



DAY MISSIONS
LIBRARY

MAY 30 1928

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

PRAYER BELL

DEAR FELLOW HELPERS,

May and June, 1928.

It is time once again to send you greetings in His blessed Name, and we trust that as you receive the PRAYER BELL it will be a stimulus to praise and prayer. The intense heat seemed to come to us all at once, and we have to lean hard on Jesus to keep living in the heavenly places and not be drawn under.

Many a time we have been conscious that suddenly—when things looked black and dark—clouds have turned silvery, weights have lifted, and in our spirits we have been assured that someone's prayer was answered. Oh, it pays to pray; the enemy is put to flight, and God's Kingdom extended by your prayers, and when Satan comes along and seeks to get you to stop praying, saying to you, 'What is the use?' turn a deaf ear to him and remember he never did speak the truth.

Our new workers send cheering accounts of how the Lord is helping them in the language study, and how they appreciate the opportunity given to them, and how they are helped as they think of the many who are praying for them.

We expect our next PRAYER BELL will be the Annual Report number. This time we are sending you news from our Indian workers; they are labouring side by side with us, and we know you will be glad to hear from them.

Rebeccabai tells us of the W.C.T.U. Branch that was started here last year. Let no one think that, because of this, we do not keep soul-saving Gospel work first. We do; we are here to preach 'Christ and Him crucified,' but we have to have a school, or girls would never learn to read their Bibles. Then, too, young women get married and go out into the world; here they are guarded and shielded, but surely it is right to warn them of the pitfalls and dangers that they are certain to meet outside.

MUKTI BRANCH OF THE W.C.T.U.

There are many who think that temperance work is a farce. They mostly form their judgment from a few who have broken the pledge after signing it. But is it right to denounce a union from a few backsliders?

Certainly, none can close their eyes to the fact that the W.C.T.U. has done a great deal of good all over the world.

Hence when Miss Campbell with Miss Navalkar visited us on January 17th, 1927, and spoke to us about the origin of the W.C.T.U. in America and how it has spread all over the world and how harmful drink is to the body, there was great enthusiasm created among the girls. Miss Navalkar, the organizing secretary of the Bombay Division, formed us into a union and a committee of officers was elected.

Many signed the pledge and bought White Ribbon badges. Miss Campbell spoke afterwards to our men teachers, boys, and workmen. They all listened very attentively and after the address there was a discussion on Opium, and all agreed that it was harmful.

We are proud to say that there is no drink shop in Kedgaon, mostly due to Pandita Ramabai's influence.

In June, 1927, Dr. Sheppard gave a very interesting lecture on the 'Evil Effects of Alcohol on the Body,' illustrated by charts and diagrams. Dr. Sheppard has offered prizes for the best essays on the subject, and we are expecting to receive many essays soon.

For 1927 we had 144 members in the young peoples' branch. In the Cooper Essay contest, one of them won the second prize for an essay on 'How to get pure milk in India.'

Miss Harishchandra, the Vice-President of our Union, and myself were sent as delegates to the Sixth Annual Convention of the Bombay Division of the W.C.T.U., held at Lonavla. We enjoyed this immensely and learnt many useful things there.

After our return Miss Harishchandra gave an excellent report of the convention to the girls, who appreciated it very much. As a result, we are glad to say that a few more have signed the pledge and become members.

Though we are very happy to see more and more signing the pledge and becoming members of the union, we realise that it is impossible for any to keep the pledge except through Christ. 'For every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights.' We hope that the day will soon come when, by God's help, there will be total abstinence throughout the whole of India.

REBECCABAI IPE,
President.

THE BIBLE CLASS

'Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.'—Ps. 103: 1.

You must have read about our Bible class from Miss Wells' account some months ago. It is now nearly a year since it was started, in June, 1927, with 27 women. They all come from different departments of work, such as printing, needlework and teaching. Five are from Bartimi Sadan. They are totally blind, but three are very promising. The number is reduced now, as five of our pupils have had the privilege of going out and giving the Gospel to distant villages during this touring season. There is much to praise for, as they are spreading the Word of God willingly and faithfully. Two of the pupils daily go out to give the Bread of Life to the hungry souls round about Mukti. I am glad to say that they are really consecrated.

Since we commenced this class we have finished the first year's evangelical course, i.e., the Life of Christ and a part of the Pentateuch and the first book of Psalms. We were greatly blessed by Doctor Sheppard's lectures on Genesis; it certainly was a great privilege for these girls to learn from him for a month.

This term we are studying the book of Exodus, second book of Psalms and the Acts of the Apostles. The latter has been a source of joy to all of us.

One blind woman's face especially brightens up with joy, and always there is a smile when she hears about the early Church and God's wonderful dealings with it. There is another girl who testified one day that she was greatly benefited by that Book.

At present we have a class just for an hour and a half daily, as we cannot spare the working girls longer. Still, they put their spare time in, studying the daily assignments. They have examinations practically every month. Some of the girls are not at all bright, but it is inspiring to see them trying hard.

I would be grateful to all the friends if they will take us daily to the throne of grace and pray that the daily lessons may touch not merely the brains, but stir up hearts, so that they shall have real hunger for souls.

BHIMABAI HARISHCHANDRA.

OUR NEST

'As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings; so the Lord alone did lead him and there was no strange God with him.'—Deut. 32 : 11-12.

The stirring up of the nest is never a pleasant process; it is a time of discomfort, attended with anxiety, for all concerned. Perhaps that is why it is so often too long deferred.

In teaching eaglets to fly undue haste might be just as harmful as undue delay, and so great wisdom and patience is needed at this crisis.

Perhaps some of you will be interested to know that March 11th, 1928, inaugurated the fortieth year since this nest of ours was first brought into existence by our beloved Mother, Pandita Ramabai. Surely was she a virtuous woman and her children, thousands all over India, call her 'blessed' indeed.

As we look back upon the years that are gone, how chequered has been our career—vicissitudes and changes, removal of loved ones, one after another. Stirring up of the nest. Many of us, who were children then, free as larks and jolly as butterflies, are now beginning to feel our responsibilities. When our nest was first stirred up in July, 1921, by the Homecall of our beloved elder Sister Tai (Manoramabai), we were simply dazed; it was impossible for us to understand our Heavenly Father's Hand of Wisdom. Not long after came another crash, and our beloved Mother—the only mother many of us ever knew on this earth—was called away from us. No one outside our nest can understand what all this has meant to us. How many times a day we have wished them back with us; but no, they had their share, and are now waiting for us 'There,' and perhaps praying for us too. We thank God for their lives, and pray that we may walk in their footsteps.

The process of the stirring up of the nest is still going on in various ways. The echo that often strikes our ears these days is, 'Indian people must learn to stand on their own legs, they must act on their own resources, they must learn to support

themselves,' and so on and so forth. Our *maushies* (aunties), many of whom have been here for many years, are beginning to feel tired in the work though not of it. They are getting anxious, and rightly too, that we their nieces should learn to depend not on them but on God Himself. After hearing of what has been going on in China, they do not know what may come to this nest of ours if they, too, have to leave it suddenly. But we are confident that they not only will flutter over their young but also bear them on wings of prayer and counsel during their initial flights. All of us together thank God because He alone is going to lead us. In Him alone is our safety.

Some of you may wonder as to the results of these thirty-nine odd years of labour of God's people. Well, Eternity alone can tell. Enough to know that many, many have gone out from us who got to know Jesus here and are shining for Him in other spheres.

School is the training ground for the exercising of our Master's ideals of the fear of the Lord. Duty, responsibility, faithfulness, etc.—these are lessons hard to be taught and harder still to be learnt, but they are the foundation on which our Empire must be built. We, as Christian teachers, thank God for the share He is giving us in the moulding of so many young lives. Like Caleb of old, we must press on with courage and hope until we possess all that the Lord wants to give us for His glory and honour.

In the coming year we are planning to introduce vocational training, which may help our girls to make themselves more self-reliant when they leave school, and open up new avenues of service for them in the future.

Pray that this school may be a nest for the birth and nurture of converts who may in time be sent out, that they may in turn 'be fruitful and multiply.'

Yours in His Service,
K. GADRE.

Our hearts have been cheered this Eastertide by the women and girls here. Quite of their own accord, just to show how glad they were to know Jesus, they brought thankofferings to Him on Easter Sunday, which amounted to over £3.

'Offered willingly to the Lord.' Such offerings are surely a gladness to Him.

Pray that we may all grow deeper in the things of God, that we may more and more satisfy our Lord and King.

Yours in His Fellowship,
M. LISSA HASTIE.

*Ramabai Mukti Mission,
Kedgaon, Poona Dist.*