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TIDINGS
FROM
A. B. F. M. SOCIETY
IN
BENGAL-ORISSA, INDIA.

ANNUAL REPORT.

CUTTACK.

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Dear Mr. Brush,

During the year I have done something in the following departments of Mission work:

1. Medical,
2. Evangelistic,
3. Educational.

1. The medical has been mostly in the Dispensary, where I have seen 2,212 patients, some have returned a second or third time, bringing up the total to 4,219. The patients have mostly had malaria in some form, though there have sometimes been more interesting cases. Pyorrhea, all the way from spongy gums to the severer forms where the teeth are loose beyond remedy, is one of the most common of minor (?) complaints. Unless it is in the advanced stages patients are apt not to speak of it at all.

Visits have been made to patients in their homes. I have not kept any separate record of these. Wherever possible I have persuaded patients to come to me, not alone for my own convenience, but because it is good for them to get away from their homes and more or less depressing surroundings for a little while.

As patients do not often come alone, I sometimes have a company of 20 or more to talk to. My routine is to see all patients, and note symptoms, treatment etc., in the record book, then distribute leaflets and while my assistant pastes labels and marks on the bottles, I talk to the little company, sometimes about the leaflet given, sometimes with a picture or an incident as a starting point. My assistant has become so expert in her work that I usually make the talk short as I do not like to keep the patients waiting longer than necessary. When all the bottles are ready I take the record book and make up the prescriptions entered
there, and when all are ready, I give out the medicines to the waiting
patients. Each bottle has the patient's name on it, and the number. I
often wish I had a gramophone to say what I have to repeat many times
each day: "Put your pice and ticket and bottle on the table," and
"Please sit down out of my path." For patients want to hang on to
their money as long as possible, and they seem to think it hastens work
for me to have to stop while they move out of my way, as I get the
medicines together and into the bottles.

When all the bottles are filled I give some simple general direc­
tions: "Take the medicine twice daily with water after eating (this is
on the label pasted on each bottle with the name and number of the
patient). Do not eat rice when the fever is on, eat sago, barley etc. If
you are in the habit of drinking rice water, you may take that, but do not
begin to take it while you are sick." And so on and so on. Then the
bottles are given out by name, and in a very few minutes the room is
empty and then others come in. I do not a bit like to go back into the
Dispensary after breakfast, so I try to finish up everything before I
leave, even though it makes me late. Sometimes the patients or their
friends ask for more leaflets, and they sit and read them while waiting.
Sometimes they say they have had the one I am giving out, and have read
it, and then I give another. I get the leaflets by the thousand from the
publishers, and I like them much better than those published by the
Calcutta Press. These are philosophical, difficult and as most of the
patients are villagers, I much prefer those in simple language with a
direct definite appeal.

Much of the medicine is practically given away at a flat rate of one
pice a dose. On some things that covers the cost, on others there is no
margin, but the people are so poor and sometimes have to take medicine
so long, that even at the risk of falling under the ban of the Finance
Committee, I continue to give it at the low rate.

We have had several most enjoyable evenings with the magic
lantern. Sometimes Mr. Howard and sometimes Mrs. Howard has
taken a party in the big Mission car to the place appointed where, usually
under a spreading tree, we have stretched the screen and showed the
pictures to a changing company. We have a family of four boys who all
sing well, and love it, and they are very pleased with the adventure of
going along and the music adds greatly to the message. Though it is an
adventure to them, they take it seriously, and never do or say anything
inappropriate to the seriousness of the work.

A large village 12 miles away has been on my mind for some time,
so when camping season came a party spent nearly a week there, four
preachers, and part of the time four Bible women. They were well
received. Mrs. Howard took a party of us out in the big Mission car
twice during that week, with the magic lantern, and the head man of the
village gave us the best possible place under a wall-less roof, and we had
over 300 listeners. Another time we thought we had arranged in a low
caste section but when we went there in the evening and wanted some
help about getting the lantern in place, we found that the people of the
morning were none of them there and no one was interested, so we went
with a nice young weaver who importuned us and took us to his home
and as that was too small, he found another place, where we set up the
lantern on the sloping side of the road with bricks under the lower legs of
the high stool that was produced from somewhere for our use. This
sounds precarious, but the crowd was quiet, and no one interfered with
the stool legs, so we got through without accident. We had as many as
could see to any advantage, and more, as the road was narrow.

The people were cordial and wanted us to go again, for they said,
"When you go away and do not come for a long time we forget."
Children were plentiful and a strong appeal, but how can we start a
Mission station there with a school for the little girls and work in the
homes?

Another trip the preaching party made was to a big Fair two or
three stations up the road to Calcutta, by rail, and then 6 miles by motor
bus. Just before we got our camp started there was quite a fire and
some of the temporary thatched sheds had burned down (It started in a
sweetmeat shop where the "moira" put some potatoes or something else
cold into his kettle of boiling ghee, and it blazed up, and set fire to that
roof, and several others caught. The cloth stalls suffered most, those
supposed to be helping to put out the fire and saving the cloth were quite
apt to tuck under their wraps as much as they could carry away). This
misfortune rather broke up the Fair and it came to an untimely end several days before the appointed time. However, the sales of Gospels were not so bad. The party visited markets on the way back, and had enthusiastic stories to tell of the reception they had and the work done.

During the year the Bible-women have visited the near villages and sometimes those farther away and have brought back encouraging reports of their experiences. The zenana teachers, too, working in the homes, have been faithful and diligent, and when I have been to the homes they visit I note a cordial atmosphere that is most hopeful.

I had the great pleasure of teaching an interesting class of young women, the wives of the Bible School students, and the results of examinations showed evidence of careful study, and in the case of the less advanced, showed good attention in the class work. One young woman, a good girl, always attentive and responsive said, "I do know it in my mind but when I am asked questions I can't put it into words."

The year has been interesting and busy till it has seemed as if much of the work must be neglected for want of time. Much has to be hurriedly done for the same reason, so has been less satisfactory than if more time could have been given to it: really useful preparation takes so long.

Though the superintendency of the local Sunday School should not be really counted in the year's Mission work, it has taken time and thought each week and I have wished with all my heart that the S. S. could reach more, and appeal to the hearts of the community. The teachers have given cordial co-operation and with a good leader could accomplish much.

Guess that is about all. Though I will say to you personally that I have greatly enjoyed all the work, and not least the personal more intimate contacts in the sick-room with my dear colleagues who are more lovable the more I know them.

Excuse all errors etc. Have been making cookies for Convention, and writing while they bake—and burn!

MARY W. BACHELER.
CHANDBALI DISTRICT

I spent the first part of the year working in the High School at Balasore. After Mr. Frost's return in March he took over that responsibility and I have been devoting my attention to evangelistic work.

I have accompanied the preachers to markets and villages to preach to the Hindus, and have been privileged to visit scattered Christian communities in the district.

It is sad to note vacant and neglected bungalows at Santipore, Jellasore and Chandbali. Would that we had enough missionaries to fill them all!

I have been spending some time this cold season in Chandbali. Upon my going on furlough in March, it will again lack a missionary leader.

GUESTS.

The intended visit of some one from the homeland is an "event" eagerly looked forward to by missionaries. We have been fortunate this cold season for a number of our friends have included Bengal-Orissa in their itineraries. From the time of the first intimation of the projected trip until the actual arrival of the travellers we can follow them in imagination, and are thus ready to meet them with a proper welcome. Dr. and Mrs. Huntington were our first guests, and with them came Lucy Bonney, going home on furlough from Rangoon, Burma, as Dr. Huntington's secretary. Their stay was filled full of committee meetings and conferences until they had no time for seeing half the things we were eager to show. Ten short days and they hurried on to Assam.

All the others came in the same week, nearly two months later. Mrs. Goodman and her daughter, Grace, Miss Alice Drake of St. Paul, Minn., Miss Strider of Washington, D. C. were able to give us but two days, one for Balasore, and one for Midnapur and Bhimpur. When it is necessary you can see a great deal and decide several important things in a short time, and such was the case this time. The same train which brought Mrs. Goodman to Balasore also brought Mr. Holt, equipped with a battery of cameras, anxious to get his impressions in such form that he could take them home. These two days we were a much photographed
group of people, and many of us appeared for the first time in "movies." Meanwhile, Miss Meme Brockway was in Midnapur where she remained with us for one week. Busy with at least two lectures a day, she nevertheless found time for many a private word, and made friends with us all. We are really very grateful for these contacts with "home folks," for their helpful suggestions and for their appreciation of the work which has been accomplished.

THE VISIT OF DR. HUNTINGTON

The visit of the Treasurer of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society to the Mission fields is the event of a lifetime. Dr. Huntington was with us about ten days in November. As the change in treasurership had just been made, it seemed advisable for the retiring treasurer as well as the new incumbent to meet with him. We discussed our method of keeping books, problems that had arisen in connection with that work; more efficient methods, etc. I think we can fairly say that Dr. Huntington did not have a great deal of fault to find with our system, nor the operation of it. Judging from the fuss that is being made now-a-days about more "business-like methods," we suspect that a great many people do not realize how carefully we keep books, and that by our system, if any money is lost through neglect due to multiplicity of duties and demands upon the missionary's time, it is the missionary's personal funds, and not the work appropriations which suffer. Sometime, perhaps, we shall regale our readers with a brief description of our system and methods of handling Mission funds.

After reviewing our books, Dr. Huntington spent several days in Balasore with the Industrial School. Then he met the Reference and Property Committees and went over the financial findings of the recent Conference of Foreign Mission Policies, and discussed with us problems peculiar to our Missions. Then he spent a day with the whole Mission Conference, which was called to order on November 22nd. He had cordial invitations to visit Jamshedpur and Bhimpur, but his motto was "Business first," and the brief time he could spend with us did not permit of any extras. We feel that the visit was well worth while because our
mutual understanding of our common problems was materially increased. And we are also convinced that our Society is fortunate in having such a man as Dr. Huntington as Treasurer, a quiet, friendly man, with an unusually amount of good business sense.

H. C. Long.

Chandbali is the most southern station of the American Baptist Bengal-Orissa Mission. It is located on the Boitruni river 33 miles from Bhadrak, the nearest railway station. During the rainy season the road between Chanbali and Bhadrak is so filled with water and washed away in places that is often impossible for even an ox-cart to go over it. During part of the year, however, motor cars are driven over this road thereby making Chandbali accessible by motor. Chandbali also has a steamer service. Small steamers ply between Chandbali and Calcutta, and between Chandbali and Cuttack, the capital of Orissa.

Mission work was begun in Chandbali by Dr. Coldren of the Free Baptist Mission. Dr. Coldren lived and worked in Chandbali for a number of years. Since his death about ten years ago there has been no missionary located there although in the Chandbali area there are approximately 61,000 people. The station has been visited occasionally by missionaries, however, and Indian preachers have been located in Chandbali, Chasakand and Kandagodia which are in this area. In these villages, as well as in Chordia, there are a few Christian people, most of whom are converts from Hinduism.

At Christmas time I visited all of these stations. Very simple Christmas exercises were held in each place. The people arranged to have these exercises on different days so I could be present at all of them. We were served with rice and curry dinners. A few presents were given to the children. At the little services held we tried to explain to the people why we celebrate Christmas and what Christmas means. Since the Christmas season some of the preachers and I have been spending a few days camping in these villages. This gives us an opportunity to see the Christian people and to talk with some of the Hindu people of the nearby villages.

Chordia has become a Home Mission Station. This means that
the Indian people themselves have accepted the responsibility for the work in this place. At the Indian Yearly Meeting, Rs. 250 were pledged to build a preacher’s house in Chordia. This step taken by the Indian people on their own initiative is very encouraging.

You might be interested in hearing about our visit to Chordia. Three or four of the preachers and I had planned to go there and spend a few days. Since there was no road over which even an ox-cart could go we decided to go up the river in a boat. Our tent, cooking vessels, bedding and almost all of our food supply had to be taken. Since the boat must go with the tide which comes up the river beyond Chandbali, the time set for our departure was 3 a.m. However we actually managed to get started at 5 a.m. I was afraid that before our arrival the tide would turn against us and we would have to spend the day on the river bank as I had done on a previous occasion; but we made the eight or nine miles by 9 a.m. When we arrived at the landing, nobody was in sight, although we had tried to make arrangements for coolies to meet us at the river to take our luggage to the village almost two miles distance. We had to wade deep mud to get our luggage from the boat to the river bank. I had pull off my shoes: otherwise the mud would have come up over the tops of them since it was so deep. A man went to the village to get some help and after about two hours of waiting we saw an ox-cart coming. Our spirits rose high since we thought we would soon be at our destination. Unfortunately, however, just as we were ready to load our tent and other things on the cart one of the oxen became frightened, broke loose, and ran away. The other ox was so difficult to manage that we had to turn him loose also. Finally we loaded up the cart and started to push it toward the village. Well, even in January the midday sun is hot in India and our progress over the fields where there were no roads was very slow. Soon a lad came with another pair of bullocks, one of which was so poor and weak he lay down as soon as he was hitched to the cart. Finally another bullock was brought and we proceeded to our camping place. When we had pitched our tent it was noon, and just as I was about ready to make my lunch on a tin of Heinz’s Baked Beans I was told that one of the men of the village had invited me to a rice and curry
dinner. Of course I accepted the invitation. We had taken enough food with us to last several days, but our worst difficulty was on account of the bad water. The only available water was from tanks (small ponds) which after boiling and straining we engaged to use for cooking and making tea. An earthen vessel of well-water which I had taken with me from Chandbali furnished me with drinking water while I was there. On account of the partial failure of the rice crop there this year, most of the men have gone away to Calcutta and other places to find work. On account of the bad water and other unsanitary conditions cholera is now breaking out in the village and there have been two or three deaths.

Chordia, Chasakand and Kandagodia are only three of the many villages of this Chandbali area of 61,000 souls. I have mentioned these places because there are a few Christian people in them. At the time of our recent visit to Chordia there were two widows baptized, and in Kandagodia, one. Including these and other recent baptisms there are only about forty church members in this part of our field. At present there are four Indian preachers located in this area. There is one Christian teacher. She is a preacher’s wife and teaches in a Lower Primary School. There are occasional visits by missionaries and by the Indian District Evangelist. Such is the present staff for the evangelization of Chandbali District. Do you think that there is a need for missionary endeavour in Chandbali?

W. S. Dunn.

THE JUBILEE HIGH SCHOOL

The time has come to write my last report for this term because I am going home this Spring. Since most of my time is given to the Girls’ School, I shall begin writing about the school. The enrolment at the present time, including the high school classes is 140 of which number 34 are Hindus and the rest Christians. The Lower Primary has two sections, Oriya and Bengali. Most of the Bengali children are Hindus. There are only 9 Hindus studying above the Lower Primary and these...
are in the Upper Primary. In December four girls out of five passed the Middle English examination and are now in High School. This year there are two High School Classes, four girls in each class. There are six Balasore girls attending higher classes in other high schools of Calcutta and Cuttack; one is in college; and another has just finished one year of Bible Training in the Methodist Bible Training School at Bolpur.

There are thirteen teachers on the staff at the present time and one more is expected. Several changes have been made. Two teachers of the Lower Primary resigned and a teacher who formerly taught in the Kindergarten, but for several years has been Head Mistress of the Motsahi L. P. School, returned to her former position. Another teacher who just completed her Junior Training at Cuttack was secured for the other vacancy. The Middle classes have never had as well qualified teachers before. Two of our Balasore girls who studied in Calcutta two years and then took Senior Training at Cuttack have returned this year to teach. So this year there are five Senior trained teachers besides one who read in College as far as I.A. and has had one year training. The latter one is the English teacher and also the Second mistress of the Middle English School. A Pundit who has passed the Sanskrit Title Examination has been secured to teach Sanskrit and Vernacular in the High School. We hope that a young woman, graduate, will come as soon as June; but in the meantime a Christian man will substitute. Miss Mary Laughlin B.A., B.Mus. has been appointed Secretary of the School and will take full charge of all of the three schools in March when I go home on furlough.

Last June the Government grant was increased Rs. 56 a month, so that now the grant is Rs. 172, the Municipality grant still Rs. 28, and the fees average about Rs. 50 a month. At the time that it was decided to build the new high school building in Balasore, the Mission being short of funds, found it necessary to ask for local support for the running expenses of the school. A fund was started and at the present time there is a balance of Rs. 1,561.

During this year the Head Mistress's house has been finished so that it can be used. The high school building is nearly built. Perhaps it may
be used by the middle of March; but will not be entirely finished then. I hope that it can be used before it gets too hot; because of the extra classes in the other building, the teachers and Secretary have no place to go to work doing the free periods from class except the verandah. At first all of the rooms will not be needed for school work. I think that it would be very nice for Balasore to have one of the rooms used for the Y.W.C.A. since the building is in a central place. Neither of the two new buildings have been dedicated yet.

At this time when there is so much discussion about the need of money for all kinds of Mission work, I think that it would be well to explain the high school matter. Let us look at the needs for such a school in Balasore.

1. When there is a large Christian community, we are under obligation to make some arrangement for the education of the Christian children.

2. English is taught as one subject all through the Middle English School, and when one leaves school at this time, most of the English is soon forgotten. Most of the text books in high school are written in English so that one is forced to use lots of English, and as a result after two years it becomes a pleasure to read simple English stories and books. Some teach English classes.

3. Now-a-days girls pass the Middle School at an average age of 15 which makes them too young to enter any training. One cannot teach under 18 years of age and cannot enter Bible Training under 20 years of age. In Orissa the rule is that one can enter Bible Training and Junior Teachers' Training after passing Middle School, providing that he is old enough; but for Senior Teachers' Training one must have had two years of High School. Also if a girl has studied this far she may take Junior Training in one year instead of two. It is not a good thing for an Indian girl to sit at home idle waiting to get old enough to go to some place for training. It is necessary to provide something for that girl to do for the year or two of waiting. The very best place for her is high school.

There is also another side to this story. When funds are so short in every field, it is not fair to start new work and make old standing
schools suffer for lack of funds. If the school funds are not cut there
will be money enough counting the balance in the high school fund
to continue in the same way if the last two classes are not added. If
these two classes were added it would take more money for teachers,
teachers from outside of Balasore would have to come and that would
mean that a hostel would be needed for teachers near the school. At
present all of the teachers except one are Balasore people. After a few
more years there may be Balasore girls who will be college trained, and
then it will be easier and cheaper to add the two upper classes. I am
willing to say that the high school shall not consist of more than two
classes until the circumstances change regarding both funds and quali­
fied teachers. However I do believe that the need is sufficient enough to
require the two years which completes a unit in such a way that girls can
decide to either go on further in some other high school, or take one of
the three training courses, Bible, Junior or Senior Teachers. In Orissa
Government gives stipends so that either of the latter two courses cost
very little after having studied two years in high school.

Now for the evangelistic side of the school work. Naturally if the
purpose of the school were not evangelistic, then there would be little
need for a Mission school. Every day the school is opened with prayers.
Bible is taught four times a week in all of the classes except the four
higher ones in which it is taught three times. Last Easter 17 of the
school girls were baptized of which number five were from Christian
families of Balasore, one out of town, and the rest were orphans.

The school gardener is a Hindu. Over a year ago I gave him
a New Testament and told him that if he wished me to help him under­
stand what he read that I should be most pleased to help him. He
came every Sunday morning for help for sometime, then something
happened that broke up this study for awhile. About two months ago I
asked him if he were ever going to become a Christian, and he answered
me at once in a very happy way, saying, “Yes, I shall become a
Christian. My children tell me that they wish to leave home and live in
the orphanage so that they can be Christians.” I asked him when he was
going to be a Christian and he replied that his wife did not understand.
Then I told him to send her to me and I would try and help her. She
came the next night and brought her children and a friend of the oldest girls'. The gardener's two girls and another girl from the same village come to school and often tell their teacher that they are going to become Christians. I talked with the mother for sometime and then wondering if she was understanding all that I said, I began to question her she could not answer me, but a child sat on each side of her and first one then the other whispered the answers to her and she said them after the children. "A little child shall lead them." Since that night the mother has attended two baptismal services, and church New Year's morning. The children told the grandmother that they were all going to become Christians and she frightened the whole family so that they are afraid to take the stand alone in a Hindu village. I pray that the time may not be long before the fears may be removed and the whole family will take their stand for Christ.

A certain Hindu Pundit, a Brahman, has taught in the Girls' School nearly ten years. He is good teacher and a good trustworthy man. During the last two years I have noticed an increasing interest in Christianity. For a time during his free periods in school he read a story of the Bible which was written in simple English. He has been allowed to take prayers once a month. He always gives some moral teaching, once he wrote a song for the children to sing for prayers. I have never known him to go to church except for a wedding. Since his home is a long way from Balasore and he can only go home during vacation, I try to remember to let him know sometime ahead if an unexpected vacation comes so he can make arrangements to go home. It so happened that there was to be an Institute at Midnapore while Miss Broackway was here. I went to the pundit and asked him if he wished to go home for that week. He asked why he could not go to the Institute, of course I was glad to make arrangements, as would be necessary since a Hindu cannot eat with Christians. The rest of the teachers were surprized to hear that the pundit was going with them. No one appeared to be having a happier time than the pundit all the way through the meetings. Miss Broackway after seeing a sentence written at the top of his note-book which said "Oh! God help me" asked the pundit if he meant that for a prayer which he said that he did. After
returning from the Institute, I asked him why it was that he had worked so many years in a Mission school and yet had not become a Christian. He said, I must be shown the truth, you tell me that the way to God is through Jesus Christ and the Hindus say a different way and I want to compare these ways and find the real truth. We must pray that the Holy Spirit will lead him to find the truth for which he is seeking.

Last October I gave the Cradle Roll work over to Mrs. Gilson. I am sure that she will enjoy visiting the homes and the mothers will love to have her come. The two Lower Primary Schools, Motsahi and Permit Ghat have been dreadfully neglected by me this year. I have had to substitute in the Middle School so much that I could not leave to go anywhere else as much as I wished to go. However, I looked after the Permit Ghat school enough to get a new school house built in the Spring. The first February I took charge of the Bible-women for a period of eight months until Mrs. Frost could take them. I tried to plan my work in such a way that I could visit one of the two above mentioned schools and visit a few homes with the Bible-women the same afternoon. This plan worked a few times and then I had two days vacation in school so I had the pleasure of going all day with the Bible-women. I wished that I had more time to go with them for I enjoy that kind of work very much indeed.

Ethel Cronkite.

GIRL GUIDES

The Girl Guides have had more attention and taken on new life in these last few weeks. Although they were organized and enrolled a year ago in December, they do not yet have a warranted Captain. The necessary steps are now being taken to make the Balasore Guides fully accredited members of the International Association. When this can be completed, Guide work can go on without delay, and with more satisfactory results. Thus, at present no one is qualified to pass the girls in their tests, so that phase is necessarily backward. Soon, however, Miss Laughlin expects to obtain her Captain's warrant, and the tests can be taken as fast as the girls can get ready for them. Three of our own girls
have just returned from the Training School in Cuttack to teach in the school, and two of them are first class and one a second class guide. This means much for our Balasore guides, for they are imbued with the Guide spirit, and stand ready to help in any way they can, and to inspire the others on to better work and the proper spirit.

During Mrs. Goodman’s brief visit to Balasore the Guides gave a demonstration of their drills, their games and songs. They proved that they could respond to orders quickly and smartly, and that afterwards they knew how to play. They sang rounds and songs in both English and Oriya sitting in the “Campfire Circle,” ending with “Taps,” which is such a favorite the world around.

“Day is done, gone the sun
From the lake, from the hill, from the sky;
All is well, safely rest,
God is nigh.”

This last week we entertained the Guide deputation from England, Miss Olive Nichol. She had only one day for us, but succeeded in giving us many useful suggestions for further Guide work. She was very encouraging about our outlook and there is no doubt that we have a promising lot of girls! There as elsewhere, it is the work with individuals that counts.

Guides help to make girls feel responsibility for their own conduct and for helping others. There are many ideals in the Guide law which are exactly the ideals we want our girls as Christians to have.

Often we find they assimilate these ideals more quickly when they are in a sort of game than though they were preached to them day by day, and perhaps don’t realize they are doing it. It just becomes a part of them. Guiding is work, but Guiding is fun too. And more than that, it helps in giving the highest kind of life.

MARY LAUGHLIN.
SUCH IS LIFE AT MIDNAPORE

Or at least such it has been. Perhaps some of the good readers of "Tidings" have begun to think that things must be nearly dead around Midnapore, in as much as they have had no news from the "Middle City" for a long time. The reverse, rather, has been the case. Everybody has been too busy to write.

While the Bible School was in session, the principal taught ten periods a week in addition to the regular station work and the work of treasurer for the Mission. In the last job he had the help of Mr. S. B. Mandal, but even so the business of sending out cheques to the various missionaries, calculating exchange on sight drafts, making out reports to the Government Income Tax office, and quarterly reports to the Home Office in New York took considerable time, as he is responsible for all items that pass through the office. In addition, the sale of the Santipur Farm took some extra time, the treasurer being gone from his station a whole week on one trip. The time, however, was well spent, as in the future no missionary will have to give his time to collecting rents, suing delinquents, etc. Moreover, the people themselves will probably be really benefited, as the interest on the proceeds of the Farm will provide three or four good scholarships to help the young people with their education beyond the grades of the Santipur schools. The new purchasers are men of good character, one a Christian, the other very friendly to us, having grown up in our schools, so that the people need fear no oppression from them. But all this is an aside. We were talking about the Bible School. This past year we had fourteen boys studying to fit themselves for the work of preaching the Gospel. Nine of these were advanced students, and they all graduated at the end of October. It was a great privilege to have daily contact with these fine young men, and we hope that they have received not only information and training, but also a real desire to bring the Blessed Gospel to their fellow-countrymen. Of the graduates, four were Oriyas, three Santals, and two Bengalis.

Excellent as has been the work of our Bible School through the years, we have often wished that the large staff, comparatively, which is necessary to training in a variety of subjects, might be made available for a larger number of students. When, therefore, the proposition of a
Union Vernacular Theological School was brought to us by our English Baptist friends, we were not unsympathetic. The plan now under consideration is that our Mission, the English Baptists, and the Australian Baptists, who are in East Bengal, will unite in one school, for Bengali speaking students, and we will join with the English Baptists on the south in educating our Oriya speaking preachers. The latter seem to be quite pleased with the prospect, as they have long fretted undertaking their studies in Bengali and in Bengali territory. A conference of representatives of institutions and organizations interested was held in Calcutta November 17th, with a fair representation from indigenous organizations. Resolutions were drawn up for the approval of the bodies interested, and when they have been approved, really serious considerations of the means of getting together will begin. If the plan is approved and carried out, two schools instead of four will be serving a student body aggregating about fifty, and will be doing it at less expense and better. But more of this when plans are further along.

We have always felt that Midnapore itself did not get the attention which it deserved. With an outlying territory in which there are from 500,000 to one million unevangelized Bengalis, Midnapore has for years had only one man, and in addition to the work ordinarily connected with a good sized station, he has had to carry on the Bible School, and part of the time has had other work as well, such as the treasurership for the Mission. Now Midnapore has received another blow. Owing to a break in his health, Rev. L. C. Kitchen, who was in charge of Bhimpur, was compelled to return home at the end of August, six months before he planned to go. The man on whom we had depended to carry on the work failed us completely, so the Reference Committee gave us charge of Bhimpur in addition to Midnapore. This necessitated our moving to Bhimpur to look after the flourishing school which the Mission is carrying on there for the Santal people who otherwise would have little opportunity of getting an education. Consequently the work in Midnapore must get on as best it can without a resident missionary until some one can take Bhimpur again. It was very fortunate that just at this juncture Miss Daniels returned, especially as Miss Rai was about to get married, and leave us to make a Christian home for a fine young man from Madras.
Otherwise Dr. Mary Bacheler's days, already full, would not have contained hours enough for all the work to be done.

It's an ill wind that blows nobody good. To partially relieve us a very wise change was made; the treasurership of the Mission was handed to Rev. E. C. Brush of Khargpur. We vote for this is a permanent arrangement. He was never given an opportunity to get any vernacular, but by doing this work in addition to his English work, he can relieve some one who has an Indian language. Being a man of good nature and good judgment, he could see the point, and took on the extra load without objection.

Feb. 14, 1927.  

H. C. Long.

THE MIDNAPORE Y.M.C.A. IS THE LORD'S VINEYARD

"Ho, ye that hunger and thirst" after the message of Salvation in a dark and dry heathen land, come, read His wonderful love for those that sit at the feet of "stocks and stones," and "rejoice in Him."

The Calcutta Y. M. C. A. had a financial crisis in 1923, so it had to make over its Midnapore field to our Mission. It has undertaken the entire responsibility of running the work as far as possible on the line of evangelism, pure and simple, to win souls for Christ. The "incorruptible Reeds" sown in the Y. M. C. A. Bible class, watered by the Spirit of the Lord, has "brought forth fruits" in the hearts of some of the young men.

The first fruit—though not fully ripe yet—of the Bible class is S. K. Ghose, B.A. Though a Hindu, he has "cast in his lot" among the Christian boys in a Christian hostel in the face of his orthodox Community. He is standing on the threshold of "the Kingdom of Christ" one bold step more, and he shall be in. Do remember him in your prayers that he may be "endued with power from on high" to confess him openly ere long whom he cherishes fondly at heart.

Another young man of the local college named A. K. Jona came under "the sweet influence" of Christianity. That he might get greater opportunity of knowing more of Him who "seals the believer unto God,"
he joined a Christian College, where all of a sudden “the love of God was shed abroad in his heart by the Holy Ghost,” and so he cried out “to be buried with Him by baptism unto death that he should walk in newness of life.” Praise ye the Lord. His younger brother who is now a student of the local College is preparing himself to follow the footsteps of his elder brother in his new “saving faith.”

Another soul won for Christ was Mr. B. C. Sen of the Bengal Police. He halted long between Hinduism and Christianity, but at last he found, “The Lord, he is the God; the Lord, he is the God.” The meditation on the Bible presented by Miss Barnard, the love of Jesus for sinners as expounded by Miss Daniels, “except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God” as explained by Mr. Long, all helped and strengthened him “to take up his Cross and follow Him” in the truth of all opposition and persuasion of his wife. She is still “an alien from the common-wealth of Christ.” Do pray for her. Oh! Ye champions of Christ and His Kingdom that she may ere long throw her “sticks and stones” to “the bats and moles,” and boldly and joyfully stand abreast with her husband under the banner of Christ on the Cross to the joy of the angels in heaven, and to the consolation of her consort in life.

Public Lectures.—It gives me much pleasure to record that some of the Professors of the local College are sincere sympathizers of our work. Whenever we have addresses, they come with their boys, and the hall is packed with audience, sometimes full to overflowing. Sometimes they themselves speak from our platform.

Reading Room.—Dailies, weeklies etc. about ten in all, both English and Bengali offer intellectual food to the boys. It is very kind of Mrs. Long to favour us with some of the splendid magazines of America both secular and religious, which the boys eat omnivorously.

Indoor Games.—We have twelve kinds of such games to attract boys to pastime in the afternoon. They are much pleased and attracted to a new game called the bagatelle, a kind gift of our Rev. Mr. Brush of Khargpur Union Church.
Organ.—An ambassador for Christ and His cause has given us gratuitously an organ on which the boys play Bengali tunes to the great joy of the Choir.

Mr. Long goes about collecting mites to make the Y.M.C.A. a self-supporting institution "to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

H. N. Sarkar,
Midnapore.

MORE MIDNAPORE NEWS

On February 1st, Miss Brockway of the American Baptist Publication Society now travelling all over the Orient under the World's Sunday School Association, came to Midnapore and held an Institute on Sunday School and Story Telling Methods for five days. As many as 100 Mission preachers, school teachers and other workers gathered from all the different stations for these five days and lived in hostel fashion. Besides there were 25 to 75 from the local community present at every session. Those who came once came again and brought their neighbours. For a person so vivacious and original in expression as Miss Brockway it was very difficult to work through an interpreter but it was necessary as only a small part of the audience could understand English, so Dr. Mary Bacheler acted as interpreter and did it so well that the difficulty was largely overcome. No one could miss the point of her methods or of her stories. All became as little children when she pretended her audience was 4 or 5 years of age. They shook hands or said verses or brought offerings, and when the drills for older children were presented, the "girls" were as eager to excel the "boys" as they would be in any S. S. One pastor in a Devotional service explained "presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice" by saying it is not just the spirit God wants. If Miss Brockway had remained in America and prayed for us and wished us well, she would have given her spirit, but we would have missed the words of her mouth, the gestures of her hands and the expression of her face, all of which we have because of the giving of her body to come so far.
Adding to the interest of this week was the arrival on the 2nd of Mrs. H. E. Goodman, our National Women's Foreign Society President, and her party. That evening at the service she presented Dr. Mary Bacheler with a Gold medal for over 25 years missionary service. She has much over that to her credit—42 years of active service on the field and 51 including furloughs. The church was packed and everyone was happy to be present at the conferring of this honour.

I returned to Midnapore November 9 and began to take charge of the Girls' School the next day. The school has had from 93 to 106 pupils through the year. Two teachers left but two others were added in their place. One, an M. A. retired from a College Professorship, whose home is here in Midnapore, is our Sanskrit teacher. Khanto Bala Rai managed the school all the year successfully in spite of many difficulties. She was married November 30th and we miss her special abilities very much. We wondered how we should start the new year and manage the public program on our Annual Prize Distribution day without her, but all the other teachers have done their best and the Prize Distribution came off on January 29 with 300 or 400 present. Now we are soliciting aid for the School funds from local people who take some interest in our school.

In beginning the new year we are glad that we have a full number of teachers, 9 besides myself, and that we have now 2 girls in the Fourth year of H. S. making all four classes of High School, that we have some improvements on the living quarters of girls and teachers and a new Boarding Mistress, Mrs. R. Bose. We are glad that one has been baptized from our school this New Year, but sad that there were not more. The teachers are now very earnest and united.

At Christmas time the two Hindu schools from the Bazar came for their Annual Program and gifts. Mrs. Bose has supervised these during the past year and has done it most efficiently. They gave a good program and were delighted with their gifts, most of which came from some American friends. There are over 60 girls in these schools.

Ruth Daniels.
LETTER FROM BHIMPORE

Dear Ruth,

We have had such a busy close to the old year, that I have sadly neglected you. So I must make up for my arrears.

As you note, we have moved from Midnapore to a station new to us. Mr. and Mrs. Kitchen were invalided home in August, sent off by the Medical and Reference Committee. So we moved out in December after Mission Conference in Midnapore, and this is to be our home for the two years the Kitchens' are to be away. It is a very healthful place, quite free from mosquitoes and flies, and the children thrive and grow rosy in this delightful cool season.

Let me introduce you to our family. In the old bungalow, built by Dr. Burkholder long ago, now nicely repaired and freshened, the "Aunties" (as our kiddies say) live. See them on the verandah. The tall one with the eye-glasses is Miss Noami Knapp. Yes, the one talking to the 6 Bible-women. They have just had morning prayers and are starting to walk to a nearby village. There are 80 villages within a radius of 4 miles of here, and they go almost daily to the Hindu and Santal homes with the Gospel story. Of course in the homes where there are children who attend our Bhimpore schools, they find a cordial welcome. Judson and I noticed that the day we went out with the women not long ago.

As they start out, they pass our bungalow, and Miss Knapp stops for a word to the class who sit making lace on our east verandah. You remember that box of lovely handmade lace I sent you last year, mercerized linen and beautifully done. These twenty girls and women from village homes make it on pillows with intricate patterns marked out with common pins under Miss Knapp's direction.

Where has the other "Auntie" gone? O yes, she is around on the verandah toward the boardings. She has an eye on the girls' boarding to the west and another on the boys' boarding to the east, wondering whether any one is ill this morning, as she talks to the surdar (man who buys supplies) or the boarding-master. She must hurry for the first bell has rung and she must be ready to greet the 8 teachers and
the 65 pupils. Isn't it fine? Seven of these teachers are graduates of our own school, returned to us from training in Calcutta. Three fine girls returned in December and are starting their teaching careers this year. (The school year opens in January here.) One of them is a very sweet and capable girl, Torulota, and our children love her. No doubt the others are nice, too, but we know Toru better, for she is their Sunday School teacher, and she makes the lesson most interesting with pictures and stories. It is good to see a change from the deadly monotony of memorizing by repetition that has been the bane of much primary work in India.

Miss Hill is hopeful of her new Kindergarten which she opened last year. The children are doing nicely in it and show greater aptitude as they go into the Infant classes. This year there are 12 little ones sitting in the verandah, and Torulota proves to be just as interesting and sympathetic a teacher of day pupils as of Sunday School scholars.

A little later out here in the yard you will see the girls of 4th and 5th Standards (about 6th and 7th grades) busy with their basket work. They use split bamboo from the local supply, more practical for them than raffia or wicker. Others are learning to weave mats which are so necessary in the Indian home, and the older girls will be soon ready for their turn at the 2 spinning wheels. The oldest of all, the sixth standard girls are to learn weaving this year. Already two of the girls who finished school in December have been trying the looms and have demonstrated their ability to make neat towels and the plain long cloths which are used for every-day wear. Another digression— the boys are also to have weaving introduced this year. Indian schools to be up to date must include weaving in their curriculum these days.

It is hardly fair to tell of our staff without efficient Indian Co-workers. When Mr. Kitchen left unexpectedly in August, Babu Behari Lal Das, son of our late beloved Pundit Samuel Das of Midnapore, stepped into the secretaryship of the school and is showing himself to be a very capable manager and efficient missionary co-worker. Manik Chand Murmu, of Santal stock, has kept his post of great usefulness and responsibility as one of the inspectors of the 78 village schools in Santal area, and those watching his work are very pleased with the
results. The clerk, Baburam Pator, is shouldering a heavy responsibility in the village school work, too. We feel that these are very hopeful signs at this time when the matter of devolution is uppermost in the minds of those at home and those on the field.

All visitors are shown the new Boys’ High School building before they leave. It is nearing completion now and looks very imposing as it stands apart from the other buildings, facing the south, to the west of the Boardings. It is a fine structure and will help make our Boys’ School more efficient. The past few months have been trying, as the teachers and boys have been working in the midst of, or at least next door to, noise and confusion, but it is all worth while. Mr. Kitchen, Miss Knapp, Udoi Babu, and Mr. Long will breathe several signs of relief when all is completed and the 250 boys settle down to regular work in their new classrooms. We call it a high school but of course in the Santal country where higher education is only being introduced, the upper classes are necessarily small. We have only four ready for the final examinations this March, but the lower classes are larger and prospects are very hopeful for the future.

I wish I could tell you about the village school examinations. It was an inspiration to see that throng of boys, sitting on mats in the compound, writing their primary examination, hoping to pass so as to enter the big school here in January. What hopes for these boys from Hindu and Santal villages, where the mothers and sisters are illiterate, unless they can come into the centre, Bhimpore? Pray for us all that we may lead many of these boys to Christ while they are with us. 60 or 70 promising boys are housed in our Hindu boarding this year. Here is our evangelistic opportunity right at our door.

By the way, in August Miss Knapp stepped bravely to the rescue in regard to the village schools, 78 in number, took over the secretaryship of them, and handed the responsibility to Mr. Long only in January. Meanwhile she had charge of the station accounts and still has the books in her hands until the end of the fiscal year, April 30th, giving only the cash and cheques to the Sahib. Who dares to whisper a word about the inferiority of women? It won’t pass in Bhimpore.
If there were only time to tell you all about our Christmas! We ladies all wore sarees, as the custom is here, and helped to distribute the 350 bags to gladden the Christmas of the boys and girls. I wish you could have seen the live tree set up in the church-yard, the arches, the wreaths, and paper chains, all made and hung up by the boys and girls. You will have to come out yourself to see it all one day.

Don't imagine it is all roses. There are the hard times, too, the quarrels, just as there are at home. We have insufficient quarters for teachers, so our two Bengali high school masters gave us trouble in December, even dragging their pretty little wives into the disputes. In fact the first night we arrived, we were welcomed by a delegation to tell us all the details. One group, a Mohammedan, a Hindu, a Hindu Nationalist, and a Christian, all in one room, made things interesting for a time during the year. Our best teachers of course get married, as is natural, and we must send up another group of girls to be trained for the work. Such are a few of the problems that we meet.

It isn't fair for me to write this to you, leaving out the Kitchens. They made their home here for 5 years and gave of their best to the work. This past year they had to go home, with health broken, leaving their task unfinished. We are simply filling in while they are home. Perhaps you will some day read a word from them in Canada about their hopes and plans. Our hope is that they will be here to carry on from 1929 on.

Meanwhile we are happy to have a new family with us, Mr. and Mrs. Berg, and baby Roger. Just now they are in the Santal Perganas, breathing in Santali, so they write us. We expect them here in March to continue their language study. They are the first missionaries to be allowed to study the Santal language. The hope is that through this medium they will be able to carry on most efficient evangelistic work in the district. And the Memsahib is a trained nurse! Isn't that fine?

With best wishes as always,

Yours cordially,

MABEL R. LONG.

Orissa Mission Press, Cuttack.