shantipur School; Telephone line Chitod to Balodgahan.

Mrs. Graber —Leper Asylum; Untainted Girls' Home; Evangelistic work including Maradeo and Seodi.

(to be continued)

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Feb. 1929. § No. 2.

TOURING NUMBER.

Sankra District.

This is the touring season and we try to spend as much time as possible in the district. During the last month the rain has interfered considerably with our work but even in spite of the cold damp weather we have enjoyed the work. The interest in the villages has been extraordinarily good. It is a pleasure to see the seed grow which was sown in previous years.

Our work in the district this year is follow up work. We make it a point to visit the homes of as many of our patients as possible. It is impossible to mention all the homes we have visited in a short article like this but I shall tell about a few.

The first is the home of a malguzar who is owner of three villages. This man has been coming to our clinic by the roadside for a whole year. He is afflicted with the terrible disease, Leprosy. During the year he missed only a few weeks on account of the rain. He always enjoyed the service so much and often asks questions. Since New Year he did not come so we were anxious to find out the cause. When we arrived there he was in a terrible state. He had a very bad ulcer on his foot and a large abscess on one of his legs. The abscess on his leg needed opening but there was no one in the village who was willing to do it. He suffered much. We quickly opened our medicine case and lanced the abscess and dressed his sores and then he said, "Sing and read and pray with me like you do on the road." His face was radiant. I asked him what he would have us sing. He said we should sing the song of repentance. I asked him "If you will not repent, you will one day be ashamed of Jesus", he said. And so we sang and he sang too, with tears of repentance rolling down his cheeks. I read the story of the Leper who came to Jesus and was healed. And when I came to the place where Jesus said, "Show

thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded", the oldest boy said, "Yes Father, I'll get the offering", and this amounted to Rs. ten. Then we prayed with him and he and his family all prayed after us. We do not consider this man quite ready for baptism yet, but he is well on the way. He needs the prayers of God's children.

The second home I want to tell you about is a poor home. Here the mother is a Leper. What an awful thing it is when one of the family is afflicted in this way. This mother said she wants to be a Christian. She says she loves the Lord and she often speaks in the meeting and testifies. She is praying now that the Lord shall open the way for her that she may be baptized. Her only son is the only one that stands in the way. Pray for Thanwarin Bai.

The third is the home of a Brahmin. Two years ago he came to our Dispensary for treatment. He stayed with us for two weeks. He was so glad to see us. He showed me his legs, how they are healed, and then we set down on the porch and talked a long time about God's great love and His goodness to us, and then bowed our heads in prayer and thanked God for the gift of His Son through whom not only our bodies are healed but also our souls. He then invited us all to stay for the noon day meal.

So many open doors! Oh, if we could only spend more time in the villages. May God help us to answer the calls.

P. A. & FLORENCE FRIESEN.

A Five Weeks' Tour in the Villages.

On the twenty-third of January we left our bungalow at Mohadi on a five weeks' tour to some of our villages for the purpose of giving the Gospel Story to the villagers.

We needed three carts to take our equipment. Our train consisted of our motor car, two ox-carts, one buffalo cart, and two bicycles. We required five tents. We took food, provisions, cooking utensils, bedding, cots, clothing, books to sell and medicines, besides some toys for the children, shot gun and other minor articles as buckets, lanterns, ropes, picks, axe, etc. These things had all to be moved over plain, ploughed field, high rice banks, sand, rock, underbrush, and across unbridged rivers.

In our party we had three native preachers, two Bible women, the language teacher, three cartmen, a cook, two women to watch the children, making a total of twenty-two persons including children. However, on account of sickness among the native workers some had to return, and our staff was considerably cut down, leaving only two preachers and one Bible woman and the missionaries to do the work.

We had three camping places in the whole tour, and from these places we went on foot to the villages within a radius of four miles from the camping site. The Bible women and Sister Kniss would go from house to house in the villages and visit the women, while the men and I would go to the village and call all the men and children together in a place in the street and there sing and preach to them and sell books.

In our tour we visited sixty three villages, held about eighty-five meetings, spoke to about six thousand people, and sold twelve hundred Bible portions and books including three New Testaments and one whole Bible.

The chief hindrance, as we think, was that the farmers were ploughing their fields and hence fewer people in the villages; also a few storms and some rain. Once the Lord saved us from a bad storm by putting it into our minds to move a day earlier than we had previously intended to. We keenly felt the Lord's presence all thru the tour.

The people generally responded very well, listening eagerly, a few making special inquiry. There were some Brahmans and other high class people who would not listen, and some would argue, but the common people received us gladly.

The thing that is needed now is time to keep following up these people as they will again forget soon having heard only once. At least we can follow up with prayer that they may call upon the Lord for pardon.

L. A. & ELIZABETH KNISS.

Appointments for the Year 1929.

(Continued)

SHANTIPUR

- S. J. Hostetler — Language Study.
Mrs. Hostetler — Language Study.

BALODGAHAN

(Village Bungalow)

- G. H. Beare — Village and Farm; Village Primary School; School Kitchen; Evangelistic work including Chikli; Language Study.
Mrs. Beare — Baby Home to April 1st; Widows Home, Evangelistic work; including Chikli, Language study.

Mary M. Wenger — Medical work; Baby Home from April 1st (Ladies Bungalow)

Sarah Lapp — Bible Women; Medical work in Orphanage.

Minnie Kanagy — Girls' Orphanage; Language Study.

Mary M. Good — Girls' School.

SANKRA

P. A. Friesen — Evangelistic; Station Primary School and Kitchen; Outstations of Tengna, Balod, and Sikosa; Dondi from April 1st; telephone line from Purur.

Mrs. Friesen — Medical work at Sankra and Sikosa Clinic; Evangelistic work.

DONDI

A. C. Brunk — Building and Evangelistic work to April 1st.

Mrs. Brunk — Medical and Evangelistic work to April 1st.

GHATULA

M. C. Vogt — Medical work; Village Schools including Ghatula and Kaspur; Evangelistic work including Nagri, Gatasili, and Likhma; Language study.

Mrs. Vogt — Evangelistic work including Kaspur, Nagri, Gatasili, and Likhma; Language study.

MOHADI

L. A. Kniss — Evangelistic and Medical work; Language study.

Mrs. Kniss — Evangelistic work; Language study.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, April 1929. § No. 4.

The Modern Missionary Appeal.

The subtle manner in which modernistic teaching and thought come to us is found in the new appeal for foreign missions. Here is this present-day challenge as a preacher . . . an eloquent missionary message presented it: "Not because these nations are heading for doom, but because they are crying for and struggling toward the light; because the divine within them is crying ever so pitifully to the Divine above and beyond to show His face and to utter His voice". Beautiful sentiments, these are, and not without a note of appeal.

But the appeal is not scriptural and does not represent the historical attitude of the Church. Neither was it this appeal that drove the pioneers into the foreign missionary enterprise, and it was not this appeal that was stirring the hearts of the young people of the church during the recent decades of greatest missionary activity. It was the old slogan, "The Evangelization of the World in this Generation", that brought out the volunteers. The somewhat changed slogan, "The Christianization of the World in this Generation", in the minds of many so much of an improvement over the old, loses its power in substituting a social appeal for an evangelical one.

When Christ saw the multitudes He was moved with compassion for He saw them as sheep without a shepherd. There is no appeal so strong and its strength lies in the fact that it is God's truth, as the fact that men are damned because they are sinners and that salvation from sin comes only through Christ, and that it makes no difference whether these people are in America or in India. It is the old spirit the Church needs, "A passion for Souls" that will bring forward the volunteers and will produce missionaries.

—G.

Two girls, sisters aged sixteen and twelve years, were recently found in a village whose parents had each been from a different caste.

The parents died and the children were left unprovided for. A meeting of the people of the father's caste was held to decide if any responsibility could be assumed for the maintenance of the girls. The relatives of the girls were forbidden by this caste meeting to have anything to do with children defiled by another caste. The mother's people took the same notion.

The Hindu people of the village where the girls live brought them to the missionaries and said, "These girls should be baptized and made Christians as we cannot accept them as Hindus because of their mixed caste origin."

The girls are receiving instruction about Him who said, "Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of Heaven". If they show sincere motives they will in time be received into the church.

Medical Station.

The wards at the hospital are pretty well filled just now. The busy season is over and the people take time to come.

Two Ovarian Cyst cases were recently successfully operated on, one a Christian woman from a neighboring Mission, and another a very poor Hindu woman who cannot afford to pay for the operation in money but does pay with gratitude in a way that gives us joy for having been able to help her.

Puleshar Bai, the trained nurse who has been working at the hospital since last July, has been transferred to Balodgahan where her husband, Obed, will work as Evangelist. She will work in the Girls' Orphanage. Sukma Bai will take her place here. She is the wife of one of our compounders.

Will you pray for Sagna, a little crippled girl who has been here since December. She came with open sores which are now healing nicely. She appears to enjoy association with Christian people and is asking for baptism.

Mohadi.

In general, health at our station is very good at this time so far as our Christian community is concerned. In the village, among the Hindus, there is a bit of an epidemic that has taken the lives of a number of people so far. At the same time there is also an epidemic of *Rinderpest* among the cattle that has done some damage among the buffaloes of the village.

The villagers have unanimously come to the conclusion that some-one is bewitching both people and cattle, and they don't even think it of any use to come for medicine for the sick because, how can medicine avail anything against the spell of a witch? They have made a rule that no woman may leave the borders of the village alone at night, and that no woman or child may pick up the cow dung as before for the demons would be disturbed and possibly angered by so doing. Would that men would open their eyes to the Light and be freed from these terrible bonds.

Ghatula.

On Sunday, March 31st, we celebrated communion with Bro. Friesen in charge of the service. Fifty people partook of the sacred emblems, every single member of our little congregation being present.

In the well which we are digging at the school house we struck water at about twenty-two feet. We have stopped digging till about the middle of May. Just before building up the wall at that time we shall dig a little deeper so that there will be plenty of water at all seasons of the year. At present some contractors are burning lime and brick for the well.

Balodgahan.

Three Bible Women go out each forenoon to visit the women of the surrounding villages. In the afternoons of two days in a week they conduct Bible Classes with the illiterate women in the Widow's Home. On Sunday forenoon each teaches a class in the Sunday School, and on Sunday afternoon

they hold Bible Classes with illiterate Christian women of the village of Balodgahan. The remaining afternoons they attend Prayer Meeting and S. S. Teachers' Meeting. Besides this they help out in other duties when asked to do so. They have their household duties, taking care of their little children, cooking, etc., besides a certain study and reading course outlined for them each year on which they write an examination. Theirs is not an idle life.

Bro. Beare was ill with Fever and Bronchitis the middle of April but is better at this writing.

Bro. and Sister Beare and Sister Kniss wrote the second year language examinations on the 10th to the 12th of April.

General.

Bro. Lehman was called to Darjeeling on the 7th April to the bedside of his twelve-year old son Waldo. A slight bruise on the knee developed into blood poisoning and several operations were done on the knee making incisions to drain out pus. In spite of all that Doctors could do the knee became steadily worse. On the 21st of April the Doctors decided that amputation of the leg alone would save his life. Prayer was earnestly being made and we felt that God could yet heal him without the loss of his leg. Sir Frank Connor, a specialist from Calcutta, was called and through his suggestions and opinions the leg was put up into a very complicated arrangement of slings, splints, and weights and a new treatment was prescribed. Since then Waldo has been improving slowly. His leg is still very painful and at best Waldo will need to remain in the hospital for several more weeks. We acknowledge that God did hear and answer our prayers very definitely.

On the 31st of March 19 precious souls were received into church fellowship by baptism at Shantipur. These were all lepers who learned about Christ after coming to the Home.

Mrs Lapp.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C.P., India, May & June 1929. § Nos. 5 & 6.

It was refreshing a few days ago to find a village Hindu who seemed to have a real conception of what sin is. Experience has taught us in India that practically anyone will admit that he is a sinner but that it is necessary to find out what he means by the term. I once thought I had a very penitent man, he bemoaned the fact that he was so sinful. I talked with him further and found out that the great sins which he had committed consisted in killing fish. "I am a fisherman by caste", he said, "and when I contemplate the thousands of fishes' lives I have taken I tremble under my load of sin". I was absolutely nonplussed. It never seemed to occur to him that adultery, stealing, lying and dishonesty, selfishness, and idolatry were really the sins that mattered. The man with whom I met a few days ago knew what sin meant and he named them over one by one. He also admitted that such things stand as a wall between us and God. I was glad that I could assure him that Christ had removed that wall for me and that He was waiting to remove it for every one who permitted Him. Pray that this man may accept Christ as his Saviour. He had read three years in one of our village schools.

Bro. Kniss writes from Mohadi: "At this station there are just thirty villages accessible by going on foot during the rainy season. These villages are all getting their turns at this time. At present we are destitute of any roads where a motor could travel and even bullock carts can go only sometimes. Wading mud, crossing streams, and an occasional soaking in a rainstorm furnish the variety for us these days as we go to the villages.

"The workers are keeping in good spirits. They are reading and studying on their Normal course material as they find time. One of our Bible Women had a slight accident yesterday when she dropped a mill-stone on her foot.

"The carpenter work for the new church building is still going on. In our building work here nearly all the carpenter work is done before the foundation is even begun. The carpenter is now making window frames, doors, etc. We hope to be able to build the coming cold season. We are planning to build at this time but were disappointed with the brick-making contractor."

OUR SCHOOLS.

Bro. Kaufman from Dhamtari writes:

"The English School opened on the first of July with an enrollment of nearly two hundred. The new Headmaster, Mr. J. M. G. Ram, has the work well in hand and we have prospects for a good year ahead. One of the teachers who had promised to serve on the staff for the new session left suddenly without giving notice after drawing his hot season pay.

"The hostel boys are allotted one-and-a-half hours each morning for work in fields and gardens. All are required to work except those reading in the Matriculation class who have their whole time taken up with their very stiff course in preparation for the government examination at the end of the year. The field work during the rains consists of rice growing and the garden work is mainly of growing peanuts. Arrangements are being made to have the local government Agricultural Assistant give weekly lectures to the boys in preparation for more intensive and extensive field work later on.

"As a result of the last examinations in the High School two boys passed their Matriculation examinations, both of them in the second division. Out of 28 boys sent up for High School entrance examination 17 boys passed."

Sister Good from Balodgahan reports that the Girls' Middle School opened on July 1st with an enrollment of 184. The enrollment is less than in previous years due to nearly fifty girls who were not making normal progress being

removed into the new Industrial School that has been opened for such girls.

The Teachers in their weekly Bible class are now studying the Gospel of Luke.

Sister Kanagy has been exceedingly busy with the organizing and opening of the new school for girls who were not able to make normal progress in their regular school work. This institution has been temporarily located at Ghatula and it is hoped that the institution itself may not be required after a period of some years. Their curriculum includes very little of the literary subjects, a considerable lot of field work, sewing, weaving and other cottage industries, and some good courses in Bible. The whole object of the school is to prepare these girls for home-making. They live in mud cottages and consequently learn and practice every detail of the domestic art in cooking their own food, caring for their own cottage, preparing their own clothes, etc. Indian society has no place for the single, unattached girl, hence the problem of caring for our orphan girls, really preparing them for life, and getting them properly and happily married is a problem that is continually before the Mission. We believe this new School is a means toward the solution of the problem as regards this group of somewhat intellectually backward girls.

Bro. Lehman, who has charge of a number of village evangelistic schools, has completed plans for opening one such school at Murrumsilli on the 1st of August. About forty Hindu children who have never been taught the Gospel will enter the beginner's class in this school. The homes of these children will be visited by the teacher and thus an opening into their lives will be afforded.

Forty boys from non-Christian homes have this year enrolled in the Mission Boys' Primary School at Dhamtari.

The Municipality of Dhamtari is contemplating the enforcement of compulsory primary education in its area in the near future. This will greatly increase attendance in

Mission Schools and will correspondingly increase our opportunity and responsibility in teaching Jesus to a larger number of children.

Due to disappointment with the lime contractor at Ghatula Bro. Vogt has not been able to complete the wall of the school well. He writes that lime has since been obtained and as soon as the rice sowing rush will be over the well will be completed.

MEDICAL.

The foundation for the new ward has been completed at the Medical station at Dhamtari. After the rainy season the building will be put up. Sister Hartzler writes that they appreciate the prospect of an additional ward very much; the number of indoor patients is increasing and the present accommodations are at times not sufficient. She says, "We thank you who have given so liberally toward this ward. Will you continue helping in this work by praying for us and for those who come to us for help."

Dr. Troyer has gone to Darjeeling for a month's rest. Sister Troyer will return with him the first of August. The children will be left there in school.

Sister Wenger reports that a new baby was recently brought to the Baby Home whose parents are of the *Chamar* (leather makers) caste. This is the first from this low caste that has been admitted, but his name seemingly was an attempt to make up for what was lacking in caste prestige. He is called "Vishesh Singh", which is by interpretation, "an extraordinary lion".

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, July 1929. § No. 7.

Dhamtari Christian Hospital

One of my first experiences in medical work in India I shall never forget. A man from a village about ten miles away came to us in his last extremity at the advice of some of his friends. The village quack had had his case, which was a toothache, for three months but had not been able to give any relief. I looked at the tooth and told him to sit down while I proceeded to get out the forceps. But when he saw what I was proposing to do he was ready to run. The village quack had told him that if he should have his tooth pulled his eye would pop out of its socket at the same instant, and he had decided that he would rather suffer from toothache than lose his eye. However, after much persuasion and solemn assurance that his eye would in no way be injured he submitted tremblingly. When he realized that his tooth was out and that his eye was still in he was a happy man indeed, and a fine advertizement for the hospital.

History

The present medical station site was selected as the most suitable location possible in Dhamtari, being at the edge of town, near the railway station, and not too far from the Christian community.

At first a few acres of land were secured, the bungalow, small dispensary, and the necessary servants' quarters were built. Later, more land was obtained so that the plot measured ten acres. The soil, however, is ill adapted to building. In the dry season it forms huge cracks, six to ten inches in width and very deep, and during the rains it becomes water-logged. Irregular movements of the soil with the change of seasons pulls foundations out of line and causes walls of buildings to crack and shift. In fact, a few years after the first bungalow had been built its flat roof leaked so badly that the missionaries who were occupying it were forced to move out. Later on it was repaired and the

dispensary was converted into quarters for an old men's home. While the medical work was moved to Sunderganj temporarily.

Several other sites were considered as possible locations for a medical station but either the available sites were not suitably located or else ground could not be purchased. Finally, it was decided to locate permanently on the present site and hospital work was reopened here in 1921. In 1923 a two room European ward was completed. In 1925 a ten bed surgical ward was put up, and in August 1927 the new hospital building was ready to be occupied even though the building work was not entirely complete. In 1926 we purchased an adjoining plot of nine acres of land so that we now have plenty of space for expansion for some years to come. The work is constantly growing. We are at present adding a new ten bed medical ward and as soon as money is available a nurses' bungalow, a baby ward, and a zanana (women's) ward are to be built.

Winning Confidence

With this formidable outlay of time and money you will wonder what is being done here. Many and varied experiences could be related by the missionaries who have lived at this station. At first patients came to us only after the village medicine man had robbed them of practically all their money without doing them any good. Sometimes they became disgusted and left him of their own accord. Of course when they had no more money the village doctor would do no more for them.

The barrier of mistrust is rapidly breaking down and time and again new patients come to us prepared to take whatever treatment we suggest. Numerous patients assure us that they take no other medicine except ours.

Recently we had a number of Hindu patients whom the village *baid* (medicine man) had given up to die, and well he might for they were cases requiring operation and the *baid* has not yet undertaken much along the line of surgery. After a few weeks at the hospital following operation they returned home so happy and thankful. God has surely done miracles for these people through the hospital and they do

appreciate it and try to understand when we tell them of the One who makes all this possible for them. But it takes much teaching.

Evangelistic Effort

Many of the Indian women live in *purdah* and dare not be seen by any men outside their own family circle. For this reason the hospital building is so arranged that men may receive treatment in one place while women come to the opposite side. Our evangelist Prem Singh is on the men's side ready to speak to any who come for medicine or treatment as they wait their turn. Likewise Ramoti Bai, Bible Woman, works among the women. Thus in story, song, and sermon our patients hear the Gospel. People of the higher castes sometimes let us know that they did not come to hear about Christianity but to get medicine for the ladies of their house. Yet, this gives us a point of contact with them for the One who heals the body can also heal the soul. Such people, in spite of their pride and superiority complex, after all admit that their lives are empty and without hope.

Does medical work in India pay, is a question that perhaps the Indians could answer better than we. Long and tedious hours spent over bundles of humanity covered with filthy rags is a large part of our program. There come urgent calls which require trips through burning heat, or, in the rainy season, through water and mud. There are days so full of rushing business that it seems the more essential spiritual things would be crowded out. For a time we felt that we were not doing what we should. Our plans for short tours to near-by villages for preaching and singing were so often upset. Yet, when other missionaries go out to the villages and are met by numbers of men and women who are friendly and listen attentively because they have received help at the hospital, we feel that the Lord is using our work as an evangelistic agency after all. The in-patients, or perhaps rather those who come to care for them, can be taught regularly, sometimes for two or

more weeks, and this is where we feel we can get teaching across to them that they will remember.

Pray for this work.

.....G. D. Troyer M. D.

A few weeks ago a girl of about fifteen came to the Shantipur bungalow in tears. She had developed a few spots in her face that looked like leprosy and she came to us desperately anxious to get treatment that would clear up her skin. Her husband, to whom she was married as a child but who has not yet taken her to his house, has given her a year in which to get relief. If she will be found a leper at the end of that time he will look him out another wife and her life will be ruined. Our sympathies were touched and she is now receiving injections and other treatment which will no doubt do her much good, and from which she may reasonably expect a complete cure.

A class of thirty meets at the Shantipur Leper Home Church every Thursday afternoon for instruction in the Christian Faith. These may not all be willing to be baptized this year but every one shows a keen interest in the things of Christ. During these sessions and in the regular Church and Prayer meetings many of these non-Christians are manifestly under conviction. A number are here merely for treatment and have full expectations of being made symptom-free so that they will be able to return to their families and to their original place in the villages from which they come. It will be very hard for these men to decide for Christ; nothing less than a genuine conviction and inner urge of the Holy Spirit can make them willing to be baptized. It would be such a wonderful thing if these men could become Christians and return to their old homes with a clear testimony for Christ. Pray with us for them.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, August, 1929. § No. 8.

"We are willing to take any amount of Christian truth provided it leaves the essential self alone. And all the time the cross stands at the center of our Gospel!

"We get rid of that cross by putting it on our sky lines and on our watch chains,—anywhere except face to face with that essential self."—E. S. Jones.

The Managing Committee of the Mission met on the 6th of September in regular quarterly session. At this time tentative appointments for 1930 were made. These appointments will be reconsidered and made final at the next meeting on the 4th of October. After that meeting the appointments as they will stand for next year will be published in this paper.

Oral language examinations will be held on the 18th September in Raipur. Five candidates from our Mission appear in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year examinations. Bro. Lehman is our member on the examining Board. Written examinations will be given three weeks later.

The Educational Committee of the Mission has been working recently with a revision of the scale of fees Indian Christians will pay for the education of their children in the Mission's schools. The new scheme will mean an increase in the fees they pay of about 25% over what they paid heretofore. This still represents a small part of the actual cost but progress is in the right direction.

In a recent court hearing in Dhamtari a Hindu village owner gave a fine testimony to Christian truthfulness. Persadi, one of our Deacons and a Christian worker, was called in as a witness. In the course of the examination he asked the village owner why he stoops to tell a lie for such

a small matter as five rupees. The *Malguzar* said, "Yes, I know you Christians are truthful, but we tell lies when it is to our advantage", and his statement was no mere irony.

Ghatula.

In the latter part of July twins arrived in the home of one of our poor Christians, so poor that they have scarcely enough to eat. A few days later both the infants passed away.

The Christian workers go out regularly to preach but find few listeners because everyone is busy in the rice fields. One of the encouraging features of the work, however, is that most of the people listen attentively and often we find inquirers who want to know more about the new religion. Our hope and prayer is that many of these may turn to the Lord.

This year there is much sickness among the Christian people and in the surrounding villages. Dysentery is prevalent and some cases are hard to cure.

The girls of the Industrial School are busy weeding rice in the mornings. In the afternoons they have Bible classes and other book work.

Medical Station.

A man with a badly infected leg came to the hospital last week. He appeared to be very poor, having no food or cooking utensils with him and wearing no clothing. The hospital servants, not willing to see him suffer, gave him food until it was discovered that he had in his possession a pair of gold ear rings worth about ten rupees. He was finally persuaded to give these to Preamsingh, the hospital evangelist, who sold them and bought food and clothing for him. He is improving nicely under treatment.

Another Hindu young man has been here for some time. He is a professional beggar. He has his wound dressed each morning and then goes out to beg. In this way he keeps his stomach well filled for in the land of the Hindu a beggar can still thrive. He is an apt pupil and remembers the lessons we teach him quite well. He tries to learn to pray.

Joel, a Christian school teacher, who had been teaching in one of our village schools, is taking treatment here

for T. B. His case seems to be a serious one and the Mission has just decided to send him to Pendra Road to a Mission sanitarium for further treatment. He has a wife and five children and he needs the prayers of God's people in these trying times.

Sankra.

Just now the Hindus are observing Sunday as a holiday for seven weeks. This is an annual observance and field work is refrained from on Sundays during these seven weeks. The people of the village of Sankra have asked Sadhuram, our Deacon, to spend these Sundays with them and to read and explain the Bible. They have asked him to begin the reading at Genesis and they want to hear it through to the end. This has been going on for several weeks and interest seems to be continuing.

The roadside work has not been as heavy this year as last due to the abnormally heavy rains. But we think it rather remarkable that even on rainy, cool days some people come from long distances. We have had from thirty-six to one hundred-eighty-five patients in a single day. We hope in a short time to give certificates to a number of our patients stating that they have become free from all symptoms of leprosy. But the patient must prove negative every available test before we grant such a certificate.

Dhamtari.

At Murumsilli, where a new village school has been opened, forty children are enrolled in the beginning class.

In our evangelistic hall in Dhamtari it is proposed to hold services in the same way as we conduct them in our Churches. This is to let the people attending get an idea of how Christians worship as well as opening an avenue for evangelistic appeal.

Some non-Christians have gotten the idea that our personal work and preaching are sponsored by the Government, because Government realizes that Christians would be more docile subjects than Hindus. We will need to work against this misconception as it lessens the effectiveness of

our efforts and puts Christianity in a wrong light. An eminent missionary has said that Christianity came to India in the worst possible way as the religion of the conquering and ruling race.

An English Church service is being held in the Sunderganj Church on one Sunday evening each month.

Mohadi.

Dr. Troyer made several trips out here recently during the illness of Bisri one of our Bible Women. We are glad to report that she is better again.

The principal routine these days seems to be the preparation of the books in the Christian Workers' reading course for the coming examination. The medical dispensary also receives a good share of our attention. Church and Sunday School services are fairly well attended. The Sunday School recently voted to spend some money in the treasury for the installation of a library.

Balodgahan (Girls' Orphanage.)

The Spirit is working in the hearts of many and they are more desirous of being taught the Bible than at any time before. Twenty minutes of quiet are observed each morning when everyone is in her own room for reading, meditation, and prayer. Pray that the Lord may fit them for his service.

Since the rainy season some of the girls have had malaria, colds, sores, etc., but none have been seriously ill.



INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Sept., 1929. § No. 9.

The rainy season has been one of the best for a number of years and an unusually good crop of rice is assured. It is always a relief when we realize that now the rice crop will mature without further rain. There are periods of anxiety every season when the skies clear up, the blazing sun begins to dry up the half-grown rice plants, and we look longingly toward the horizon for possible signs of rain. Usually the drought is broken before much damage is done. If, however, rain does not come the inevitable result is crop-failure, high prices, famine, and starvation. We thank the Lord that he has again given us a good rice harvest.

Immediately following the rains is the time for special meetings in our Mission. Formerly the Christian Workers were called into a central location for an annual Normal and Spiritual Life Conference. This year it was decided to arrange such meetings at each station and to dispense with the central meeting. We hope to give a report of these station meetings in the next issue of the News. In addition to these a conference for primary school teachers has been arranged to meet at Dondi the first part of November.

Written language examinations were held on the 9, 10 and 11th of October. Bro. Lehman supervised the examinations at Dhamtari and Bro. Kniss supervised at Ghatula. Eight members of the Mission wrote part or full examinations.

Medical Station.

"Yesterday when we came the hospital was closed and so I did not get my wound dressed", said a woman who has been coming to us daily for dressings since her operation.

"Yes, yesterday was Sunday and the hospital is closed on Sunday".

"Yes, I know", she replied.

"Do you know where we go on Sunday?"

"Yes, you go to Church to pray", was her prompt answer.

"That is right. Every seventh day we stop all other work and go to Church to worship God."

"Please pray for me when you go to Church", she requested.

"Do you really want me to pray for you?"

"Yes."

"Very well", I said, "I will pray for you and you must believe the things I tell you." So I told her of God the Father and of Jesus Christ who died on the cross for her. I also told her that God will not save her if she keeps on worshipping idols.

"I do not worship idols any more", she interrupted. "Our parents still worship idols but we younger people have stopped."

The husband of this woman was in our High School a number of years ago where he received a considerable amount of Bible teaching. These people are leaning toward Christianity but still need much teaching. There are many such who show by their words and actions that they believe what Christianity teaches but yet are not quite willing to make the surrender. Pity them! They need our united prayers.

Persadi, one of our Deacons, who lives at Maradeo, has been at the hospital for over three weeks on account of the illness of his three youngest children. All had severe attacks, of malaria. The youngest, who had the most severe attack is better at this writing. We are hoping she may fully recover within a few days.

Naomi, the daughter of our evangelist, Premsingh, is recovering from a severe attack of bronchitis.

A Hindu from a village fifteen miles away came to the hospital totally blind from cataracts. These were removed and he was one of the happiest men I have seen in many days. He said, "I was blind and you have made me see, and now I am young again". He and his wife listened very attentively to the Gospel story while at the hospital. This is the first time they had come in contact with missionaries and it was hard for them to understand but we trust our words were not totally without effect.

Sunderganj.

Seven candidates for the Bombay School of Arts Examination were sent by the Mission High School—four for the primary grade and three for the intermediate grade. The results of the examinations will not be out for some time but the boys are quite hopeful of having passed. An additional one went from the Carpentry School as a private candidate to sit for the intermediate grade examination.

The Wednesday evening Bible Class for the Christian teachers of the English School is an interesting feature of the week. The teachers are very regular in attendance and we find the discussions profitable. We are conducting a discussion course based on Dr. Horne's book, "Jesus the Master Teacher".

A class of sixteen boys from the Boys' Orphanage are receiving instruction preparatory for baptism. There will also be some applicants from the community around the station.

Waldo Lehman is gradually getting the use of his left knee again. He exercises it as much as possible and takes daily massages and fomentations. Recently Dr. Troyer placed him under a general anesthetic and gave the knee a severe bending to break down some of the adhesions that had formed as a result of the severe infection. We have good hopes that he will soon again regain the full use of his knee. We thank a kind Heavenly Father for His answers to our prayers.

Sankra.

The annual housecleaning has been done in the bungalow and all preparations are being made for the Hostetler family to move here. We extend to them a hearty welcome. They will take charge of all the work at the station except the medical work. The Friesens will give their time to Evangelistic touring and Medical work.

During the last few weeks we have had as many as five and six patients from the Lohara district in our ward of two rooms at one time. At present we have a man from Dondi in for a cataract operation. The cataract has been removed but it is too early to tell what the result will be.

Where We Work During 1930.

Sunderganj:

Bro. and Sister Kaufman, Bro. and Sister Lehman, and Bro. and Sister Miller.

Medical Station:

Dr. and Sister Esch, and Sister Hartzler.

Shantipur:

Bro. and Sister Graber.

Balodgahan:

In village bungalow: Bro. and Sister Beare, Sister Wenger, and Sister Holsopple.

In ladies' bungalow: Sister Lapp, and Sister Good.

Sankra:

Bro. and Sister Friesen, and Bro. and Sister Hostetler.

Dondi:

Bro. and Sister Smucker.

Mohadi:

Bro. and Sister Kniss.

Ghatula:

Bro. and Sister Vogt, and Sister Kanagy.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Oct., 1929. § No. 10.

SPECIAL MEETINGS NUMBER.

Ghatula.

Bro. Friesen came to help us during our special meetings. Each morning he very helpfully discussed with the Christian workers a number of phases of the general theme "How We May Become More Effective Christian Workers." Their interest was manifested by the many questions that were asked. The Spirit led all of us to give special thought to prayer and all felt the need of more special prayer in our work. One practical result is that the Evangelists are putting more effort in prayer.

The Indian people prefer having meetings in the afternoon rather than evening so we had the general meetings in the afternoon. Fortunately there was a lull in their field work so all the people attended well and also showed good interest. We all received a blessing during these meetings. At the last meeting a number gave testimony to the blessings which they had received.

After our evening meal we tried to give out something of what we had received during the day by going to some near-by village to meet with those still outside of Christ. Bro. Friesen easily found his way into their hearts and minds thru song. The Hindu people enjoyed it very much and many of them helped sing in the choruses. One man especially felt grateful to Bro. Friesen and brought a gift of rice, dal, bananas, ghee and a variety of spices. We are praying for this man as well as others that they may give themselves and their gifts to Jesus.

Dhamtari.

On Tuesday Oct. the 1st classes were begun with the workers. Bro. Lehman was instructor in the book of Amos, Sister Troyer in the book of Romans, and Bro. Isabux in the book, "The Indian Pilgrim." These study classes continued until the 11th October and on the 14th and 15th examinations were given in these subjects.

On Tuesday evening the 15th our special meetings started. From 7:00 to 8:00 in the morning we had a round table discussion, led by Bro. Lehman, on problems related to soul-winning and the strengthening of the Church. At 4:30 in the afternoon we met again for a prayer service after which we divided ourselves into groups and went into the different sections of the community visiting every home and inviting the people to the evening service. It was the purpose of each group to bring as many as possible into the evening meeting. In this service Bro. Graber conducted a song and inspirational service for about half an hour after which Bro. Kaufman preached.

We tried to get into contact with as many non-Christian people of the community as possible and from the first day to the last the evening meetings were well attended, on some occasions as many as 150 non-Christians being present. The people of the nearby village of Jodapur became especially interested, and some of their leaders said they would be willing for the whole village to become Christian. They said they have watched the Christians since the time of Bro. Ressler and they know what we stand for. They have asked for a Christian teacher to be placed in their village. Needless to say we are only too glad to make this arrangement for them. Pray with us that the Holy Spirit may guide so that these Chamars of Jodapur may be led into the true Light of Christ.

The work with the Christian people was much worth while. Every home was visited and all were persuaded to attend the meetings. A number of confessions were made, some backsliders became more interested, and the spiritual life of the whole community was deepened. God be praised.

Balodgahan.

The Special meetings which have been conducted here in Balodgahan during the past few months may be divided into four groups. First, special evangelistic services for the girls, conducted by Bro. Beare. Second, station normal and village meetings, in which all of the missionaries of our station took an active part. Thanksgiving service in which the whole congregation enjoyed a part, and last an evangelistic campaign which was carried on by the Evangelists and Bro. Beare.

Our Normal was held in Oct. The purpose of the meeting was for the deepening of the spiritual life of our Evangelistic workers, Bible women and Evangelists. They were taught Romans, Amos, and the "Indian Pilgrim" after which course of study they were examined on those subjects. After the exams we had 3 days of inspirational meetings, which proved a great blessing to us all. In the morning two talks were given, one by an Indian and one by a missionary, and in the afternoon prayer meetings were conducted. We kept in mind thru all these meetings service to others, to our fellow Indian Christians, non-Christians, and Hindoos. In the evening we conducted services in the village.

Quite a few non-Christian village children attended the services each night. Some came clothed others unclothed, some clean some dirty, some attentive other unattentive. Sometimes a child came to the service unbeknown to his mother, and in hunting him she would call out his name. In the middle of the service the child would answer the call with a shrill, "hoo." In contrast to the Hindoo children the Christian children came at least clothed if not always clean and took part in the singing whole-heartedly. We feel that these village meetings and our normal proved a blessing to the village and to the Evangelists and Bible woman as well as ourselves.

The Evangelists and Bro. Beare have just closed a campaign at a village nine miles from Balodgahan. The people listened well and were eager to hear the story of Jesus but were not willing to leave all and follow Jesus, but we trust the seed that has been sown may still bring forth fruit. In part of the same village the land-owner of the village called all the people out to hear the gospel, and in still another part of the same village a man who had been a servant for one of the missionaries in Balodgahan wanted to show his appreciation to them so invited them all for a meal. He was much pleased that they came and ate at his house. He would not eat with the evangelists or he would have been put out of caste. What a great day when India will be freed from the caste system!

Sankra.

The Annual Normal Meetings for the Christian workers are always an inspiration to them and to the congregation

where they are held. This year it was decided that each station should conduct its own meetings with the workers and congregation so that each congregation could get the benefit of the meetings.

At Sankra the missionaries and Indian co-workers divided the work among themselves. We had no speaker from the other stations except for one Sunday morning service. Bro. Kaufman brought us a very timely message on that occasion.

During the day we had Bible study and Round Table discussions with the workers only. In the evening we had a general service for all the congregation.

In our Bible study we took up the books of the Bible that the workers had in their study course, Amos and Romans. In our Round Table discussions we discussed soul-winning problems. All the workers were open and frank and we had very helpful talks on the subject. Many new and good resolutions were made by all of us and our prayers are that God may help us to carry them out. We all realized that we were only the clay in the hands of the great potter and that if we are to win any one for Him He will have to mould us and make us what He wants us to be. We all feel our weakness and unworthiness but at the same time the Lord speaks to us through His word and tells us that His Grace is sufficient for us and that His power is made perfect in weakness.

The evening meetings were of a general Evangelistic nature. In the first three meetings our Indian brethren emphasized the laying aside of all sin and putting on the Lord Jesus. Sunday morning Bro. Kaufman spoke of what it means to be a Christian. Sunday afternoon a comparison was made of religion by the Christian workers and in the evening Bro. Friesen spoke on what it means to be a Mennonite church member. All these meetings were much appreciated by the congregation and plans are being made to have another series of meetings during the Christmas holidays when many of our Christian's non-Christian friends will be here to attend. The congregation solicits the prayers of God's children in America.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Nov., 1929. § No. 11.

THANKSGIVING DAY

The Mennonite Church in India, partly in imitation of the National Thanksgiving Day in America, observes a special day for praise and thanksgiving on the second Thursday in November. The day has grown to be one of our leading Church holidays, almost on a par with Easter and Christmas. It is a well known fact that religious expression in India, everywhere in the orient for that matter, makes great stock of special days and festivals. The Christian holidays we have found to be of tremendous value in allowing for and cultivating religious expression. In a religious festival the Indian comes into his own.

Our Thanksgiving services are conducted on much the same lines in all our stations. The morning Church service begins the activity of the day. The Church is filled; people who scarcely ever attend are sure to be on hand on Thanksgiving morning. Praise songs and some of the beautiful Psalms are sung and appreciated in a special manner and with a real spirit. The sermon following is always a joy to preach because one finds the congregation responsive and the spirit of thanksgiving is in every heart. At the close of the sermon this spirit is given opportunity for expression in a practical way. A rug is spread in the front of the church and by turns the offerings are brought forward. Coins, rice, vegetables, fruit, chickens, clothing, and anything imaginable is brought and piled high and wide. The Lords' blessing is invoked on the offering, the service closed, and the goods taken out side the Church building to be auctioned off. Bidding is keen and in a short time the whole offering is converted into cash, this year from fifty rupees in the smaller congregations to one-hundred-fifty in the larger ones. It has long been the custom for the proceeds of this offering to be turned into the Home Mission fund. We are glad that

the Indian Mennonite Church believes and lives out a Thanksgiving-day that consists of much more than mere lip praise.

The Mission family was gladdened when on the 23rd of November the group of new and returning missionaries arrived at Dhamtari. The Esch family arrived a few days later since they drove through in a car from Bombay. It gives us new courage to work for having received these reinforcements and the messages of love and greeting they brought us from loved ones at home mean more than we can ever tell.

A class of thirty-eight is under instruction for baptism at the Shantipur Leper Home. Ten of these are untainted children, four are lepers under eighteen years of age, and the remainder are older lepers who have come in from the villages round about. Most of these will probably be baptized the first part of December while some will be given further instruction, before they will be privileged to become members of the Church.

Sister Sarah Lapp writes from Balodgahan, "There are 21 girls receiving instruction for baptism at present. Pray for them that they may become true followers of Jesus.

"All the girls are looking forward to Christmas when many will go home for two weeks. Those who have no homes and will have to remain in the orphanage look back to the time when they too had homes and they are saddened. But we try to make it as pleasant for them as we can and they have joy in their hearts for what Jesus did for them."

FROM OUR NEW MISSIONARIES

Bro. S. J. Hostatler writes the following from Sankra:

"On the first of this month Bro. Friesens handed over to us the work of the station here. We are very glad to have some actual work to do in India, besides just getting ready to work. However there are also many problems to be solved that require much of the direction of the Holy Spirit. We have already had to discipline some of the children of the

school kitchen. This is however not one of the most difficult problems.

"The patients who have been coming to the Wednesday clinic were considerably diminished in numbers the past few weeks on account of the rice harvest. But the harvest is over at most places now and the patients are again increasing. Two weeks ago we rejoiced when about a half dozen publicly announced their intention of worshiping and following only the true God. Bro. Friesen hopes to baptize them during the touring season. These clinics are a very good way of reaching the people regularly, and the Lord is doubtless blessing the seed of the gospel that is being sown.

"A week ago we were called late one evening to come to a village about eighteen miles away to a sick man. The car was not in running order and so Bro. Friesen, the Indian doctor, and I went in the truck. We had trouble with one tire and the lights and it was necessary to walk about five miles. We brought the patient along back to the hospital (dispensary ward). It took us all night. We got home at about eight in the morning. The man was suffering terribly from an extremely bad case of venereal disease. He has been operated on and besides that his body has been opened in four other places to drain out the pus. In several places the skin and flesh have literally rotted. We are praying for him and he is slowly improving. He seems to appreciate the medical help and the prayers. We hope it may be the means of bringing him to Christ.

"We have had the privilege of going out to several villages about here in the evening with Bro. Friesen to conduct meetings with the Indians. We have enjoyed them very much and hope that we will soon be able to help more than we can so far from our lack of familiarity with the language. There are a number in these villages whom we are hoping to be able to win to Christ.

"Our little Mary Ann was very sick with an attack of something like croup several days and we thought once she would leave us, but when medicine failed the Lord heard our call and brought her back to us. We are sure it was only

His miraculous answer to our prayer, and we thank Him for this goodness. Because we know that He is always with us wherever we may be we need not fear to go to places where medical help and other safety measures are not always present or within call."

MEDICAL STATION

A year ago a beggar girl named Sagni was brought to the hospital with bad, running sores. Not long ago she was baptized and is now in the orphanage at Balodgahan.

A little more than two years ago an old woman came to the home of one of the women who works in the hospital. She was taught and showed great interest in Jesus. In a short time she was baptized and evidenced a real experience. A few days ago she passed away—to a world where sorrow and trouble are not known.

Does hospital work pay? The above two cases will leave no doubt in our minds. Again we thank you at home for your kind remembrances of us and the work and we crave your continued help and prayers. We thank the Lord for the privilege of working for Him in this way.

On the 29th of November two Christian school masters came to the hospital and in great excitement said a panther had bitten them. It turned out that farmers had reported that a panther was sleeping in some grass in a field about a mile from Dhamtari. These two masters took their guns and went out to get him. They wounded him and then tried to drive him out of hiding. He attacked them and bit both on their hands and arms but they finally succeeded in killing him. The wounds have been treated, one is doing well but the other is more serious.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. VIII. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, Dec., 1929. § No. 12.

Annual Business Meeting.

The Annual meeting of the Mission was held at Balodgahan from the 10th to the 13th of December. There were thirty missionaries present with four absent on furlough which means that the missionary family now numbers thirty-four. The Beares kindly arranged their drawing and dining rooms into a meeting place, and the long, continuous table with a solid rank of chairs on either side extending under the center arch from the front door right up to the back veranda with extra chairs and benches in the corners indicated that the Mission family has had a healthy growth.

As has become a precedent, the first day of the meeting was spent in prayer, praise, and a consideration of devotional and spiritual subjects. Bro. Smucker was chairman of the first session and after the singing of several hymns he presented a number of challenging thoughts related particularly to Christ's words, "I, if I be lifted up will draw all men unto me". Bro. Kniss then spoke emphasizing again a number of the vital fundamentals of the Christian faith. This was followed by a period of intercessory prayer led by Bro. Bearé during which there was much searching of heart, renewed consecration, and fervent request for the blessing of God on the extension of the Kingdom and the establishment of His Church in our area for which we have a very special responsibility.

The afternoon session found the group in consideration of the subject of "Stewardship". Bro. Kaufman gave the address which was followed by an open discussion led by the chairman of the afternoon session. The subject was viewed not only in its financial aspects. This was, however, not omitted, and it was suggested that we as missionaries certainly want to continue to make true the statement that we all tithe our allowance. It was pointed out that we are stewards of the Word of Life, of ourselves, and that the care and establishment of the Indian Church have been given into our charge. We pledged ourselves to ask the Lord definitely

for at least fifty souls during the coming year. Will you labor with us in this request?

Each of the following three mornings were spent in devotional and inspirational meetings before the matters of business for the day were taken up. The various committees of the Mission reported and the work of each department was thus taken up for discussion, criticism and the formulation of policy. A special committee was provided for the study of our educational work with a view to correlating into a unified program all our school work including Bible and Normal School and all primary and secondary training given in the Mission. A special session of Business Meeting was called for the last week of February to hear this report and to take needed action. Special problems relating to the various phases of our Mission work were discussed, the annual building budget was made out in part, and a number of resolutions were passed expressing thanks and greetings to the home Board, the American constituency, our fellow missionaries in the Argentine, and to our own members about to proceed on furlough.

General News Items.

On December 15th Communion was observed at the Shantipur Church. Twenty-four believers were also baptized at this time. Dr. C. D. Esch, Bishop in charge, officiated at the service.

P. A. Friesen was forced to make a trip to Calcutta the latter part of December to have some dental work done that was making its urgency disagreeably felt.

Bro. Smucker from Dondi writes, "Our address will be Dondi, via Raj Nandgaon, C. P., India. Building work is again getting under way, but there is still much to do before everything will be finished and in its proper place." The Smucker family left for Dondi on the 17th of December and spent Christmas there with the small community of about fifteen Christians. Dondi is in the midst of a large unoccupied territory and the medical and evangelistic opportunities are large. Dondi is located fifty miles south-west of Dhamtari.

The Chamars in the village of Jhodapur near Dhamtari are still continuing their interest in Christianity. They have asked for regular Bible teaching and this request has been gladly met by the Mission. Both children and adults are being regularly taught. We have located a man in the village and Christian workers and missionaries from Dhamtari assist.

Bro. Graber spent two weeks the latter part of November and the first of December attending a special course in the treatment of leprosy at the School of Tropical Medicine in Calcutta. The shortage of medically trained missionaries makes it imperative for others to shoulder some of the responsibility. Leper treatment involves considerable routine that a layman with a little training can learn to do under a doctor's supervision.

Much could be written about the Christmas celebrations at the various stations. This continues to be the "Big Day" for the Indian Christian Community. Programs, services, meetings, friendly invitations to dinner, giving of gifts, and a heart-felt gladness are the routine of Christmas in India as elsewhere. The evangelistic opportunities furnished by such a holiday are immeasurable. So many of the Christians' non-Christian relatives come in to spend Christmas with them.

On the 29th of December a class of 23 was baptized at Balodgahan. Communion was also observed at the same time with Bro. P. A. Friesen in charge.

Work on the annual report of the Mission has begun. It will be a number of months, however, before this report will be available in print. In response to numerous requests for an up-to-date map of our field we have decided to prepare such a map for this report.

The annual *Jalsa* which was usually held between Christmas and New-Year will be held the coming Easter season instead. It will remain to be seen whether the heat of April will be more conducive to a good meeting with a large attendance than the chill of December. Both seasons seem to have climatic disadvantages.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES FOR 1930.

Educational.

J. N. Kaufman, Chm.
G. H. Beare.
Minnie M. Kanagy.
S. J. Hostetler.
E. E. Miller.
M. C. Lehman.
Mary M. Good.

Evangelistic.

J. D. Graber, Chm.
M. C. Vogt.
L. A. Kniss.
Sarah Lapp.
Elsie Kaufman.
P. A. Friesen.

Medical.

Dr. C. D. Esch, Chm.
Ada Hartzler.
Mary A. Wenger.
Dr. Florence Friesen.
J. D. Graber.

Auditing.

J. D. Graber, Chm.
J. N. Kaufman.
S. J. Hostetler.

Publicity.

E. E. Miller, Chm.
Lydia Lehman.
S. J. Hostetler.
Esther Vogt.
R. R. Smucker.

Lang. & Lit.

M. C. Lehman, Chm.
J. D. Graber.
Mary M. Good.
Mary A. Wenger.
R. R. Smucker.

Mission Treasurer—

M. C. Lehman.

Mission Recorder—

J. D. Graber.

Mission President—

E. E. Miller.

Continuation.

J. N. Kaufman, Chm.
P. A. Friesen.
E. E. Miller.

Managing Committee.

J. N. Kaufman, Chm.	M. C. Vogt.
E. E. Miller, Secy.	M. C. Lehman.
P. A. Friesen.	C. D. Esch.
Mary M. Good.	R. R. Smucker.
Mary A. Wenger.	G. H. Beare.
L. A. Kniss.	J. D. Graber.