THE BLIND TRIO
'They shall see His Face'

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION
INDIA

REPORT: PRAYER BELL

July—August 1931
RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

PRAYER BELL

July and August, 1931.

'What man of you . . . doth not leave the ninety and nine . . . and go after that which is lost until He find it?'

Blessed Man who goes after the lost 'until He find it.' No number of months or years is specified. He will go on 'until He find it' and He calls us to do the same. Never mind the time or the labour, we are called to go on, until we find.

May He be our enabling day by day. The following pages will let you know how we have been seeking, aye, and finding, during this last year.

We are sorry that owing to the lack of a visit from the auditor and other unforeseen causes there is no balance sheet ready to put in this number of the Prayer Bell, but we hope to let you have it soon.

Miss Wells report, too, will (D.V.) come later. Our fellow-worker, Miss Brazier, has joined the forces of the church triumphant during the past year; we expect she is 'carrying on' yonder, without any limitations now. Dr. Esbern is studying hard and ministering day by day as the needs arise. There are many things to contend against, and the great enemy leaves no stone unturned to hinder every messenger of the cross, but let us refuse to be defeated, for Satan is a conquered foe.

Every one will rejoice to know that Miss Lundgren has passed her second language examination, and will pray for her as she takes up more work now. We know full well that there is great financial depression and unemployment
KRISHNABAI AND SOME OF OUR MUKTI GIRLS

Formerly unwanted babies. Is it worth while?
from 90 to 125 people—men, women and children—who came, and how they listened! Some had to walk many miles through pitch darkness but still they came. We who have been in the villages since, know how the people keep referring to the pictures they had seen and the stories they had heard of Jesus that night. They ask many questions, too, because their dull minds have been awakened to see that Jesus did really come into the world and He is not just a myth. But as we work we feel our great lack of power, so we need more prayer, prayer for an outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit in convincing and convicting power. So continue to pray for us. Krishnabai.

SCHOOL REPORT

‘Continuing instant in Prayer’

It is a great pleasure to note first and foremost some of the improvements in the school that were badly needed for a long time. As a preventive to the scattered noise, or rather to keep the echo down, some brass wires with cloth hangings have been put in all along the centre of the church hall. This is a great help in keeping the classes from becoming too noisy. What we need most is a proper school building with separate classrooms. At present our church with two projecting wings giving it the shape of a cross is used for school as well. You can imagine the din—ten or eleven classes with an average of 14 children in each class and their teachers vying with one another in making themselves heard. Then during the monsoon and winter months the light in this huge building is so poor that only half of it can be used for school purposes. So sometimes it is very tiring as well as trying but we know that two things are possible—God can give us the needed grace from day to day and He can also give us the needed building. We leave the choice to Him, Who knows what is best for His children.

A few small single up-to-date benches and a nice sliding glass cupboard for charts, models, maps, exhibits, etc., has been added to the school furniture lately. We are very thankful indeed for this cupboard, because it will save the
maps, showing the products of cotton, wool, wheat, rice, grains, etc., from being eaten up by the untiring sparrows and the nasty cockroaches as well as the white ants. You see the school has no proper windows and so not only the sparrows but also the crows, the owls, and the kites all find a free entrance there and they add their melodies to ours from day to day.

The school year opened in June with 151 pupils on the roll—35 in the middle school, 98 in the primary and 18 in the nursery. After much deliberation non-Christian boys have been allowed to be re-admitted into the middle school with the age limit up to 12 years. On account of this restriction on the boys, the girls also who used to attend our school before have all been taken away and a new municipal mixed school opened just five minutes' walk from here. This means a Hindu school in opposition to a Christian school and lessening of Christian influence and instruction among the young people of the district.

Still a new vision has come to me lately and that is of village schools. Though there are municipal schools in the villages they are mostly for caste children, and so it would be a great boon if village schools could be started for non-caste children. These schools will provide an outlet for many of our young Christian teachers coming on and also they will form good centres for our evangelistic activities.

You will be interested to know that the public examination results are just out. Three out of four girls have passed the Vernacular Final Examination. One has passed the first year teacher's training, and one has passed the Inter. Arts from the Women's Christian College, Madras. Pray for all these that they may in due time turn out to be useful citizens in the service of the Lord and their own country. One Hindu widow who passed her Vernacular Final from here is now a teacher in a municipal school near Poona and is doing very well. Pray for her that she may have the courage to come out and show her belief in the Lord Jesus by a public profession.

KRISHNABAI.
COMPOUNDS

In this connection I want first of all to raise a note of praise to God for answered prayer and thanks to those who have prayed about the quarrelling, for it has certainly been less.

We have had a good many days of happy home life but this does not mean we are free from difficulties and troubles, and we would like our friends to ‘keep on praying.’

Our old girls find that the perishing of the outward man is attended with many aches and pains, and one very sad case must be mentioned of a girl who came to Ramabai from Central India, during the famine of 1897, and has worked here and in other places all these years. She began to have trouble with her hands and feet. We did all we could for her here, and then sent her to a Poona hospital, where everything possible was done. But the doctor said that it was undoubtedly leprosy, so we had to send her to Kothara, the Kurku Mission Leper Village, and very grateful we are that the kind missionaries there have taken her in.

The wedding bells have not rung very frequently this year; only two of our number have been married, and two who came to us for a time returned to their own mission to be married.

Girls of the Vocational Training Department have gone away to work, and we have had several new ones in. The training they get in needlework, cooking, baby-nursing and in the regular routine of daily life is much appreciated by those who send them. These girls, too old for school and too young to be married, living in a country where it is not easy for young women to work and earn their own living, are often a great problem, and they are by no means easy to manage; but if they can come here and be trained in practical matters as well as in spiritual things we surely ought to esteem it a privilege to have them, even though the ‘more grace’ is often required to do it.

There is another feature of the work that each year makes more demands upon us; that is holidays. When we were a simple home family of famine widows and orphans, a day’s picnic in the jungle or a moonlight walk with games
once in the hot season satisfied us, but now many of the girls are earning wages and want to get out and see a little of the world or go to visit their sisters and friends who have been married or are working in other places. All this takes lots of time and thought not only in arranging for those who go away but also in filling gaps while they are gone.

Friends of other missions have been very kind in letting us send girls to them, and they in turn have sent their people here for holidays. We have sometimes hired a house at Lonavla, a semi-hill station not far from here, and let girls go in parties of ten or so, for a week at a time. In any case we try to give every working girl an entire rest for a few days during the hot season.

The correspondence of girls is greatly increasing and this has to be watched carefully as it could be an avenue for mischief, but, praise God, it is mostly a blessing in keeping the scattered members of the family united with the home base at Mukti.

MARY MACDONALD.

BARTIMI SADAN

Bartimi Sadan is one of our compounds which changes little as the days and even years go by, the main reason being that there are few openings for either work or marriage for the blind, so that those who come to us usually remain to help in the industrial school as either workers or teachers, or even as matrons in the compounds, when their sight is sufficient to allow of their doing so. Evangelistic work with the Gospel bands is another outlet, and a most important one, so it is good to have some willing to take a share in this.

One big change made in our compound life was the introduction of the three tiny tots to live with us. As they could not share dormitory accommodation with the adults a room had to be made for their use, and a suitable one was soon made by the removal of a few corrugated iron sheets and the erection of others. Two of the older girls, who had a little sight, were appointed to take charge of these little ones and all was made ready to receive them.
There was great excitement when they arrived and great amusement was caused by 'Kamala's' determination and request to return to the nursery at night to sleep. After a few nights, however, all were content to stay in their new quarters and are now quite happy and at home. Their coming has given the women a new interest as well as a sense of responsibility, for they realise how quickly little ones copy older folk and are careful to walk so as not to offend 'even one of these.'

Last year four of our younger girls asked to be baptised and this request was granted in October, when with several others, they openly made their confession of allegiance to our Lord and Saviour. One scene of that memorable day, which those of us who were there to see are not likely to forget, is the picture these girls made as they came out after changing into dry clothes and donning white saris. Walking past, one behind the other, each with a hand on the shoulder of the one in front and guided by their matron, they looked almost as if they had stepped out from amongst the Heavenly host whose robes have been washed and made white in the blood of the Lamb, and we remembered that there would indeed be joy in Heaven over these who had just commenced to follow the Master.

We have had little sickness amongst our blind girls during the year, but in January an epidemic of 'flu visited Mukti and this compound was hit rather badly. Quite a number of the women developed pneumonic symptoms and had to go to hospital for a time, but all are normal once more. Our junior matron who developed T.B. last year had to spend a few months in the sanitorium but is now home again and we are glad to have her willing help once more.

Regarding school work we cannot tell of any great change or even much in the way of advance, but the work goes on steadily and we believe it continues to be a help to those who attend, both in that it gives them an outlet for their energies and an interest in life, while the routine is good discipline. The tiny 'Trio' are making good progress in their studies, and another child from Manmad is attempting to learn Braille and some sort of handwork. She has
joined the one who came early last year, and though neither is much of a student we have hopes of their learning sufficient to read the Bible for themselves.

We extend our grateful thanks to various friends both in England and America to whom we are indebted for the gift and loan of books written in simple English Braille which our girls much enjoy reading. And to all our interested praying friends we send thanks for prayer help, while asking that it may continue so that we may be linked together in the work of spreading the Gospel to the needy hungry souls.

I. CRADDOCK.

JERUSALEM COMPOUND

This is one of the compounds where fairly frequent changes take place on account of girls being transferred from the children's compound and present ones being moved up to a bigger girls' section as they leave school and take up some branch of work. The two partially blind girls had reached the stage of the latter group by the beginning of the year so were transferred to Bartimi Sadan to live. Both show an aptitude for carrying responsibility, and one is now working in the hospital while the other assists in caring for the 'Trio' who now form part of the blind girls' family. This one also continues her cane-work in school for half a day.

The biggest change was made after the Christmas holidays when the girls who had formed the Bethlehem compound were brought to live with the Jerusalem girls. These are boarders who spend the two main holidays each year with their parents in Poona or Dhond. This means the bringing into our midst of an outside influence which is not altogether a helpful one; but in order to safeguard the girls to the best of our ability during term time it was deemed wise to make the change. Increasing the family necessitated enlarging dormitory accommodation and so here, too, minor building operations were set going in order to utilise a room vacated by older girls who were accommodated elsewhere.

Last October four of the Jerusalem girls were baptised.
One of them who had not long come out of Hinduism, but seemed sincere in her desire for baptism, has since chosen to return to her heathen relatives. While our hearts are sore at this attempt of the enemy of souls to win back this little one, we pray that he may be frustrated and eventually defeated by her choosing to take her stand once more on the side of the Saviour Who gave His life for her.

The two girls who sat for the Vernacular Final Examination in the hope of passing in order to take up kindergarten training were unsuccessful, but were able to join a new class formed for those who fail in the higher examinations, and are now in Sholapur taking a course which qualifies them to take charge of a nursery school and also gives them an insight into domestic life in the way of caring for babies and running a home generally. Four girls from this compound are studying at St. Andrew's Union High School in Poona and find the work pretty stiff, but we are hoping they will make good in the long run.

Although there have been tests and disappointments our hearts are filled with joy as we remember how truly the Master spoke when He said, 'Be of good cheer—I have overcome.'

May we be kept with untroubled hearts, stayed upon Him in Whom our trust is. I. CRADDOCK.

CHILDREN'S COMPOUND

This year our compound of 65 children has been favoured with considerably good health. One of our number was called to the garden over yonder. As we looked over her short life of but nine years it seemed to us that she was well-nigh faultless for she was so sweet and never once could we remember hearing her murmuring or disobeying her elders. But the Lord may have wanted her for Himself.

A month later He sent us a poor, innocent, cruelly-sinned-against child on which He wanted us to bestow some love and care. Her stepmother made her the slave of the home, deprived her of the necessary food and at last drove her out, to wander about alone. Even after six months she still wears a very pitiful looking face, but she appreciates every kind deed done to her.
The day after Christmas was Promotion Day for three of our biggest girls. They went to live in Jerusalem compound where they make their own bread, etc. One hates to have them leave the family and wonders who will fill the vacancies made by them, but the others soon rise to the occasion and do the elder sister’s bit of work. In a few days two from the ‘Blossoms’ compound came to cheer us, and later three other little girls from Poona and Dhond. When asking for admission for his seven-year-old daughter one man said, ‘Won’t you please take her and teach her something worth while? She is a very naughty child and will not obey her mother.’ He evidently thought we could reform her. She has given us no trouble whatever and is the pet of the compound.

The spiritual atmosphere has been much improved since Mr. Garrison’s visit to us. During those meetings the Lord did great things for us. Those who had been saved before that time, and were sometimes doubtful, became grounded more firmly, and several were thoroughly saved for the first time. Fourteen of the older ones have a prayer meeting three times a week, and pray most earnestly for the salvation of their companions. One night they became very excited and called for me to come quickly. They saw a light in the east, and they felt sure Jesus was coming to take us to Himself. They kept on saying, ‘Oh yes, He is coming. How lovely, we will all be caught up together!’ They were much disappointed when it was told them that the light was caused by a building burning down. These girls are really very eager that there should be real evidences of salvation in their daily lives so that they may soon be baptised and received into the Church.

E. AMSTUTZ.

THE BLOSSOMS’ COMPOUND

There are 24 in this compound at present. In January two were sent up to the children’s compound. Last June the Lord took perhaps our sweetest child, Esther, to Himself. She was operated on in Poona for appendicitis and seemed to get over it nicely; then she came home to
our hospital and just faded away. She gave testimony that she belonged to Jesus, and sought to follow Him. In Poona hospital, too, they said what a good, obedient patient she was. We still miss her, but the Master Gardener has a right to pluck what flowers He will, and we would not say Him nay. She is safe with Him.

With this exception the children have had fairly good health all the year. They are oft-times a great care, but they are a great joy, too. It is good to hear them singing choruses and hymns about Jesus instead of the oft-times filthy things the little Hindu children sing.

They love to pray too, and surely their baby petitions are sweet to Him who hears and answers prayer.

During the rains it was a great recreation to them to make gardens in the compound, and though they didn't all turn out well, yet they had a wonderful show of red lilies which compensated them for all other losses. They are on the whole a loving, united family—though not angels by any means—and we claim them each one by faith for the Lord Jesus Christ. After a year's absence two motherless little
ones were brought back to us by their father. As he said ‘goodbye’ to them, they forgot to weep for him in their joy at coming back into the family, and they had a right royal welcome from the whole compound. So we go on day by day watching and praying that the Lord will work out His own plans for these lives and that we may be true ‘workers together with Him.’ M. Lissa Hastie.

MUKTI NURSERY

The work in this corner of His vineyard still goes on. At present there are 19 little ones in the nursery, whose ages range from six months to four years.

The Lord has manifested His goodness to us during the past year, for it has been a year free from any infectious diseases. When the children have been sick we have committed them to Him, Who when on earth took the little ones in His arms and blessed them, and He has answered prayer. ‘Daya’—‘Mercy’—a little girl, 18 months old, was
very ill and had fever with a temperature of from 105° to 107° for 13 days. Having no doctor then at hand to diagnose the case we could only leave her with Him. One day there seemed no hope of recovery and three of us gathered round her cot and prayed over her for the Lord’s will to be done in the little life whether it be to let her stay with us or to take her to Himself. The very next day her fever was down and she is now quite well and toddling all over. We believe God answered prayer, to Him be all the praise and glory. Quite a few of the babies have had bronchitis but again and again He has delivered.

The two little ‘Olive Branches’ are no longer the two 5½ lb. scraps they were, but are now two lovely baby girls. ‘Jewel,’ the ‘Goat Baby,’ does not crave for opium any more but for hard crusts of bread to bite at and so help her teeth along. ‘Asha’—‘Hope’—another baby that was a poor scrap of humanity when brought to us, and who has been several times at death’s door during her first six weeks, is now a beautiful big baby ten months old. The Lord Who cares for the sparrows cares for these wee lambs. He has sent eight new babies to us during the past year, but two of
this number did not stay with us long, but were soon transferred to the Heavenly Garden. Both of these had been given so much opium before we got them that the wee mites suffered terribly from the effects of it. Jesus knew

what was best for them and so gently took them to Himself. For them this was far better.

These new babies surely come into Mukti nursery like little birds into a nest. They have never known a mother’s love and so don’t seem to have any regrets when adopted into our Mukti family. When they get used to the change
of milk and the nursery feed times, they soon settle down and become one of us and they love their new home.

The babies of last year are toddlers this year. They are a jolly set of children who sing and shout and jump about just like the little ones at home. They amuse themselves with any old thing. They have great fun with a big blue enamel jug; this they hug and call their baby, put it to sleep and pretend to feed it, and the other evening one little girl had to take it for a walk. They cause great fun and amusement to some of us. Many times they prove to be a real tonic and we do praise the Lord for the privilege of caring for them. As soon as these tiny tots begin to walk they express their desire to go to school and many times, when missing from the nursery, are found on the way to school having followed the other children.

Those from two years old upwards know many hymns and verses of Scripture. They love to stand in a row along the side of the wall and sing and just show us how much they know. Even the crawling babies love to line up with them and they, too, try ever so hard to sing. We trust and pray that some impression is being made on these very young hearts that will be lasting and that will help them each one early to seek the Lord. Pray for wisdom and the meekness and gentleness of Jesus in training them so that their little feet may truly be guided into His paths.

This year our three little blind girls went up into Bartimi Sadan. At first we missed them very much. Although so afflicted they were bright little things. Another little one went up into the ‘Blossoms’ department.

The nursery has just been whitewashed, the babies’ swing cots have been boiled and repainted and we have had a thorough spring clean.

Pray for the ‘Elder Sisters’ who care for the babies that they may have a real love for their work and do it for ‘Jesus’ sake’ ‘as unto Him’ and may we each one learn new lessons from the ‘tinies’, for He has said, ‘A little child shall lead them.’

G. TILLETT.
THE PRINTING PRESS

Since Miss McGregor went home Miss Wells and I have undertaken the printing press.

What a joy it is to scatter the very Word of God, because we have the blessed promise, 'My word shall not return unto Me void.'!

We have many requests from other missions for Bibles, Testaments, Gospels and Tracts. Paper is expensive, ink and type cost quite a bit, boxes for packing them into are not to be had for nothing, and wages of matrons and girls have to be paid, but we praise the Lord that He has channels everywhere, and through His children He sends supplies that enable us always to meet the many demands.

During the year we have sent out 9,213 Gospels, 809 New Testaments, over 500 Bibles, 154 copies of the Life of Christ, 460 copies of the Psalms, 64 Evidences of Christian Religion, 1,119 hymnbooks and 8,065 tracts. These have gone all up and down the Marathi country. During the year they have got out a fresh edition of St. Luke’s Gospel, 15,000 copies, and for the first time a large type New Testament has been printed—1,000 copies.

An old tract of Pandita’s has been again printed—15,000 copies. And another new thing that was got out this year was the Children’s Special Service Mission Calendar—2,500 copies—and 15,000 copies of a new Gospel Tract, The Power of the Precious Blood by the late Dr. Inwood, translated from the English, which has been blessed to our Indian Christians.

M. Lissa Hastie.

THE PRAYER BELL

The Prayer Bell still goes out regularly, and judging from letters received it helps on the work considerably. Best of all it is often a help and blessing to souls to see what God hath wrought.

Is there any greater privilege than to be just His channel through which He can express Himself? And as we are willing to be kept out of sight that He may be seen, how graciously He reveals Himself to such souls and lets them know Him better.
‘That I may know Him,’ was the cry of one soul long ago. Shall we make it our heart’s petition, too, and may we be willing to pay the cost, the cost in separation, in walking alone with Him, etc.

‘Turn your eyes upon Jesus,  
Look full in His wonderful face,  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim,  
In the light of His glory and grace.’

M. Lissa Hastie.

LITTLE ONES IN THE RESCUE HOME

RESCUE HOME BABY FOLD

In this department we have many changes, as some mothers leave after their babies are born, and some do not
take their babies with them. Being illegitimate they are not welcome in their homes. The babies find this very hard and miss their mothers. Mother love is the same the world over. There are 18 babies in this section, six mothers and one expectant mother. It is a real joy and privilege to have these little ones to rear for Him. One of these darling babies passed away suddenly last Sunday. His dear face is missed very much.

These mothers take care of babies who have been left here besides their own, and, in addition, wash and mend the babies' clothes; so they are kept well occupied.

I praise the Lord for the improvement that has been made in this compound. Miss Wells has had the water laid on and this has been a great help to the mothers.

A BRAHMAN WIDOW ONCE FULL OF MISERY, NOW HAPPY AND USEFUL

RESCUE HOME

In the rescue home are 48 girls. They are here for varied reasons, some for protection from evil men, and some for protection from their own relatives. There are some in-
corrigibles, too. God does work in some of these hearts. Let me tell you of one.

A few months ago a Hindu woman came to us and told us the following story—'My husband and I had been on pilgrimage to Pandharpur, when he was taken ill with cholera and died there. I went from place to place on pilgrimage on foot and at a temple near here I was told of Mukti and that I would receive help; so I came.' Ten days after arrival she gave birth to a son and while in the maternity room she heard the Scriptures daily and opened her heart to them. One day she came to me with tears rolling down her cheeks and told me her sorrow, saying that she had not told us the truth as her husband had died many years ago, and that she was a fallen woman. She then confessed her sins to God and had the assurance that He had forgiven her. She went away rejoicing. All do not turn to God, but we praise Him for those who do. Our Lord went out of His way to save such as these.

My greatest desire is that these girls should know Jesus as their Saviour. During Mr. Garrison's meetings a number of them were blessed. I do praise God for this.

E. Morris.

DEFECTIVES

Sad are the sights in this compound: all are defectives in one way or another and some in many ways. Mentally deficient, cripples, epileptics, these poor girls are bound by Satan in mind and body. Oh, that these fetters could be broken and that they might be set free! Jesus said to His disciples of old: 'In My name shall they cast out devils.' We know His power is just the same to-day. We surely need prayer that these afflicted ones should have deliverance. In spite of all this we find these girls useful in doing work no one else would care to do and it is surprising how they help in the home.

DISPENSARY

For long there had been prayer for a doctor, and God answered prayer by sending us Dr. S. Esbern last December.
We praise Him for this. So my report is for nine months to December 31st. During that period we treated 1,549 new patients. Any complicated cases were sent to Poona or Dhond. Dental treatment has been administered in a number of cases. People come from distant villages for teeth extractions. We are not equipped with modern appliances, and so they are pulled out in the old-fashioned way without any anesthetic and these people meekly submit.

We have to be veterinary surgeons, too, and some of our animals are treated from the dispensary. Sometimes they are injured while out in the fields and require stitching, and this performance they do not take very meekly.

I do praise God for the help He has given during the past year in this work.
We have had the small outside dispensary flagged and made more convenient, but we hope to see the new one started soon. Doctor has drawn the plans. Will you push this along by prayer?  

E. Morris.

**HOSPITAL WORK**

Praise God for the times when prayer has gone up to Him, and He has answered on behalf of sick ones. In the hospital the numbers from time to time vary considerably. In 1930 the largest number of patients for one month was 58 (that was in the month of August) while December found an entry of only 19 names.

Now that we have Dr. Esbern the sick folk can have a qualified doctor's advice.

Our sanitorium has seen a number of comings and goings. Praise God for those who have improved in health, and have been able to return. It is a boon to have this place, where some with weak chests can be sent to have special care. Then there is the little group that remain permanently. One of the latter is a young girl and she is well enough to come down to school every day. Most of the patients do some work, we find it is good for them.

**SANITARY WORK**

If you were to be in the neighbourhood of Mukti Mission somewhere round 8 a.m. you might see coming along the road one of our carts drawn by a bullock, and used on the sanitary work. (This cart is a kind of barrel laid lengthwise on a strong wooden frame with wheels.) You would see the driver, quite a character, a short man with a grey beard. I do not know his age, but he is active, and a good workman.

Of course we have no underground lavatory drainage here, so this man, being good at his work, is invaluable, and belongs to the outcaste people who will undertake to do this unpleasant yet necessary labour. Speaking of caste, even when Indians become Christians their caste whether high or low is often remembered. The above-mentioned man goes by the name of Christian, having been baptized
a number of years ago in another mission. Not long ago I spoke to him about salvation, but his attitude towards this important question did not convince me that he is saved. May the Lord help me to follow him up.

This man's son is also on the work. Indian people use a lot of water for face washing, feet washing and mouth washing, etc. It amounts to a great deal in a family like ours, and has to be carried off daily in carts. Our women do this work, and drive the bullocks, too. To keep our large compounds clean means some work. They are swept daily, except on Sundays, the sweepings being tossed into receptacles for the purpose and later carried off again by bullock-cart some distance away and this goes to help make manure for the fields. On different parts of the work, employment is found for our defective and mentally-deficient women.

We have some good wells at Mukti. Three of these give us good drinking water, and mine is the duty of seeing that a quantity of permanganate of potash is put into them about once a month.

Then there is the giving out of tins and buckets used in this branch of the work. 'Bring the broken one to me and I will give you a new one,' I often say when someone comes for a new vessel without first bringing the broken one. Is that not an illustration of what the Lord does when we come to Him? He doesn't patch us up but 'makes us new creatures in Christ Jesus.' E. Hanna.

**NEEDLEWORK**

Just what can I say that will be different from last year? It has been stitch, stitch, stitch, all the time. Thousands of stitches are needed in one beautiful cloth. But what a blessing that it is one by one, one at a time, for lessons in patience, and perseverance are worked in with the stitches! We say 'How pretty!' but when we reach God's side—the other side—then we'll see just all it meant. Does God take notice of a thing like that? Oh, yes, I think so. 'Faithful.' 'That a man be found faithful,' this verse is often a comfort to me in the humdrum of the work.
Sometimes a new girl comes. She does not know how to work and is perhaps a little bit lazy. I gave her two apron straps to hem and in a little while called her to me. One strap was an inch wide, and the other about one and a half inches; one hem was all puckered and when I gave it a pull crack, crack, went the stitches. I looked at her, and a faint smile crossed her face. Much grace and patience will be needed before we can get the eyes of her understanding opened.

We have 42 girls on the roll. They represent many opportunities; 16 school girls come in for an hour each day. We have increased the number of girls doing railway badges so that now we can break the monotony by letting them have a turn at embroidery or drawn thread work.

Some girls have gone to other departments to work, some to be married and some to teach needlework elsewhere.

We praise the Lord for faithful helpers and matrons and thank all who pray for the needlework department.

E. P. Browne.

VISITORS

We have had the privilege of welcoming 220 visitors to Mukti this past year. We have been specially interested in little groups of Indian visitors who have come now and
then, their object being to learn all they could, and see the
different things done by women.
Some visitors came from such far off lands as China,
Africa, Canada, England. It was a joy to meet them and
we know the joy was mutual.
One day I was called and told that a visitor who wanted
to see Mukti had come. I hastened out and found a lady,
who said she was 77 years of age and was touring the world
all alone, and wanted to see Pandita Ramabai's work. She
said she was going to write a book when she got home. We
thought she was a brave woman and we let her see all she
could in the bare hour that she had at her disposal.
We trust that as visitors come and go some good may
result and the missionary spirit be quickened
E. P. Browne.

INDIAN HOUSEKEEPING AND
GENERAL STORES

The cook-room is often considered a smoky, uninterest­
ing place. I grant that it is smoky for we have no chim­
neys as yet, and it's dusty too, before it gets that veneer of
cow-dung they smear the floor with. If you will look into
each department carefully you will find many items of
interest. If we consider that we are doing this work as unto
the Lord it throws a new shade on life.
Come to the farthest corner of our establishment and greet
the maimed, the feeble-minded and the blind who grind
the grain for the daily bread. There are 12 grindstones
and the girls sit around them in twos and threes and sing
a lively tune while they grind. You wouldn't want to miss
seeing our girl without arms grind the grain. She turns the
stone with one foot, and does it very cleverly, too. The
children come after school to grind their fourth part of a
seer (½ a lb. of grain). Sometimes the flour turns out rather
coarse, but the matron sifts it all and if it does not suit,
it must be done over again. Just outside the grinding-
room there are some girls sitting about with their big trays
cleaning the grain, picking out the chaff and the little stones.
Because of cut prices in grain it has been possible for us
to use the more nourishing kinds yet not exceed the previous year's budget. Wheat, for instance, is considered a great deal more nourishing than *jewari*, so we have given the children more wheat and rice. The girls who buy their own grain have done the same thing. They get Rs. 2-8 or Rs. 3 worth of grain a month. Ramabai aimed that they should get at least 11 seers of grain. Many times they would get more of *jewari*—that grain being the cheapest—to make up the specified amount, but now they may get the grain they like the best.

In the outside kitchen as we call it, working hours begin at 4:30 a.m. when a matron with her two helpers begin to cook the daily vegetable, for some 300 children and girls. At 8 o'clock the 6 bread-makers start work, as well as all the others. During the year quite a number have come into this department and gone again; more have gone than come, so that we are often shorthanded. One day someone came to ask for one of our best cooks. I could not see my way through to let her go, but another worker said, 'Give her a chance, the Lord will provide.' So I did. This girl refused to go and I was glad.

In our inside kitchen we cook the food for the children, sick ones, and visitors. Besides the regular food we try to have a little chutney that will make the food taste a bit more juicy. The work has been very well organized by our former housekeeper, and it goes on quite smoothly. Oh yes, it is true we have our troubles and our little trials, too, and the tempter never leaves us alone, but we've found that a little prayer-meeting in the midst of work often does us good.

**E. Amstutz.**

**THE PLAIN SEWING**

In Mukti we have many babies, little children, blind girls, and about 50 defectives who are unable to sew and make up their own garments, so it is quite a necessary part of the work to sew for them. A plain needlework class was begun last June, with the main object in view not only of getting our Mukti family clothed, but of teaching and training the girls to cut out in the most economical way and make up
the garments. I went into the sewing room early the first morning to prepare for the girls beginning work, and was in real earnest about it, but I had all my hopes dashed to the ground when I found that two machines given for the work were only half ones, which would sew one inch and miss the next; so we had only one machine that was really of any use and that one would constantly be going wrong; and again and again much time had to be spent getting it into working order. Someone said, 'Let the girls sew by hand,' but this way would have made it impossible to supply all the demands that have been made since we began the work.

The girls came to work as arranged on the first day, two of them crying and saying they would never be able to cut out, etc., and so right at the beginning I had to get victory over the girls tears and the bad machines and get to work. The Lord gave me the promise, 'I will help thee,' and now one can look back and praise Him for the fulfilment of His precious Word. He has helped and blessed and given joy in the work.

We had cause to rejoice when just a few weeks ago the Lord enabled us to get a new sewing machine, and after all the trouble of the old ones, it feels good to have one machine we can rely upon.

Most of the girls have worked very well all the time. First of all they were quite nervous when cutting out; now they are no longer afraid but love to do it.

During the year nine girls have been at work, some only half a day. Altogether 1,800 articles have been cut and made up besides many alterations that have been made to dresses, etc., that friends have so kindly sent from the homelands.

This number included children's dresses, knickers, boys suits, skirts and jackets, coats, mosquito nets for babies, cots, and even the other day a new cover for the top back part of a motor car was tackled.

Each morning and afternoon we open with a hymn or chorus, also we read the Scripture Union portion and Daily Light for each day and here the Lord has met with us as we have gathered around and committed our work to Him. We trust all has been to His glory and that the work will prove useful to the girls in days to come should any of
them have homes of their own, etc. Also we pray they may have been helped along spiritually and learnt fresh lessons from Himself even in the sewing department.

G. Tillett.

DEPUTATION WORK

Misses Berkin, Loud and McGregor are busy in different countries along this line and we look to the Lord to give success to each one in His way, not our's.

Miss Berkin writes, 'This deputation work has gone on steadily during 1930, though not so many openings have come but there has been interest shown, and much prayer interest.

'Owing to unemployment and trade depression many are not able to give and no direct appeal for money is ever made. I praise God for His help and encouragement and look forward to gaining fresh interest, and more opportunities of presenting the needs and claims of India's women and girls in 1931.

'My general health is better, for which I praise God, also that I have been kept well through the cold weather, so I "thank God and take courage."

Miss Loud is speaking to large audiences in America and is having good results.

It has been difficult for Miss McGregor, as the terrible earthquake in New Zealand came just as she arrived and people could think of nothing else, but we believe God will accomplish through each one all His plans, and His will is what we desire.

Again we heartily thank those who have us on their hearts and who help in the fight, and all who in hidden offices, and schools, etc., do for Mukti more than any one knows, except the Master Workman, who one day will bring to light all the hidden work done unto Him. May this be written over all our work—'Unto Him?'

Keep us, Lord, oh, keep us cleaving To Thyself and still believing Till the hour of our receiving Promised joys in Heaven.

Eunice Wells,
M. Lissa Hastie.
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