

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. X. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, January, 1931. § No. 1.

"In angling for souls missions place too little stress on educating the natives.....They teach only a catechism at the expense of all the arts of civilization and of the new outlook on life which the biological sciences have revealed..... and evolution was anathema to large sections of Protestant and Catholic missionaries alike." This is criticism of missions indulged in by Julian Huxley, grandson of the famous scientist. We feel like thanking Mr. Huxley for this splendid tribute to the faithfulness of missions in keeping the emphasis on winning souls for Christ and in educating them in the arts of Christian living rather than in the arts of civilization. We gladly testify that we are still old fashioned enough to believe that the primary work of missions is to preach and teach Christ and to bring souls to Him for salvation according to the scriptures.

A FIRST IMPRESSION.

This Christmas being just after our return to India has been a very joyous one. Schools, the Christian community, Sunday Schools, etc. had programs, all of which were to the glory of God and served as a real ministry to the friends who came to visit their relatives over this Christmas-tide. We were impressed with the many non-Christian relatives who came to visit relatives in the widows' home and the Christian people living in the village of Balodgahan. They all attended the various meetings that were held and seemed to appreciate the testimonies of praise which their Christian relatives bore in public meeting as well as in conversation.

Many relatives of the lepers came to see them. The poor lepers entered into the Christmas activities with real zeal and a spirit becoming to the time.

How pleased all were with the clothing that came from America for orphans, widows, and the poor. God be praised for all the blessings this Christmas brought to many hearts.

—G. J. LAPP AND FAMILY.

DHAMTARI. *India*

Twenty-seven young people were baptized and received into Church fellowship in the Sunderganj Church on the two Sundays, December 14 and 21. The congregation now numbers 394.

Communion was observed in the 'Sunderganj congregation Sunday December 14th. A large percentage of the membership was present.

Christmas meetings were held from the angle of both the Sunday School and the Church, providing the usual joyous occasions for the people. The services on Christmas day were exceptionally well attended. We could properly tell the strength of the congregation since those here in school were away to their homes and those from the congregation who go away to school were at home and in the service.

The Minister of Education of the Central Provinces and Berar paid a visit to Dhamtari on Saturday December 27th and was interviewed by several of the missionaries.

On December 9th Bro. Kaufman arrived in Dhamtari with the Landour school party. The children were all well and were hilariously glad to get back home. Paul Kaufman and William Friesen finished the courses offered at Woodstock School and will be ready for College in America next autumn. There was a close race for first and second places in the graduating class between Paul and William, but Paul was finally declared the valedictorian. William, however, received the prize in the Scripture examinations. The Friesen family and Paul Kaufman expect to leave for America in February, and we predict further successes in school for these two boys.

DONDI.

Dec. 14th. We had our communion with Bro. G. J. Lapp in charge. Fifteen partook of the sacred emblems. Several people were absent from the station.

On the evening of Dec. 24th. we invited a number of the leading people of the neighborhood to a Christmas program. Most of the invited came and seemed to enjoy the service. There were between sixty and seventy present.

On Christmas day we had services for the Sunday School children in particular. We tried to get the children from all our village Sunday Schools to come. A good number were present but quite a few were afraid to let their children come. We are not quite well enough acquainted with the people as yet; by another year we hope this fear will be removed. We had a very pleasant Christmas season. Immediately after Christmas a number of our people started out for Balodgahan to attend the Jalsa which is to be held between Christmas and New Year.

THE MEDICAL STATION—DHAMTARI.

Dec. 14th. A baby daughter, Laverne, was born to Bro. and Sister Vogt. Mother and child are doing well.

Dec. 15th. Dr. Benson, our Indian assistant doctor, left for two months of vacation. He had been working for two years without any time off and he needed a change. Dr. Esch will be very busy during these two months with all the work to do by himself.

The Christmas season passed joyfully. The hospital was open for one hour in the morning on Christmas day, and then all went to the services. The Hindu patients were interested in our holiday and it gave us a good opportunity to tell of Christ the Saviour. An orange was given to each patient and relative as a little remembrance.

GHATULA.

On Christmas morning all the children from the schools came to give their numbers on the program and to receive

their handful of candy. Our little Church was about as full as it could get for besides the children there were a large number of other Hindu people.

The day after Christmas all the girls of the school boarding left for the Jalsa at Balodgahan. This was a rare treat for those who have no parents for they usually have to stay here at Ghatula during the holidays. Most of the girls walked the 50 miles to Balodgahan.

BABIES HOME—DHAMTARI.

Two new baby girls, Ruth and Naomi, were admitted into the Home the latter part of November. A boy and a girl, James and Jane, were admitted about Christmas time.

The babies as well as all the helpers enjoy the new Baby Home building very much. The Baby Home folk and the children from the Christian para gave a short program on Christmas night.

The babies want to thank their kind friends at home for their new Christmas clothes, blankets, dresses, dolls, etc.

BALODGAHAN.

Dec. 21st was a full day at the Church here. At the morning service we had Communion and baptismal services. Nineteen were received into Church fellowship by baptism and three others were reinstated upon confession of their sins. In the afternoon service we had the annual choosing of a pastor. Bro. G. J. Lapp was chosen.

In our Christmas day service over 1000 people were present. A number of non-Christians from surrounding villages came. Christmas offers one of the best opportunities for making contacts and friendships with non-Christians.

Sister Sarah Lapp writes the following: On December 8th a few of us went on a 5-day tour northwest of here. We visited in six different villages and sold some Scripture portions. All but a few received us gladly, and one man especially seemed much interested.

We returned home over Sunday and on Monday the 15th started out again southeast of here through the jungle and camped at Juma, near the Mahanadi River, a quiet place below the range of hills. The place is a beautiful one from a scenic point of view. The wide, flat, fertile valley with the River winding among the small, irregular rice-fields stretches out for miles between rugged ranges of wooded hills. The people in the villages were glad to have us come, and begged us to visit their homes. At one village we could not get away till about sundown, and then we still had about a mile to walk. We trust the Word given them may not be forgotten.

At Sankra, by actual count, 98 non-Christians spent the holidays with their Christian relatives in the station. At Shantipur there were also many more visitors than usual. In this way many from the villages learn of Christ.

Chaitu, a former untainted boy at the leper home, and later an evangelist, has recently been admitted into the leper home as a patient. We trust the treatments may soon give him relief.

On Dec. 21st Communion was observed at both Shantipur and Maradeo. At Maradeo two young people, children of Deacon Persadi, were received into Church fellowship by baptism.



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A part of the crowd who attended Jalsa congregated in front of the Bethel Church at Balodgahan.

JALSA.

All day December 27th on the roads leading to Balodgahan could be seen Christian people of our various congregations, some on foot, some on cycles, some in carts, tongas and other vehicles, all on their way to the annual Jalsa. In 1929 arrangements for this Jalsa miscarried and the Christian people keenly missed this annual spiritual life conference and revival meeting.

Hence, this year interest was at a high level and we had the largest and most representative crowds and a series of the best meetings held in years. At some sessions as many as 1000 people were in attendance and the large Bethel church at Balodgahan was filled to the doors. It is on such occasions that our large church buildings are especially appreciated.

Bro. G. J. Lapp brought the message each evening after a praise service conducted by Bro. P. A. Friesen. The forenoon and afternoon programs were made up of talks and sermons by various missionaries and Indian members of the church, as well as sectional meetings during the first hour of the afternoon sessions.

The motto for the meetings, cut in large letters on a streamer across the front of the church and printed at the head of the programs was, "Lord, beginning with me, revive Thy Church". A sincere desire for a personal, individual revival and fervent appeals for renewed consecration and fresh zeal for the cause of Christ were noted in every public address. The program was built around the characteristics of the early Church as suggested by Acts 2:46,47 and an attempt was made to understand and to re-live the spiritual fervor and the evangelistic zeal of the first disciples at Jerusalem. The Lord gave us a special blessing and our prayer is that this revival may be a perpetual one and that it may bear much fruit during the coming year.

On Sunday the 28th December the Jalsa gave way to an all-day Sunday School Conference. On the afternoon of the 31st, after the Jalsa had closed with the morning session, the annual Church Conference was opened. Bro. Friesen preached the conference sermon from the text, "That they might be unto me for a people, and for a name, and for a praise, and for a glory" (Jer. 11:13). The work of the conference continued to the evening of the following day.

SANKRA.

Bro. Friesens are out on tour and find good interest in the villages. In two villages some few are asking to become Christians. Evidences are plain that the Spirit is working among them and is manifesting His power.

Grace and Paul Friesen are recovering from whooping cough. Some anxiety was felt at first that they might not recover in time to sail on Feb. 21st, but they are much better and are improving rapidly.

Bro. Nathan is suffering from gastric cancer and is very low. His testimony is sure. He says, "I am ready to meet my Lord. My prayer is that the Lord may take me soon if He sees fit not to heal me. But I'll bear any pain He may send; He is my saviour and knows best."

January 17th—born to Bro. and Sister Daniya a fine laddie.

A cancer case, a Hindu woman, is in our dispensary ward at present. She is in a very serious condition. She manifests much interest in the songs and enjoys listening to the Gospel. She prays, "Jesus forgive my sins". She is not far from the Kingdom.

MEDICAL STATION—DHAMTARI.

Dr. Benson, our Indian assistant, has been on leave and that has made the load heavier for the rest of us for the patients are numerous.

Bro. Mathias, Teacher, has been brought in from Marumsilli school with a severe attack of black-water fever (a severe form of malaria). He is making good progress at this time.

The foundations for a dispensary building and evangelist's house are being put in at Kurud. We hope to open medical and evangelistic work there as soon as the buildings are complete.

Sister Holsopple moved to this station on the 19th January and is preparing to take over the work in the hospital when Sister Hartzler leaves for furlough in March.

The past year has been a busy one for the hospital workers. There were more patients in the wards than usual and this consequently makes more work. A new ward of five rooms was finished which gives more room for patients. At present all but one or two rooms are full.

16124 patients were treated during the year, 338 operations were performed, and 1336 leper treatments were given. There are 69 men and 57 women on the leper clinic roll, but a number of these do not attend regularly. Most of the above numbers have heard some of the gospel. Will you pray that the seed sown may bear much fruit!

The babies enjoy their new home with its sunny verandah. The compound wall is now being constructed around the home. We hope soon to plant flowers, trees, and garden vegetables within the wall. Several swings and the sand pile occupy much of the older babies' time these days.

DHAMTARI.

On the 6th January a general meeting of the Sunderganj congregation was called for the purpose of electing a pastor, members of the council, and the graveyard committee for 1931. Bro. C. D. Esch, our Bishop, presided at the meeting. Bro. J. N. Kaufman was elected pastor for 1931.

Jan. 16th and 17th were spent on a trip to Ghatula and Likhma. At the latter place we looked over the plot of land we own there and transacted some business with the agent of the owner of the village regarding the land. At Ghatula we took measurements and agreed on prices for two plots of the land the Mission is purchasing there in connection with the Girls' Industrial School. We also cycled to Ummergaon to measure off a plot of land for the new school which has been started at that place. While at Ghatula we audited the accounts of Bro. Vogt and Sister Kanagy in order to save the Auditing Committee a special trip. The time was full and these were two busy days.

While on this trip through the jungle we saw our first wild buffalo. He would have been an easy mark for the rifle but these animals are protected by law.

J. N. KAUFMAN.

BALODGAHAN.

We are organizing groups of lay members for regular evening evangelistic visits to the villages.

The Beares spent the first two weeks of January on tour at Chikli. Sister Sarah Lapp has been out the entire month in the regions to the south of the station.

Annual examinations are being held in the village schools. Scripture examinations will also be held. Visits to the schools convince us that the teachers are conscientiously trying to give the word of life to the village children.

Baptismal services will be held here on Sunday Jan. 25th.

The Balodgahan Sunday Schools opened in the beginning of the new year with an enrollment of 542.

Sunday Schools are also being conducted in a number of the surrounding villages during the week.

DONDI.

Jalapa the infant daughter of Bro. Daru has been very ill with Pneumonia and for some time we did not think that she would recover. Many were the prayers on her behalf and she is now past the crisis and is recovering.

The evangelistic work is going on with good interest.

Our Sunday School was reorganized. Bro. Prasano was chosen as Superintendent. And assignments were made for six village S. S. We are trying to make these more effective.

At the beginning of the month work was begun on the yard fence around our building. The fence is a brick wall. That has been proven the most durable kind of fence and so the cheapest in the long run for brick are cheap and labor is cheap.

IN GENERAL.

Sister Vogt and Laverne returned home to Ghatula on Dec. 28th.

On Jan. 2nd. Bro. Lapp, with his new four-wheel trailer, took sixteen girls back to Ghatula who had come out to attend the Jalsa. He then brought a load of furniture and other goods back with him.

The Ghatula evangelists spent the first two weeks of the new year on tour far to the south of Ghatula station. They preached at places where the Gospel had never been preached before.

Rev. Crawshaw, deputation secretary for the Mission to Lepers in New Zealand, spent Jan. 13th. at the Shantipur Leper Home.

The lepers at Shantipur are busy these days with making brick, threshing the 1930 crop of rice, and in doing field repair work. Work is found to be a very beneficial aid to treatment of the disease.

Bro. Hostetlers spent a few days with the Knisses on tour at Gariaband about the middle of January. Many of the missionaries are out on evangelistic tour. We hope to give a fuller account of the various tours in the next issue which will be a touring number.



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TOURING NUMBER

Touring Experiences

By SARAH LAPP.

Two Bible Women with myself, a few men, cartmen and tonga-driver left home on Dec. 8th to visit some villages north-west of Balodgahan. These villages are about eight miles away and are not often visited by evangelists or Bible women.

We took three small tents, beds, bedding, eatables, pails, cooking utensils—a complete housekeeping equipment in fact for you must remember that in rural India you cannot depend on the drug store around the corner for forgotten supplies. If possible we usually pitch our tents at a little distance from the village under some trees, near a water supply for convenience in cooking, watering the oxen, washing, etc.

We spent five days in the first camp and visited seven different villages. In some of these villages lived relatives of some of our party and they were kind and helpful to us. All received the Word gladly. In one village lived a Punjabi Sikh. When he heard that we were in the village he sent for us and when we came he and his wife made some tea for us. After tea he wanted to see a Bible. He had heard about the Christians' Bible and about Jesus and requested that we read to him about the trial, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. He listened attentively and said he believed, but has not made the final step. Pray for him that he may become willing to leave all and accept Jesus.

As we were leaving a certain village the village Kotwal (watchman) walked along with us to show us a foot path to the next village. As we were walking along we came to

some graves. I said to him, "Do you know that the bodies in these graves will rise again? That every one who has ever died and all will have to appear before God?" He said he had never heard that. Just then a man walking along caught up with us and heard the conversation. "How can we know if no one tells us about these things?" he said. And he is only one of India's millions who does not know about Jesus the Saviour. Who will help to send, and say, "Here am I; send me"?

We have been out over a month among the villages south and southeast and have returned several times for fresh supplies. Nearly all received us and listened attentively to the message. But to leave friends and caste is so hard for them to do.

We have been in 45 villages and to several bazars. We have sold 37 Gospel portions and 290 books besides distributing free Gospels, Testaments and other books. In many villages they asked us to come back as they wanted to hear more. "The harvest truly is great but the laborers are few". Will everyone pray that these many lost people will find Jesus and receive salvation!

BALODGAHAN.

For me touring was a new experience as this was the first time I had the privilege of going out into the district. All the experiences which came were not pleasant but I think they were profitable. One great encouragement to me was,—the common people heard the story gladly.

A great deal of my touring was done in Kanker State and we found the people very happy and willing to hear the message.

My first camp was in Chickli (an out station where Bro. Saul and family live). While here my wife and family and Sister Sarah Lapp were with me for a week. They worked among the women of the district. We had meetings at night in Chickli and in the day we went to neighboring villages. The people came out and were very attentive.

Near Chickli we met two individuals with whom we had especially good conversations. One was a woman, a mal-

guzar's widow. She was not well so I was called to see her. While there she grieved very much over the death of her husband and this afforded me an opportunity to tell her of the peace and hope that comes thru faith in Jesus Christ.

The other was the Malguzar of Thasi (a village about one mile from Chickli). This man is very friendly to the Christians and also to Bro. Saul and family. We had a very good opportunity to talk to him several times about his soul's salvation. He is a very nice man and can read and write. I gave him a Bible some time ago and he has read quite a bit of it. This is one man who has received the word thru the money sent for Bibles by friends in America. The touring field is very large and there is much to be done and many are willing to listen to the message.

One day we went to Kurn a large bazaar about 22 miles from Chickli. Here an annual celebration called "Marai" was in progress. People from 30 to 40 miles came. We had a good supply of books and sold quite a few and were having a good meeting. Soon 5 or 6 High School boys from Kanker City came and tried to break up the meeting by singing and talking very loudly near us. After that had no effect they bought some books and burned them so near that the smoke and ashes blew over us. This also had no effect so they tried to push an old beggar into our midst. He told them that they should not be so foolish, that they should mind their own business. Then they brot a dancing girl and several drummers near and made all the noise they could. This also was no hindrance so they started talking to us. We talked a little and then told them to go away. Soon Bro. Solomon began to preach and then they were very insulting to him. They called him names and said very many ugly things about him. But he only preached more boldly. They finally left and our meeting proceeded. This disturbance was no hindrance for it drew a larger crowd than we had before. In this also we were more than conquerors. Pray for the work in Kanker State. Pray also for the work in Balodgahan district for we expect to put forth a special effort during the hot season in the evenings.

G. H. BEARE.

TOURING EXPERIENCES.

MOHADI.

Our last tour extended from Mohadi to Kamaipur and thence to Gariaband and to Chura, returning to Mohera, then to Kamaipur and home.

Chura was a new place for us as we had never been there before. Many of the villages in that section are small and situated in the forest where the people are very shy.

In one small village we found at home two women—a grandmother, and a mother with her two young boys. When the boys saw us they hid. After we spoke a few words to the mother they came cautiously into the courtyard, when I finally persuaded one of the naked boys to be seated in my lap, and told him the story related to a S. S. picture card I gave to him. The little crowd of them were so interested in what we had to say that we felt it had paid to spend an hour or so there.

In another village, upon our entering they all took to their heels, and so we just sat down by a house near the center of the village for a while to wait. Soon we saw several men coming toward us from the other side of the village, bearing a pig they had killed for a feast, and when they saw us they also hid, pig and all. Finally by much persuasion, one man who had ventured his head out thru a gate came and sat down with us very hesitatingly. With still more persuasion a child was brought near enough so that we could hand him a S. S. card, only to see him take it and run off. Soon however, quite a crowd gathered about us and they were good listeners while some even enquired and others bought books. Such places should be visited regularly.

One man came to us one day saying that he wanted to become a Christian. Inquiry revealed that he had gone to live with a woman of a caste lower than his own and so he was outcasted. We fear untrue motives so we are waiting to see fruits.

In one village we met a couple who had once been Christians but had drifted far back into the world. These want to be reinstated. The woman at once took off all her

beads, bangles, ear ornaments, finger rings and toe rings etc. and gave them all to us. The man had us cut off his queue. We believe them to be sincere as they both prayed earnestly for pardon and seemed very submissive.

At the Chura bazaar we were able to sell quite a few books. The crowds gathered around to listen and after singing and talking a little we offered our books for sale when from all directions outstretched hands showed us the pice with which they wanted to purchase their books.

There is much work, and few workers. We solicit your prayers and support in behalf of the many who will accept if they hear.

L. A. KNISS.

Touring in the Sankra District

By R. R. SMUCKER.

Bagdai is a village about seven miles from Sankra. This is a place where the Gospel has been presented often in the past. One year we felt that they were not far from the Kingdom as a group. Then the Devil snatched them away. This past year they again showed evidence of the Spirit's work. Brother Friesen in his tour stopped there for some days. His report of the meetings was this: "If you didn't know they weren't Christians by their dress and pig-tail, and went only by the way they sang and repeated the Lord's prayer and gave testimony, you would surely think they were Christian villages". One day Brother Friesen overheard his cook talking with several men. The men told the cook that within two years the entire village would be Christian. Brother Friesen stepped out and not able to contain himself longer said, "Why not be Christian today?" They hung their heads and couldn't reply. Oh for that last step across. They know Jesus, have felt His convicting presence, know what they should do—but the Devil doesn't let them take the road to its logical end.

One man named Bhirbam, a Leper, is surely a man who needs our prayers. He is the leader in a village among a

group of lepers. These lepers have been coming faithfully to the clinic for the past two years or so. His father, however, to quote Brother Friesen, "is a regular devil in disguise". This young man, Bhirbam is still in his father's house. But he surely is an earnest seeker. The other lepers who are convicted of sin and of righteous and of judgment openly say, "We will all come together if Bhirbam does." Brother Friesen worked there for a week or so and then went back again later on. He got things stirred up so much that the 'secret believers' asked him to let things quiet down a bit before saying much more. This Bhirbam was ordered by his evil father to leave the meeting one evening. Feeling very badly for this public disgrace (as he felt) he felt with his head hanging. About mid-night that night Brother Friesen with one man walked down to the threshing floor where they thought they might find him. They saw no one. Finally they found him, covered up with straw and sobbing as though his heart would break. A blessed little meeting there in the darkness comforting one of 'the little ones' sitting on the straw beside that straw pile. God was very near and they left Bhirbam strangely comforted. Ask Brother Friesen. Pray that this entire group might have the vision and the courage to openly confess Christ and take His name.

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In Memoriam

DR. CHRISTIAN DAVID ESCH.

A gloom has been cast over the mission by the sudden and untimely death of one of our co-laborers. His death occurred so suddenly and the shock was so great that it has left us dazed and unable even yet to appreciate the full force of the tragic circumstance. We have been taught again the lesson of trust in our God. No logic nor philosophy could answer for us the inevitable question, "Why?", and we have been taught again not to ask the question but simply to trust. God has sustained and comforted in a definite way the members of the bereaved family as well as the members of the larger mission family. Christ has shown us again that, "Death is but the narrow, star-lit pathway between the companionships of yesterday and the reunions of tomorrow". He has indeed walked the valley and the shadow of death with us.

The details of the tragic death of Dr. Esch have all appeared in other periodicals so we give herewith merely a few of the important events in his life of service and devotion to God and the Church. He was born near Wellman, Iowa on October 12, 1883. and died at Adamabad, near Dhamtari, C. P., India on February 21, 1931. He gave his heart to Christ and united with the Mennonite Church in his youth. He early felt the call of doing special work for the Church along medical lines and completed a course in a medical school in Chicago in preparation for this work. In May 1910 he was appointed by the Mission Board to go to India as a Medical missionary. He was married to Mina Brubaker on the 5th of September 1910 and together with Sister Esch arrived in India late in the same year. He was ordained to the office of Bishop by the Indian Mennonite Conference in the year 1924.

Any summary of his work as a missionary would simply be one continuous chapter of self-sacrificing Christian service as a Doctor and as a Missionary. The loss to the mission through his death seems irreparable, but we pray

that God may raise up other medical missionaries with the spirit and testimony of our lamented Brother C. D. Esch.

STATION NEWS ITEMS.

Dondi.

An evening class for several young men who wish to learn to read has been begun.

During the last week we have been having very good evening meetings in the villages. A number of the people of the congregation have been assisting, especially with the singing. The village people have shown good interest.

A number of persons have expressed privately a desire to accept Christ, but to date they have made no public declaration to that effect. This latter step is the most important. Will you pray for them that they may not hesitate to come out and boldly accept Him?

—A. C. BRUNK.

Dhamtari.

The results of the examinations in the fourth class of the Primary School here have just been announced. 19 out of 36 candidates have passed which is just a trifle above the average. The Deputy Inspector of Schools gives the examinations.

The foundation has been laid and work is proceeding with the addition to the Eby Girls' School. We are adding two full-sized rooms in order to make it suitable for the combined boys' and girls' school for next school year.

With the increasing hot weather the school hours have been shifted to the morning. School now begins at seven in the morning and runs to 10:30.

—S. JAY HOSTETTLER.

On March 16th a monster demonstration was made in Dhamtari celebrating the release of political prisoners who had been incarcerated from Dhamtari. Literally miles of streamers and bunting, and numerous arches over the main roadway, some of cart wheels, some of brass pots, and others of various articles were constructed in honor of the returning heroes.

On March 9th Mrs. Miller and two children, Mrs. Hostetler and two children, and Mrs. Kaufman and child left for Landour where the children will attend school. It is very lonely in the station without them. They traveled via Calcutta making the entire distance 1500 miles.

Sister Esch and family and Sisters Hartzler and Kanagy left Dhamtari for Bombay from where they sailed via S. S. Tuscania on the 12th March for home.

J. N. KAUFMAN.

Balodgahan.

Communion services are being held in the different churches during the Easter season. On Sunday, March 22nd 391 people partook of the sacred emblems in Balodgahan.

Annual examinations have been held in the Girls' School and the registers show a good percentage of passes in both the Government and Bible courses of study.

The annual examinations have been held in the village schools. The Bible examinations have been held with gratifying results. There is a good interest shown on the part of the children of Hindus and Mohammedans in Bible study. There is a growing respect for Christian religious teaching which we hope and pray will break out in a general turning to the Lord.

A number of weddings have taken place the last month between girls of the Boarding and young men from the Christian community. This means the establishment of more Christian homes. May God bless their lives and their new homes.

G. J. LAPP.

Mohadi.

At our last Communion, March 15th, all the communicant members were present and took part in the service. Also one who had formerly back-slidden was reinstated. We thank our Heavenly Father for the evidences of His grace upon our small congregation here. Love and good-will and a concern for the lost about us are growing.

We were prevented from going on tour recently because of other duties. There is one village only two miles from here in which recently a great change has taken

place in their attitude toward Christ. We hope to use this opening for special effort.

L. A. KNISS.

Ghatula.

The girls of the Industrial School are busy making bricks for the well which we expect to put down in the garden. During the last month they harvested the pea crop. After that they took the tile off one of the houses in the Boarding so that new bamboos could be put on in place of the old ones which had become rotten and white-ant-eaten.

The evangelists have been visiting melas and distant villages the past six weeks. They may go on tour for a few weeks during the first part of April.

—M. C. VOGT.

Sankra.

Sankra Bungalow seems strangely deserted these days. After our arrival here Dec. 1st 1930, there were the Friesen children as well as our own to keep us supplied with the usual family noises. When Bro. Friesen left for furlough the latter part of February it made quite a difference even with our two boys still at home. On March 10 Sister Smucker and the two boys left for the hills, the boys planning to start to school Monday, March 16th. The party reached there Friday, March 13th. Here at Sankra it seems very quiet and lonely, especially in the evenings.

Our Indian Doctor Hamilton is not working here at Sankra with us anymore. It was thot best to let him go as he was very incapable and not at all strong physically. Sister Dr. Friesen advised letting him go and getting a younger man. We now have a young man here by the name of John Kesun who is one of our own boys who has learned the 'compounder' trade. Not a doctor, but knowing compounding and mixing of drugs and incidentally a lot of real doctor lore.

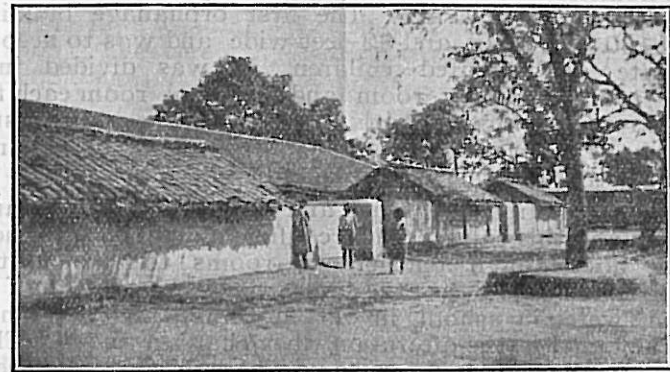
Pray for the welfare of the community in the absence of any resident missionary during May and June. Pray that there may be a real spiritual awakening here among our people. We need it so much. We are praying—you are too, aren't you? Thanks. I thot so,

— R. R. SMUCKER,

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. X. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, May, 1931. § No. 5.

THE GIRLS' ORPHANAGE.



A corner of the Girls' compound showing yard walls and kitchens.

"Do you remember the time of famine and how we begged from shop to shop in the bazaar, receiving only a little all day, and then how we used to cook our handful of rice in our little earthen vessels? Do you remember how the people used to curse us and beat us and drive us away when we went to beg? Do you remember how we went along the road, sick and foot-sore, eating leaves of trees and picking up a few grains here and there, and how we had scarcely a rag of clothing? But now this is all changed. We have food, clothing and shelter."

The speaker, a young woman, held up her Testament and said, "It is all because of Jesus Christ, now should we not thank Him?"

Thus spoke Garjan Bai to the girls who had come into the orphanage a short time before. She was a beautiful character and soon became a leader among the girls. Later on she became matron of the orphanage and held that position until her death during the flu epidemic of 1918.

The Girls' Orphanage had its beginning during the famine of 1899-1900. Many children were left orphans and homeless and so were cared for by Brother Kessler and Dr. and Mrs. Page. The first orphanage building was 160 feet long and 32 feet wide and was to accommodate one hundred children. It was divided into four rooms, a living room and a school room each for the boys and for the girls. When Brother and Sister Burkhard arrived in Oct. 1900 the number of children had increased to one hundred and eighty.

The children ate, slept and had classes in the same rooms and this caused much confusion and delay. There were not enough teachers or rooms to have all the children in school at the same time so, while half of them were in school in the morning, the other half worked, and in the afternoon they changed about. This system was kept up for some years because sufficient teachers were not available. Some of the girls of higher classes helped in teaching the lower classes. By the end of 1900 there were 224 boys and 165 girls and they still kept coming.

Bible teaching and Sunday School were started from the beginning and some of the older boys and girls accepted Christ as their Saviour. The girls did all their own cooking and cleaning and some of them learned to sew nicely.

In January 1902 an epidemic of small pox broke out among the children and while seventy of them took the disease, only seven died.

"A number of times the treasury was entirely empty and the missionaries did not know where the next meal for the children was to come from, but always when the time came for the food to be cooked, the Lord had

sent the rupees from some source or other and no one ever went hungry. The Lord did just what He had promised, "My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

In 1902 it was thought wisest to separate the boys and girls so a site was bought at Rudri and in May 1903 the girls were moved into their new building at that place. Brother and Sister M. C. Lapp were in charge of the girls at this time.

The first wedding from the orphanage was on July 4, 1905. The ceremony was performed under a tree outside the orphanage compound.

In May of 1906 the boys and girls were changed, the girls going to Dhamtari and the boys to Rudri, and in June 1910 they were again interchanged. In 1912 the Rudri site was sold to the Irrigation Department of Government and so the girls were moved to Balodgahan where new buildings were put up for them and a new bungalow for the missionaries in charge.

One night in 1906, when the girls lived in Dhamtari, a mad jackal came into the orphanage and bit two of the girls. Brother M. C. Lapp went out to investigate and was also bitten. Their wounds were cauterized but it was thought wisest for them to go to the Pasteur Institute up in the Himalaya Mountains, a three days trip away. The treatments were successful and after twenty-four days they all returned home again.

By the year 1920 there were only five girls remaining who had come during the famine of 1900. One was blind, another half blind, one was deaf and dumb and two mentally deficient so they were transferred to the Widow's Home.

The flu epidemic of 1918 and the famine of 1919 and 1920 brought in a new lot of girls and by the end of 1920 there were 246 inmates, 75% of whom were orphans or had only one parent living. The others were the daughters of our Christians who came into the institution to attend school.

In June 1929 thirty-three girls were transferred to Ghatula where an Industrial School was opened. These girls could not go on in the regular school course as required by government so it was thought best to open a separate school for them. In 1930 fourteen more girls were sent to Ghatula.

Our institution has become a Boarding School, for, beside three girls who help in the work and two older women, all the girls go to school. We take the Christian girls in when of school age if they do not have desirable school privileges where they live, otherwise they come when they have passed the Primary School course, which is Fourth Standard. 59 of the girls are daughters of Christians and have both parents living, 81 have one parent living and 40 are orphans, making a total of 180. In February we admitted two little girls who graduated from the Baby Home.

Formerly the food for all the girls was cooked in one lot but in 1928 walls were built in front of each room, to form a yard, and a small kitchen, with mud walls, was built in each yard. The girls were arranged in groups of eight, ten and twelve, according to the size of the room. A responsible girl was placed in charge of each group to supervise the work of the room. The work is divided among the different girls, two girls in each room do the cooking. It is working very well and the girls are getting valuable training in homemaking. There are both big and little girls in each room.

During the cooler months of the year the rising bell rings at 5:30. The girls who are responsible for the cooking must get up at once and start their fires for the morning meal. The other girls wash their faces, brush their teeth, comb their hair and clean up their room and yard. The more studious ones try to get some studying done. The first bell for school rings at 7:30 and at 8:00 they march out to school. They go out according to classes and they make a long line. At 11:30 they return from school and go back to classes again at 2:00 o'clock. School is out at 3:45. The girls are divided into working

groups, such as sewing, carrying water, grinding, cleaning, etc., and after school each group works until 5:30 when the bell rings for the evening meal. At 6:30 they go out to the schoolhouse for an hour and a half of study. At 8:30 the retiring bell rings. When the days are warmer they go to school earlier in the morning and are thru with their classes by noon.

The girls have daily Bible lessons in school, also morning prayers at the opening of school and evening prayers at the close of the study hour. During the noon recess they all meet in the orphanage for prayers and for announcements which affect all the girls. The noon prayers are conducted in turn by the responsible girls, called matrons, in charge of the different rooms. These meetings are under the supervision of the orphanage matron, a widow who lives in the orphanage with the girls.

When the 8:30 retiring bell rings all the matrons gather in the orphanage matron's room and discuss the work and events of the day and have prayer together. If any girl has broken a rule during the day or has done something which deserves punishment, the matrons decide what her punishment is to be. They live among the girls and know both sides of the case better than the missionary, who lives outside, could possibly know them and so are better able to make an impartial decision. Their advice has been very valuable in maintaining discipline in the orphanage.

We are glad for evidences of growth in grace and an effort to live a true Christian life. Not long ago there was food being stolen in one of the rooms and the matron of that room was partly to blame because she did not stay in her room and see that the food was properly dealt out, she was also displeased with the orphanage matron for continually reminding her of her duties. We had to call her to the bungalow and remind her of her responsibilities, and after some time she was willing to ask forgiveness of the matron and to try to do better. Several days later when it was her turn to lead

in the noon prayers, she told the girls of her failings and said that she wanted to be a better Christian example to them. This same girl is in the Bible Class in school and went to villages with the Bible women several times for some practical experience. One day they got into a home in which the woman of the house recognized this girl as a member of her clan by some tatoo marks on her arm. She begged the girl to stay with her but the girl refused and gave a wonderful testimony for Jesus and begged the family to accept Him too.

In February Mr. Yunas, an Indian Children's Missionary, was here for six days and had meetings morning and evening with the girls. While there were no open confessions, many of the girls reconsecrated their lives to the Lord. Our prayer is that they may have strength to be true to Him at all times and that when they leave this institution they may be Christian examples wherever they go.

By FANNIE H. LAPP, *Manager,*
Girls Orphanage, Balodgahan.



INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. X. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, June, 1931. § No. 6.

Schools in the Himalayas.

This year children of our missionaries are in two schools in the high hills. One child is in Queen's Hill at Darjeeling, while six are in Woodstock at Landour. Sending small children a thousand miles away to school for nine months of a year is one of the hard trials of the foreign missionary. We believe that you will be interested to know something about the schools where our children attend. So we present herewith two short articles setting forth a few outstanding facts regarding Queen's Hill and Woodstock which we believe you will be glad to read.

Queen's Hill School, Darjeeling.

This year Harriet Lapp happens to be the only one from our Mission attending school in Darjeeling. Her parents felt that it would be better for her to finish her High School work in the Institution in which she had gone from the beginning. She was in school in America during the time of her parents' furlough and because of the difference in time of the school year she had some work to make up in order to keep up with her class but she hopes to be able to finish by the Fall of 1932.

Queen's Hill School was established years ago by the Methodist Church and is still under her control. The system of education in vogue in the school is according to the British system. This has not however been any disadvantage to the students who have gone from India to America.

The school building which contains class rooms, cooking and dining rooms, dormitory rooms, etc. is very large and well built. It is stone with iron window frames shipped from America, and has plenty of light and ventilation for the health of the children. It is located north of the city of Darjeeling on a beautiful slope of the mountain side with a wonderful view of the snowy ranges of the Himalayas which lie to the North.

Not only white children attend the school, but Anglo-Indian and Indian children from homes where the parents can afford to pay the expenses are also admitted. We have found that the children who are thus led to sympathetically associate with all kinds of better class children are kept from becoming snobbish and from forming dislikes for children of other nationalities and color. A missionary's child should grow up to love all classes of people.

During the last few weeks special meetings were held among the boys and girls of the school. There is a Children's Mission organized in London for the purpose of bringing definite Gospel messages to the children of every land. There are six English workers among boys and girls who visit the different schools in the Hills of India both north and south and also a number of Indian workers who visit the various institutions for Indian boys and girls and hold special evangelistic meetings among them. Two of the English workers were in Darjeeling recently and held special meetings and did personal work among the boys and girls of Queen's Hill School. The workers were Mr. McNeil and Miss Berry. They are both consecrated workers and many boys and girls were led to a closer walk with God.

The boys of the school have separate dormitories a little farther down the hill on a farm which was bought by the Methodist Church. Between and on both sides of the school and dormitories are cottages for missionaries which have been built both by private persons and the managers of the state for the purpose of accommodating missionaries whose children attend the

school. (Other people may also rent cottages if they are available). The rent is very reasonable and furnishes a good home for those who wish to avail themselves of them.

Darjeeling like all Hill stations is far away from our homes on the plains which makes it necessary for us to have our children far from us during part of the year but the healthful climate and thoro teaching in the school and good environment for the children all make us feel that it is worthwhile to have them in the Hills during part of the year. They can still be with us during vacation time until they have grown to the age that they must be sent to the homeland.

—G. J. LAPP.

WOODSTOCK SCHOOL, Landour—Mussoorie.

In this short letter we will give a few thots concerning Woodstock School where some of our children go to school. This year with the exception of Harriet Lapp, all our mission children in school are in Woodstock School in Landour.

This school was first organized in 1852 and since 1854 has been at its present location near the outer limits of Mussoorie Station municipality. It has been owned and controlled by The American Presbyterian Mission since 1874. In 1923 The American United Presbyterian Mission became a Co-operating body as well. Then in 1927 various other missions joined forces and now there are eight separate missions or bodies who are either co-operating or affiliated, the difference being in the degree of help furnished to the school itself. Some give money and a teacher, others give just money. The children of co-operating missions and affiliated missions do not pay tuition and get a 20% reduction in board dues. This makes about \$46.00 per child less than non-co-operating missions have to pay. For instance we have to pay \$46.00 per child per nine months more than do the seven

or more missions affiliated with the school. Our mission families have to bear this extra charge as the mission as such does not help out.

The school has high ideals and the Board of Directors composed of members from the various co-operating missions are very careful that all teachers are out and out fundamentalists. As far as we know the teachers we must say that among the 34 on the staff and the nine on the house staff and the two on the office staff all are out and out Christians. I quote from the constitution: 17 (a) "To maintain the Christian Character of the School thru provision for systematic instruction in the Bible thruout the Institution." 16. "No teacher shall be employed or retained on the Staff whose life or teaching are subversive of the essential beliefs held by the co-operating Societies, and whose faith in the Deity of Christ and Inspiration and Authority of the Bible as the Word of God is not assured".

The school has four large and well-ventilated buildings. 1. "The School," containing classrooms as well as the girls' dormitories, dining room etc.; 2. "The classroom building", containing classrooms and special subject rooms; 3. The College, planned for accommodation of older students for Junior and Senior Cambridge and students of the Teacher's Training College; 4. "The Boys' Hostel", opened in 1926 which accommodates 80 boys of ages from Kindergarten to Senior Cambridge, having five dormitories, a large Gymnasium, swimming pool, and large playing field on the ground.

A fifth building, a large auditorium, is being built, estimated engineer's cost being about 80,000 rupees but actual building cost will be about 40,000 according to Mr. Parker, the Principal's estimate. The school is financed by the contributions of the various missions, by fees, and by a large government grant.

The government of the school is of course directly in the hands of the staff, with the children helping. They have a system of student government, each class having

a Governor, and the whole headed by a Viceroy. The Viceroy's Council composed of these Governors and the Viceroy meet with certain of the Staff and thru them certain phases of school government are put into operation. Along with the regular school courses are courses in Manual Training, Domestic Science, strong Bible courses, Music, Physical Training, with play-ground activities at stated times. There is a European Doctor on the School Staff and the suite of rooms serving as 'sick-rooms' is under the care of a trained Nurse; medical and dental examinations are made regularly.

Of our own children in Woodstock School, Thelma Miller is in Third Grade; Kathryn Kaufman, in Fourth Grade; Ernest Smucker in Sixth Grade; Arthur Smucker in Third Grade; Allene Beare in Fourth Grade; Evelyn Beare in First Grade. While it is not pleasant to have to leave one's children, aged from seven years on, in the boarding school for five months of the year, yet if it must be done we are after all glad that schools are available where the most of the students are European children and under strong Christian influence. Yet when all is said and done one must still remember that during the most impressive years of our children's lives they are away from our own Mennonite teachings and influence for nine months of the year.

Pray for all our children that they may grow in grace.

R. R. SMUCKER.

General News.

"Flu" is making its rounds in Dhamtari. There were three fatal cases in one week among the Christian people. Resident missionaries also suffered light attacks.

G. H. Beare with Haider, Mukut, Persadi and Sukhlal have been holding evangelistic campaigns in various of our mission stations during the hot weather. They spent the first week of May at Ghatula.

Four boys from the English School at Dhamtari are spending a month with A. C. Brunk at Dondi during the holiday months in village preaching.

There was an epidemic of tigers in a village near Dondi recently. On Monday of one week in a drive Ganpat Rao, a member of the Dondi congregation, shot two tigers within ten minutes time. On Wednesday of the same week Bro. Brunk brought in a nine foot specimen from the same village. On the following Monday the Circle Inspector of Police from Balod wounded the fourth tiger. But this time the circumstances were more tragic for the wounded beast turned on the beaters and killed one of them. The tiger was not captured.

At Mohadi and Balodgahan a good deal of dynamite is being used for deepening the mission wells.

All the resident evangelists have been transferred from Balodgahan to other stations. The evangelistic work in the surrounding villages is being done by members of the congregation under the leadership of the Pastor and ordained brethren. In Dhamtari, also, some voluntary evangelism is carried on by lay members, under the leadership of Deacon Haider, especially in the village of Jhodapur.

On the 12th April very impressive ordination services were held at the Bethel Church at Balodgahan when Deacon Sukhlal was ordained to the ministry and Bro. Kalib was ordained to the office of Deacon.



INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. X. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, July, 1931. § No. 7.

Is it an insult to people of other faiths to tell them that the cross is the only way of salvation? An official of the Federal Council of Churches (America) said recently that it was. One might argue that a thinking man of another faith would certainly be insulted to hear such dogma, but the facts on the field seem to indicate that it is not the cross, the message, nor the Christ that is the stumbling block. It is usually the message-bearer or the country of his origin that comes up for a hearing. A rabid nationalist told me recently that he reads the daily papers and in view of what he reads there he cannot see that we Americans have any right to be in India. He said he thought there was plenty for us to do at home and that we should first of all make our own people Christian and then start on other countries.

I told him I was also ashamed of my country and people when I read certain reports in the daily press. I admitted there was still much to be done at home but told him that our friends were working there and we are working here, working together to establish the kingdom of Christ in both countries. He was not insulted when I advised him to believe on Christ for salvation. He said he has no objections to offer against Christ and that he holds Him in high regard.

But herein lies the tragedy of such a regard for Christ; it bars the way for full acceptance. Again one might argue that the opposite is true, but if a man takes Christ and sets him on a pedestal along with his other dieties and saints he may deceive himself into believing that he is a follower of Christ or a Friend of Jesus, and as such be harder to reach with a definite message of salvation through faith in the finished work of Christ. We have only one message: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved", and that means faith in Christ alone, not in Christ also.

BALODGAHAN.

The epidemic of influenza which visited the Girls' Boarding in the hottest part of the hot season presented itself in a severe form. Two of our orphan girls died. The experience was hard, but as we watched by the bedside it brought Heaven very near. Our little Budhiya, aged eleven, realized that she was going and reached out her hand to me and said, "Salaam". She suffered intensely for three days after this and then passed out. One evening she folded her hands and prayed that if it were the Father's will to take her that He would take her soon so that she would not need to suffer any longer. At intervals before she went into unconsciousness she sang three hymns. One she improvised and closed with the words, "I have become ready".

Two days after Budhiya's death, just after I had finished my evening meal, I was called to Sonai's bedside. All day her temperature had not been very high and we thought she was better. When I came to see her I saw that she was very sick indeed. She said, "I am going to Heaven", and from that time was unconscious. She died at midnight. The girls told me that during the day she had told them that Jesus was calling her and that she was going to Heaven. She also sang the Hindi of, "Must I go and empty-handed?"

As I watched these two dear girls pass into the presence of the Saviour and as I saw the unselfish, untiring labor of many of our girls in caring for the sick during those hot days I did not ask, "Is it worth while?"

M. M. GOOD.

GHATULA NOTES.

We had an impressive baptismal service June 21 when Malech, our gardener, and his wife became members of our congregation. His three Christian brothers have been praying and working with him for some time but his love for tobacco and drink held him back. As neither one of them can read one of our evangelists has been giving considerable time in teaching them scripture verses and doctrines. The same day that they were baptized, they were also married; somehow that important ceremony had never been performed in their lives even though they have been living together for

years and have two children in their home. Pray for this new Christian home.

Sunday morning (June 28) we were awakened from our sleep with the cry, "Sahib, Peter Wells is very sick". Peter Wells is the next-to-youngest son of our Deacon, Mukut. He was having some kind of a fit or convulsions. His left arm has become almost lifeless except for a constant twitching of the fingers. He has had two more slight spells since. The whole Christian community has been stirred up to sympathy and prayer. What the boy has, we don't know, but God knows and will restore him if it is His will.

The primary schools opened on June 15th when the hot season vacation of one month came to a close.

During the hot months Bro. and Sister Kniss lived at Ghatula and had charge of the work while the Vogts were away to the hills.

DONDI.

The four English School boys who came to Dondi for a month's meetings in the villages did very good work. Their chief contribution was through singing but they also gave a number of talks on various subjects before the regular sermon. I think the boys gained valuable experience that will help them to decide to give their lives to preaching the Gospel.

The foundation for the new dispensary is in and the super-structure will soon be begun.

The Dondi-Lohara Queen called Sister Brunk several times recently for medical advice.

There have been some changes in the staff of Christian workers at this station. Prasanno has moved to Kurud with his family, and Harun and his wife have gone to Mohadi. Our present workers are Luke, Solomon, and Saul, with two Bible women, the wives of Luke and Saul.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS.

The heat is over and the rains are here! This is the most welcome bit of information a wilting missionary can receive. This year it came late after an exceptionally severe hot season, and even after the rains began they were so feeble during all the month of June that that month will long be remembered as exasperatingly and oppressively hot.

Rice sowing is practically finished for the light, early rains gave the farmer a splendid opportunity for getting his crops in.

Last Sunday a patient at the Shantipur Leper Home died. This is not an altogether unusual happening, but this patient had an unusual arrival at our home. The sanitary inspector of the Dhamtari municipality found him lying in a helpless condition in one of the public rest houses of Dhamtari. Since there was nothing else for him to do he called the sweepers and gave orders for a conveyance to Shantipur for this man in the form of one of the city's refuse carts. Consequently he was loaded into the filthy cart, hauled out here like so much dung and dumped at our front gate. He was in a loathsome condition and died after having been here for fifteen days.

Esther Louise Kniss has had a good bit of sickness during the hot season. Because of her persistent fever she was taken by her mother to the Mission Hospital at Champa recently for treatment.

Mr. J. A. Wiebe and family from the Mennonite Brethren Mission in Hyderabad State visited us for a few days the middle of June while on their way home from Landour.

INDIA MISSION NEWS.

Vol. X. § Dhamtari, C. P., India, August, 1931. § No. 8.

MOHADI.

Mohadi is a very busy place just now because of the building of an evangelist's house and a church building. The evangelist's house is now nearly completed.

This year there were added to Mohadi station two new outstations. The one outstation, Kamaipur by name, is twelve miles away in the jungle, and a courageous couple of workers, Premlal and his wife with two children, one of them an infant, are living there. We marvel at their courage and zeal. They live twelve miles from their nearest Christian neighbors and thirty miles from a Doctor. Here, we believe, is an example of courage and faith, but they are only human and certainly need your prayers.

Patients are coming to the dispensary in larger numbers again since the rainy season has begun. People know that in the open seasons we are out on tour, etc., so they do not come so freely at those times. Colds and dysentery seem to be the chief ailments these days. Of course abscesses are always present too. We solicit your prayers that we may not forget that we are here primarily to point them to the great Physician.

L. A. KNISS.

BALODGAHAN.

Two girls have been married from the Orphanage during the past month, one to a blacksmith and the other to a carpenter. Two small orphan girls were also admitted. One was deserted by her parents and the other had formerly been in our baby home.

FANNIE LAPP.

A "Friendship Box" which was sent by ten Sunday School boys in America has been given to ten village school boys in Balodgahan. They are very pleased with the gifts and have written letters to the donors and also want to send them small gifts in return.

G. J. LAPP.

 The Girls' Middle and Primary Schools and the Bible Class opened on July 1st with a total enrollment of 186.

M. M. GOOD.

 Corn, beans, cucumbers, radishes, lettuce, etc., are growing nicely in our gardens, but rain has not fallen as it should have so far, so most of the fields are dry and some of the rice is suffering. We are hoping for a good rain to fill the fields for growing rice must grow in fields submerged with water.

I am looking after the Widows' Home this month while the Beares are away to the hills. Health is good among the widows. All except the very feeble are doing some kind of work such as weeding in the fields and garden, cutting grass with hand sickles, carrying earth, cooking, weaving rugs, preparing wool for weaving, herding geese and ducks, helping care for the cattle; two care for the little children while their mothers are out at work, one helps in the dispensary, while two help with the work in the bungalow. All are happy to have a home.

SARAH LAPP.

DHAMTARI.

Busy as we may be we would consider it a great crime to neglect to give at least some attention to anyone in our house who may be sick. But the illiterate Indian does not as a general rule seem to consider it that way. If he has pressing work to do he will attend to that first and to his sick friend at his own convenience and perhaps to the inconvenience of the sick one and the ones treating him.

These are busy days in the fields and we have fewer patients. It gives a little time to catch up with the work and spend a little extra time at language study, which is so important in learning to understand and to be understood, not only in the matter of words but in the matter of understanding actions, intents, motives, etc.

 Sister Wenger has gone to the hills for a month of leave after a strenuous hot season in the station. The three little three-year old babies in the Babies Home were happy to hear that she had remembered them by sending greetings to them in a letter. They do not forget those who have cared for them.

MARY HOLSOPPLE.

 I suppose it gets said every year in print somewhere or in several places, but it is so impressive to us—it is an inspiration to get back from the hills again to the rain watered plains where the formerly dry earth is seemingly trying to outdo itself in producing fresh and smiling green.

 J. Martin is our new Housefather in the Orphanage and he is also Headmaster in the Primary School. He has done very well so far in caring for the boys and the work.

 Sister Hostetler has started a sewing class for several of the boys here on the bungalow verandah. The boys are very much interested in it, and several are doing well. They want to learn to be tailors.

We have also started an experiment in teaching several of the boys masonry work. They are now engaged with the help of a local mason in moving part of the compound wall which was not located to best advantage. We hope we will be able to help the boys to get ready so that they may be able to do profitable work when they leave the Orphanage.

S. J. HOSTETLER.

SANKRA.

We returned from the hills on July 2nd leaving Ernest and Arthur in the boarding school at Woodstock in Landour.

Upon our return to the station we found new babies in the homes of Sahani, Ramadin, Sukalu, and Hatoiya. Mothers and babies are all doing well except Sister Sukalu. She has cancer in both breasts and must have an operation immediately if her life is to be saved. She, however, fears the pain of the operation and refuses to submit. We have told her that if she does not have the operation she cannot hope to live long and will likely need to suffer great pain. Her baby is being fed on cow's milk now. He was almost dead when we returned from the hills, weighing only four and a half pounds at two months.

Sankra congregation conducts 15 village Sunday Schools each Saturday. Highest attendance the past week was 85 in one and the lowest was 7 in another.

R. R. SMUCKER.

GHATULA.

Khobu was transferred as Head Master of the Ghatula Primary School to the Primary School at Umergaon (opened last year) in June and his wife, Sundar, has opened her work as Bible Woman in that village the last month. Already there seems to be an intense interest in the Gospel message brought by this earnest, friendly Christian family. Two malguzars (landowners) have bought Bibles and several people have walked the three miles to attend our services here. After one service one of these men said, "I want to become a Christian too sometime since I have seen how you worship and how you live. Your Christians do not speak the untruth nor deceive nor live in sin like the other people do."

The three evangelists of Ghatula took the ox cart and spent three days on tour working at Gattasili with Hirau, the worker there. New inspiration and zeal was given to the one who labors there alone as well as giving out "Words of Life" to those in darkness.

Merle just now called, "Here's a snake". Sure enough—he was innocently standing above the veranda step beside which a snake was coiled. One day recently the Industrial School Girls killed five snakes in one room; since then they have been afraid to sleep in that room as they lie directly on the earthen floor without beds. We thank God for His kind and constant protection from dangers seen and unseen and that He has given us reasonable health in our little community.

ESTHER VOGT.

GENERAL NEWS.

On the 30th July Brethren Lapp and Graber drove to Kanker to make arrangements for a series of evangelistic lectures in that city. The officials of the State were interviewed and seemed happy at the prospect of having these meetings. This is the first year that all the bridges between Dhamtari and Kanker are complete and one may now go to Kanker as conveniently during the rains as at any other time. While there they also called on one or two Christian families who live in the city.

The infant girl of Deacon Persadi died at the Mission Hospital the middle of June. The baby was only six weeks old.

Darbari, a boy who took treatments for leprosy at Shantipur for two years, was recently passed from the Dhamtari Carpentry School. He is now engaged in carpentry and general work about the Shantipur Leper Home and is in perfect health. He will be able to establish a home and take his place in the Christian community without a single handicap. During the first six months

of this year three patients were discharged as symptom-free. They were happy as well as we.

On the evening of July 28th the Shantipur rain gauge registered five inches of water in two hours. Much damage was done to banks of rice fields and some growing crops were covered with silt. In spite of this erratic shower the monsoon continues weak.

On the 31st July the Forest Officer of Kanker and the son of the Superintendent of the State visited Balodgahan and Shantipur.

Born to Bro. and Sister Hostetler on June 14th a baby girl. She will answer to the name of Lois Ruth.



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THE FACULTY.

THE DHAMTARI CHRISTIAN ACADEMY.

This institution had its beginning with July of this year. It has evolved out of the educational attempts of the Mission covering some years and represents our combined opinion, as the best solution to our educational needs. Various missionaries had for sometime been thinking and planning on different phases of the project. Our Indian brethren had also repeatedly presented their convictions and their attitude has been a considerable factor in determining the type of institution. These factors argue well for the permanence of the school and should help it to weather the storms of the years.

The following are the chief reasons for the establishment of the Academy and set forth its program of work as well.

1. A better and more extensive Christian Education for our Mennonite Community. It is not the intention that all the boys and girls passing through the school will become preachers, evangelists or Bible women. Many of them will not. But it is hoped that all of them will obtain a good general knowledge of the Bible and the implications of professing to be followers of our Lord.

The carrying over and continuance in the Christian church of certain sinful heathen practices has awakened us to the need of more carefully planned Christian education. Our committee has just completed a course of religious instruction for our schools continuing from the kindergarten to the end of the high school. In this program the Bible is central. Students completing our course will have studied all of the Gospels, the Epistles, and certain of the books of the old Testament; as well as many other Bible stories and incidents connected with the teaching of particular themes.

A very thorough course is even more essential here than it would be in America, both because of the paucity of home teaching, and because of the magnitude of the non-Christian influence. This latter factor is often not appreciated. But take a single instance such as Sunday observance. In a city of thirteen thousand only a mere handful of Christians observe this as a day of rest and worship. The tendency to do as our neighbours and succumb to the prevailing attitude therefore becomes tremendous. There are a multitude of similar influences. We hope to help the future fathers and mothers to set up homes where Christian standards may be upheld because they are understood and appreciated; and we believe that only an intelligent knowledge of and reverence for the Bible will do this.

2. A Workers Training Course looking toward Village Work. The Mennonite Church in India will remain largely a rural people. The per square mile population in our area is about 150. We have only a few towns which may be called cities. In consequence, we feel the necessity of training our preachers and teachers with the village point of view. To send our boys and girls to Government training schools means in many instances that they have no interest in returning to serve in the villages. During their entire training course they are also taking no course in religion. These omissions we feel to be vital.

We have therefore included as a part of our Academy a three years course in Normal-Bible training. The Government Normal course covers two years. We plan to cover the subjects in their course and give in addition classes in Bible and subjects having particular reference to the conditions and problems of the village. The Government has agreed to permit our students to sit in their final examinations and so they will have the benefit of a recognized Government certificate. The individuals completing this course will become our village school teachers and evangelists. We hope many of them may also commend themselves to Government and be employed in their schools.

3. A Special Training Course for Evangelists and Pastors. Our workers course is to prepare individuals both as teachers and evangelists and it is hoped that as a result of this training there may be very close correlation between the work of our school teachers and our employed evangelists; both in regard to objective, and in methods of work. To provide for this larger unity of work was in fact one of the main reasons for the setting up of this program of Christian Training. It is our hope that this will help to insure the solidarity of our Church in India.

It is, however, felt that there will be occasion to give some of our workers more advanced training looking toward better qualifications in their chosen work

as evangelists or as ordained pastors of our churches. With this in mind our committee is planning an extra year of Bible work, following the High school Course and Workers Training Course, for those who desire this more professional training. The course will necessarily not be given until at the end of two years.

Our Academy thus has departments in, Normal, Bible, and regular high school work. In the academic and Normal departments our students will receive, on successful completion of their work, the recognized certificate of the Indian Government; and in the Bible the Academy for the present is also our English Middle School. It is our plan to make this middle school a separate institution. This separation the Government is not prone to permit as they feel the whole institution might well be kept as one unit. We hope, however, to have them agree to our position in due time.

The first year's class of the workers training course has opened in July with fifteen boys. In the High School department we have forty boys and in English Middle School 190 boys making a total of 245 boys in the entire institution. Our present concern is not for larger numbers, but for adequate faculty and buildings to insure a good quality of work. Teachers with training, vision and the spirit of sacrifice; and buildings suitable to allow for efficient work; these are the pressing needs. At the present time we are much crowded and are carrying on only by utilizing the spare space in several adjacent buildings. Repairs have also not been made on our old building, because the plan is to tear it down just as soon as we can get started on the new one. As a result the leaking during a heavy rain is so bad that we need to dismiss school.

However, we live in the hope of a better day. A part of the Rempel donation money is to be applied toward our main administration building and in this unexpected blessing we rejoice exceedingly. What we do

need urgently now, however, is money enough to buy land on which to put the building? This will take from \$ 1500.00 to \$2000.00 of which amount only about a third has been received. Six months ago it seemed as if we were unable to secure any suitable land but now the situation has changed and we have the choice of several possible plots. We are praying that the Lord will lay it upon the hearts of some of you who read the bulletin to send in a donation to Brother Reiff and make possible the purchasing of the land.

The plan is to locate the Academy buildings just on the edge of Dhamtari so as to make it convenient for boys who wish to attend from town and at the same time allow gardens and fields for the boys. At present Brother Hostetler, Sister Miller and myself are doing teaching in the school along with a staff of sixteen Indian teachers. The plan is that as the work increases, more missionaries will be appointed to help. There are as yet no girls in the school but it is our intention that as soon as we can arrange for the necessary buildings the Academy is to be co-educational. It is our prayer that the institution may become a training centre filling young people with an enthusiasm for Christ and the Gospel which will take them out into the villages of India with the conviction expressed by Paul when he said, "For the love of Christ constraineth us".

ERNEST E. MILLER.



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PARVATI OF KANARI.

In Kanari, a few miles north of here (Balodgahan), lives an interesting widow named Parvati after one of the Hindu goddesses, one of the wives of Shiva. Her native country is Marwar of North West India. She has been a widow for many years and had an only son, but he too died six years ago. She lives alone and is supported from the income of a parcel of land that she has farmed by shares.

She is very firm in her Hindu faith. She has made a number of pilgrimages to famous shrines and sacred places of India. At one time she actually went to the source of the sacred Ganges River, a two-weeks march into the Himalayas from the last railroad station at Hardwar on the northern borders of the U. P. She endured great hardship on this trip and spent more than three hundred rupees on traveling expenses and gifts to priests, idols, and temples. She says she had a vision of God there. She saw God in the form of an idol about three feet high, and she firmly believes that it was really a heaven-sent vision.

When we try to tell her how to find the true God she always listens very attentively, and says she feels good when we speak and sing to her of Jesus. But her first answer is always that she believes in God and calls on Him every day. Will everyone who reads this pray for her that she may receive a vision of the true God, as Cornelius and Paul did, and be converted.

—SARAH LAPP.

Balodgahan.

Bro. Lapp has recently had a seize of malaria but has completely recovered again. The close of the rains is the malaria season. All water puddles of the village have recently been treated with kerosene to kill the developing mosquito larvae.

Bro. Beare in company with Sukhlal made a trip to Mogragahan, a village where a family of Christian workers is located, about 20 miles S. E. of Balodgahan, that reminds one of the pioneer days of missions. We was brought that the worker in that village need medical aid. Ten miles through the jungle by cycle brought them to the Mahanadi River, a stream half a mile wide at this season of the year. Fortunately the water was nowhere deeper than their shoulders and so by holding belongings high overhead they were able to make a fairly successful crossing. After that there were still ten miles of walking. Medical aid was given and the next day the twenty miles return trip had to be made over the same route.

On September 12th the pictures of the widows for Charitable Institutions write-ups were taken. Bro. Hostetler from Dhamtari did the photographing.

There is at present a most interesting case in the dispensary ward. She is Rajo Bai, malguzarin of the village of Muskera. She developed a terrible festering sore and had been reduced to a mere skeleton when she came under our treatment. She has made remarkable improvement and is practically ready to be discharge. She has often been visited in her own home and has learned a number of Gospel songs which she sings spiritedly with the Bible women. She asks Jesus to forgive her sins and is a Christian in every respect except in public confession and acceptance of baptism. Pray for her that she will realize a definite work in her soul and become ready to leave all.

The work in the Girls' School has been retarded somewhat during the past few weeks because of the

illness of the head-mistress. She has had to take a month of complete rest in order to recuperate. We have been able to procure a substitute and the work is going on as usual again.

Dhamtari.

On Sunday, September 6th, we observed Communion here at Sunderganj. 244 brethren and sisters partook of the sacred emblems.

The manuscripts for the second issue of the Mennoite Mandali Samachar have just been sent to the press. The paper is a four-page monthly published by the India Mennonite Conference.

The Sunderganj congregation is enclosing its cemetery with an earth embankment about three feet high. The area of the cemetery is 3.60 acres. A species of cactus is planted on top of this bank and this will make a reasonably effective barrier against cattle and goats.

Eight Christian workers are attending classes in the book of Acts at present.

Bohoran, one of our Christians, recently fell from a roof he was repairing and broke his leg. He is getting along nicely now in the Mission Hospital.

On Sept. 24th a committee of missionaries and Indian brethren met in the Sunderganj south bungalow to make plans for a Christian Workers Conference to be held at Balodgahan the first week in November.

On Sept. 16th Bro. Hostetler and Sister Holsopple took oral Hindi language examinations in Raipur. Both passed with good marks. The written tests are given three weeks later. Bro. Kaufman from Dhamtari and Dr. Gass from the Evangelical Mission at Raipur were the examiners.

In August a series of meetings was held in Dhamtari city for the special benefit of educated non-Christians. They were much interested in the Gospel presentation.

Dondi.

The work on the home for an evangelist is nearing completion as is also the dispensary building. We are grateful for these new buildings.

The evangelistic work in the villages went on all through the rains, even though it was difficult at times. One brother fell into a swollen stream and went completely under water, yet he went on to the village and conducted a service.

The Bible Training Class for Evangelists and Bible Women is now being conducted.

We observed Communion on Sept. 13th. Bro. Lapp, who has Bishop oversight of the congregation, had intended to be present but on account of illness he could not come out.

Ghatula.

During August for about ten or fifteen days we had heavy rains which helped the late rice. Many acres of early rice in the vicinity of Ghatula are a total failure.

The Industrial School girls are busy weeding rice in the forenoons and attending classes in the afternoons. Many are having attacks of malaria fever.

Sankra.

People are happy these days; those who have fields because rice is growing and those who do not have fields are happy that weeds grow in other people's fields. There is plenty of work for everyone these days at the flat rate of four cents per day for both men and women.

Village Sunday Schools are going good. Out of the 15 conducted every Saturday varied attendance is the rule. The past week found 200 in the largest and 10 in the smallest school. The one in which there were 200 has usually 80 to 90 in attendance. Sister Smucker conducts this school with no other helpers as teachers; a rather heavy responsibility to be sure.

We have special problems in the Church at present. Satan is leading some of our young people into sin and is blinding their eyes so that they are not willing to repent. Pray for them and for the congregation here that we may all have Christian victory.

Mohadi.**KAMAIPUR OUT-STATION**

is located about 13 miles from Mohadi in the heart of the jungle away from "civilization". Premlal and his wife Tijiya are the workers there. They sincerely consider their call to this place as from God. Only those who have had experience know what it means to be a lone Christian living among Hindus who dare not even touch them or help them when they are sick or in need. This is an example of true isolation.

Some time ago four of the family group fell ill with one left to care for the sick. The man with whom word was sent to us failed to deliver the message which resulted in the sick folk being left without outside help for two weeks until a second man delivered a note to us late one evening. We called a special prayer meeting at once and the next morning went on cycles through rain and mud to help them.

Sister Tijiya was very weak with dysentery, malaria, and enlarged spleen. The baby was in the same condition while the other two had become about normal. They are now all well again except the baby who is still suffering somewhat. They have not been heard to complain once. This is one of the workers' families for whose support you, reader, are giving part of your hard-earned cash. They are very faithful in presenting by word and deed the Gospel of the plan of salvation which cost more than all of our woes put together.

What a meeting!—when Jesus comes and you in America, Premlal and Tijiya here, and Jesus Himself with all the souls who are to be saved from the Kamaipur district! Will you not all recount the blessings that come from your trials and unitedly praise the Saviour who purchased us all?

L. A. KNISS.

Shantipur.

The wall around the caretaker's house, built of bricks prepared by lepers and laid in lime mortar ground and hauled by the lepers, is just completed. The lepers did every bit of the work connected with the construction of the wall except the actual laying up of the brick. Work is finding an ever increasing place in the treatment of this disease. Recently a Brahman patient came to us all the way from Jubbulpore. When he found out that we could not supply him with a Brahman servant to cook his food and wash his clothes he decided this was no fit place to stay and moved on.

Last May Nandlal, a blind man who has served in the Mission evangelistic work for fifteen years, was moved from Balodgahan to Shantipur for special work among the lepers. It is a pathetic sight to see a blind man ministering to the lepers, but loss of natural eyesight has resulted in clearer spiritual sight for Nandlal and he testifies with a clearness of spiritual vision that is arresting.



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Allene (left) and Evelyn (right) ready for school.

EVELYN LUCILLE BEARE

Was born in Upland, California, July 5, 1924, and died at Dhamtari, C. P., India on October 1, 1931, aged 7 years, 2 months and 25 days. Just five years ago, when she was two years old, she sailed from America with her parents for India. She always loved India, the country, its language, and the people. Evelyn will always be remembered by her kind and sympathetic heart and sunny disposition. She leaves her bereaved parents and her sister, Allene, who is at school in Landour, Mussoorie, U. P.; also her Grandparents, both Beare and Swartzendruber, who were looking forward to her returning to them after another year.

"I cannot say and will not say
That she is dead—She is just away—
She is gone through the gate of another land,
Led by the Master's hand,
Where everything is kind and good,
Where everything is understood.
So we may try to believe that the one above,
Has taken her home as an act of love."

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On October 1st God in His infinite wisdom removed from our family circle our dear little Evelyn. That evening as we laid her to rest in the mango grove we fully realized that God's ways were not our ways, but we also realized that His Grace was sufficient, and we could say, "Thy will be done." We knew that if we would be faithful we should meet our loved one again. God grant that we may be worthy of such a blessed reunion. We have felt the presence of His comforting Spirit and He has in a wonderful way given grace sufficient for this trial. The prayers of our fellow missionaries and Indian friends have availed for us.

G. H. and IDA BEARE.

GENERAL NEWS ITEMS:

On October 14th the missionary family was gladdened with the arrival at Dhamtari of the Troyer family and Sister Shantz. On the 17th all the missionaries except a few from the farthest outstations met at the Shantipur bungalow for a praise service and for extending to the newly arrived a formal welcome. We remembered with gratitude the sacrifices that the home Church is constantly willing to make so that the work of the Kingdom in India need not suffer.

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E. E. Miller and J. D. Graber represented the Mission at the meetings of the Mid-India Christian Council held at Jubbulpore the middle of October. The outstanding emphasis of the meetings, with which all the missionaries present were in full agreement, was for a greater evangelistic zeal and effort for winning souls definitely for Jesus Christ. The emphasis was not on method but on the efficacy of the Word and the Spirit to bring about the conversion of lost souls.

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On October 30th the Mission Managing Committee met at Balodgahan. At this meeting the appointments for the coming year were made as noted on the last page.

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Coming meetings in the Mission are, 1. Christian Workers' Conference at Balodgahan, Nov. 4—8; 2. Annual Business Meeting of the Mission at Balodgahan, Nov. 17—20; 3. Annual Jalsa at Ghatula, the last week of December; 4. Annual Church Conference at Ghatula Jan. 1—2.

DONDI.

Our night school for adults is increasing rapidly in numbers and interest. We have about fifteen enrolled at present. The school meets from six to eight o'clock each evening on our verandah. Three of us are teaching and making the work intensive. Some of the pupils are

making very good progress and in a short time are able to read a bit. That, no doubt, is what is increasing our attendance. We are doing this because it gives us an affective opening for the Gospel, and because it is a part of our evangelistic work.

The preaching work in the villages is going on as usual and we have had some very interesting meetings which are without doubt advancing the work of the Kingdom.

The building work on the dispensary is progressing and we hope to have it completed before long.

A. C. BRUNK.

BALODGAHAN.

We had special noon-day meetings with the orphanage girls and as a result nearly twenty expressed a desire to come into Church fellowship. A number of young people from the village community wish to unite with the Church. A class for special instruction is being organized preparatory to their baptism.

Bro. and Sister Beare have gone to Mohadi for special meetings. We are hoping and praying that revivals will become general in the Church during the next few months. Special prayer meetings have been held by the brotherhood at Mohadi preparatory to these meetings.

MEDICAL STATION.

October 14th was an exciting day at the Medical Station for word had been received that Dr. Troyers and Sister Shantz had arrived at Bombay. There was white-washing to be finished and things to be gotten into place so that the family could move in and feel at home. At 5:00 P. M. all the missionaries from the vicinity of Dhamtari as well as many of the Indian Christians were on the front verandah of the bungalow watching for the first glimpse of the cars from Raipur. Bro. Kaufman and Bro. Hostetler had gone to Raipur to meet the party. Such an exciting time! It was getting dark when the crowd at last dispersed to allow the welcomed ones to settle down.

M. J. HOLSOPPLE.

SANKRA.

On the 11th October little Henry Naresh passed away. Death was due to malaria complicated with pneumonia. There has been much illness among the Christians but we are glad to be able to report a decrease in malaria and colds and other post-rains ailments. The nights are getting cool which indicates that the cool season is near.

Sister Smucker is beginning to be on her feet again after having been in bed for over four weeks with heart trouble augmented with malaria.

The poor among us are in desperate financial straits. There is no work to be found and some have not even the wherewithal with which to procure their one cooked meal per day. Rice cutting will soon begin and that will relieve the situation materially for some weeks.

R. R. SMUCKER.

GHATULA.

On October 14 and during the night following we had a very heavy rain. The stream flowing through Ghatula threatened to destroy part of the village, as well as threatening several other villages. People woke at night to find water in their houses and from sheer fright loosened their cattle and left the village in the torrential rain. But the water soon receded and no serious damage was done.

M. C. VOGT.

SHANTIPUR.

This month we again dismissed two patients as symptom-free. They went back to their villages exceedingly happy.

The inmates of the Leper Home are sharing in the world financial depression. It has been customary to issue one blanket per year to each inmate, but this year any one who has more than two blankets does not receive a new one. There will be nights in December and January when they will shiver from cold but they want givers in the homeland to know they are cooperating in economy schemes.

WHERE WE WILL WORK IN 1932.

- Dhamtari.** ... J. N. and Elsie Kaufman.
S. J. and Ida Hostetler.
E. E. and Ruth Miller.
- Medical Station.** Dr. G. D. and Kathryn Troyer.
Mary J. Holsopple.
- Balodgahan.** ... G. H. and Ida Beare.
Sarah Lapp.
Mary A. Wenger.
Mary M. Good.
G. J. and Fannie Lapp
(to March 1st)
- Shantipur.** ... J. D. and Minnie Graber
(to March 1st)
G. J. and Fannie Lapp
(after March 1st)
Dora M. Shantz.
- Sankra.** ... R. R. and Alma Smucker.
- Dondi.** ... A. C. and Eva Brunk.
- Mahodi.** ... L. A. and Elizabeth Kniss.
- Ghatula.** ... M. C. and Esther Vogt.

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SPECIAL MEETINGS NUMBER.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

was held this year from Nov. 17th to 19th at the Balodgahan village bungalow. The roll call was answered by 27 missionaries present with seven absent on furlough. As has become the established custom, the first day was given over entirely to a consideration of Devotional and Inspirational subjects and to prayer, testimony, and praise. The messages of the first day were challenging and the testimonies of the missionaries present gave clear evidence that we believe in a living Christ Who walks with us day by day and Who transfigures our experience. The subjects discussed had to do with a re-dedication of our lives to God, with the Bible's place in our lives as missionaries, and with Jesus as daily companion.

At the beginning of the two following days as well as at the opening of the afternoon session of the second day we listened to addresses on spiritual subjects before the regular business was taken in hand. Bro. A. C. Brunk serving as chairman of the meeting conducted the business in a vigorous manner which is indicated by the fact that all work before the meeting was completed in three full days, whereas four days are commonly spent in this annual meeting.

Committees to carry on the work of the various departments were selected and at the election of officers near the close of the session the following were chosen:—

President	...	G. H. BEARE.
Treasurer	...	E. E. MILLER.
Recorder	...	S. J. HOSTETLER.

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Since the annual meeting last year two of our mission family have been called by death. Their absence was keenly felt during this meeting when we all met together as a family. Suitable resolutions expressing an appreciation of the lives of those whom God has called and extending sympathy to the bereaved families were adopted. We cannot understand God's ways but we know what He does He does well.

CHRISTIAN WORKERS CONFERENCE

was held at Balodgahan from Nov. 4th to 8th. The feature about this meeting that was new was the fact that all Christian workers, Preachers, Teachers, Bible Women, Evangelists, Doctors, Nurses, etc., all met together in conference which was for the deepening of spiritual life and getting new vision and spiritual power for work. The daily program was as follows:

MORNING PERIOD:

1. Opening Devotional—J. D. Graber.
2. Sermon—The Holy Spirit—A. C. Brunk.
3. Sectional Meetings—Philippians.
4. Sectional Meetings—Life and Methods of Jesus.

AFTERNOON PERIOD:

5. Sectional Meetings—Christianity in Life Situations.

EVENING PERIOD:

6. Song and Praise service conducted by Sukhlal and Sim.
7. Sermon—G. J. Lapp.

Following are a few testimonies heard during and after the conference:

A Missionary said: "To me the finest thing about this conference was the unity of outlook and purpose expressed by all our Christian Workers of all our departments of work. I feel this kind of a conference will have

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a solidifying and unifying influence in our work and I hope such a conference arranged along similar lines can be provided again next year."

A Preacher who works alone in an outlying village said, "I was called to see a sick girl. I prayed with the Hindu family and then gave some medicine I had with me. I assured them that Christ could heal her if it was His will. The girl was healed and the influence on the family has been very marked. Pray with me that this family may be brought to Christ."

Another Christian Worker who lived formerly in another mission area said, "Before I came here I had heard that the missionaries at Dhamtari do not place much stress on the infilling of the Holy Spirit. I am glad I have learned that at Dhamtari also the Holy Spirit is honoured and that the Spirit's infilling is held to be an absolute requirement for Christian service."

A missionary said, "I thank God that I am able to see Christian growth among our leaders and co-workers. There is a note of faith and victory in these meetings that could not have been possible some years ago. My faith in God and in you has been strengthened during this conference."

Another missionary said, "I feel like praising God for the keenness of conscience and sense of Christian duty that was expressed in our section on Christianity in Life Situations. There was evident a strong ethical and moral sense for which we often do not give our Indian Church full credit."

THANKSGIVING DAY

was observed in most congregations on the 12th of November, but due to the delayed harvest season later dates were selected by some of the churches. From everywhere comes the good news that a most inspiring meeting of thanksgiving and praise was held and that, despite the financial depression, the usually large offerings were received. At Dhamtari Rs. 107|- were received; at Balodgahan Rs. 120|-; at Dondi Rs. 20|-; at Shantipur Rs. 53|-.

This report is incomplete but if reports from the other congregations were available they would no doubt show the same liberal offerings. It is commendable that the Indian Mennonite Church thus places the emphasis on a practical thanksgiving measured by substantial offerings which gives eloquent testimony to the fact that her thankfulness is no mere lip praise.

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CHURCH DEDICATION

services were held at Mohadi on the 22nd November. A very representative group of both missionaries and Indian Christians was present at this impressive service. Bro. G. J. Lapp preached the dedicatory sermon but Brethren Vogt and Isabux also gave brief messages in the morning service. A general meal was furnished at the noon hour and a splendid fellowship was enjoyed as we sat in long lines on the bungalow veranda eating the mutton curry and rice from lily pads with our fingers.

In the afternoon Brethren Smucker and Sukhlal delivered the messages on the subject of "Worship", and the evening meeting was in charge of Bro. Kniss.

The church building is not so large as those we have at Dhantari, Balodgahan, Sankra and Shantipur, but is quite adequate for the present requirements of the small congregation. The building is well proportioned, the acoustics are good, and the great deal of personal supervision Bro. Kniss gave to the building operations is seen in the fine and original touches everywhere in evidence about the building and its furnishings. The local congregation is very happy with its new house of worship. Heretofore all services had been held on the bungalow veranda.

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SERIES OF SPECIAL MEETINGS

were held during the month at the Sunderganj congregation with Brethren Sukhlal and Graber in charge, and at Ghatula with Bro. Kaufman bringing the messages.

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GENERAL NEWS.

Mrs. Lee, veteran missionary of the Methodist Church in Calcutta, visited with us from Nov. 7th to 11th. Many years ago in a landslide in Darjeeling six of her children lost their lives, but she has lived above her crushing grief and has come from this furnace of trial and disappointment as gold tried with fire. Her stay with us was a help and an inspiration.

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On Nov. 23rd Bro. Lapp had his tonsils removed. Dr. Troyer performed the operation. On Nov. 26th Donald Miller had a similar operation at the Dhantari hospital. Dr. Troyer has also removed tonsils for some Indian patients since his recent arrival from furlough.

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On Nov. 24th the Academy Building Location Committee walked over the ground and decided that the Academy buildings should be located on a plot of land adjoining the Sunderganj mango orchard where the mission owns a few acres of land. This decision was reached partly because of the fact that no other suitable plot of land could possibly be acquired in the vicinity of Dhantari, and also because it appears to be imperative that the Academy be located in close proximity to the English Middle School.

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On the 21st Nov. Bro. Beare and all the farmers of the village of Balodgahan met the settlement officer at Gurur where the final arrangements in the thirty years settlement were carried through. A total of five thousand farmers from the Gurur police district met the settlement officer on that same day. This settlement fixes the land tax for the coming thirty years. Work on this settlement has been in progress for a number of years and this meeting at Gurur simply marked the conclusion for that district.

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Sister Kaufman has been suffering from a severe attack of fever. At this writing she is convalescing slowly.

At Shantipur a class of 17 lepers is under instruction for baptism. Baptismal services are planned for Dec. 20th.

Farmers of India are just harvesting an exceptionally heavy rice crop. Money and ready cash are scarce but there will at least be no shortage of the staple food stuffs.

On Nov. 28th was held in the compound of the Girls' School at Balodgahan a service commemorating the life of Garjan Bai, who died in the Flu epidemic of 1918. The occasion of the service was the Christening of the School the "Garjan Memorial School". Garjan Bai was a consecrated Christian girl of a leading personality and she was a constant influence among the girls for the best things. It is highly desirable to keep alive the memory of such a life as her's.

The Director of Public Instruction for C. P. visited the Academy at Dhamtari on Nov. 27th.

