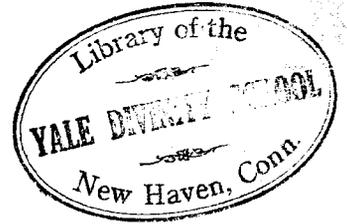




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RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION



PRAYER BELL

*American Council,
Ramabai Mukti Mission,
260 West 44th Street,
New York.*

November and December, 1933.

OUR DEAR PRAYER WORKERS,

We are privileged once again to wish you a Happy Christmas. May the Light of His Countenance be lifted upon you and us and may we daily live and walk in that Light.

The other day I went into the workroom and found the girls learning to do bookmarkers, one was lying finished, done in gold on blue paper, just the one word

"CALVARY"

It sent a thrill through one, and it reminded us once again of what "Calvary" meant. As we rejoice this Christmastide, let us remember that but for "Calvary" where would our joy have been?

The rains seem to have changed their time somewhat this season; we are still having copious showers. Our delicate ones have found it trying and the motherless babies, too. We thank our Australian friends for cases of Glaxo which have considerably helped the latter.

We were stunned by a cable telling us of the serious illness of Miss Bjoland. We seem far away from her, but we seek to reach her in America, via the Throne.

Plague is raging all around us, we hear of cholera, too, and fearful havoc wrought by floods. The judgments of the Lord are abroad in the earth. May we learn what He is seeking to teach us.

We are full of thanksgiving that our church is finished and a gentleman visitor the other day said how nice it looked. Two or three outside rooms, that we had hoped to build for smaller prayer meetings or for class rooms, are still unfinished.

Our new dispensary is finished and we had an opening day when Mr. K. D. Garrison dedicated the building to the Lord. Miss Morris has been kept fairly busy there and we trust souls will see and know Jesus there, too.

The following account of the farm work came in too late for the report number of the *Prayer Bell* so we give it now.

Farm Report, 1932-33

"We know that all things work together for good to them that love God"

This year, in the agricultural department, has been a year of learning this fact more deeply. There have been difficulties and disappointments in losses and failures

of some depended upon that seemed overwhelming at the time, but through all some compensating praise notes.

Some four years ago, we formed amongst our field workmen a *pānch* or committee of five as in the Indian villages, to settle things regarding themselves; it is a great help.

Also the small co-operative system of giving the work people a trifling percentage of the crops has stopped most of the grain pilfering. That measure of grain from the harvest floor is sweeter than all that can be purchased in the market place.

Though the first rains so completely failed in 1932 yet the return rain came so well that we had a grass season and good crops grew and looked so wonderful. The grazing land rented at the river side gave food to the cattle until February 18th and also 7,000 sheaves of grass were cut.

At the end of August building operations began and a constant supply of our best oxen were required for carting purposes and lime-making which hampered our field work at irrigation time, and the need of the land where our ox-stalls stood left us to tie our oxen in the fields until new stalls could be provided.

In November the health of our farm foreman, Babu Master, began to fail. Also in November the veterinary doctor came to warn us of the arrival in two near villages of the dread disease, 'rinderpest,' which sweeps off more Indian cattle than all other diseases united. He told us of the Government Veterinary Department's efforts to combat it and the preventative with serum—an inoculation giving immunity for nine days, necessary to be repeated for the duration of the epidemic, and of the vaccination also which granted life immunity. At that time it was thought best to isolate the vaccinated, lest they impart to other non-vaccinated. He told us if we could submit 80 to 100 animals the research veterinary doctor would come to carry out operations. This meant taking animals from field work for three weeks and reduction of milk supply, the one a loss at the crop season, the other necessitating buying milk for the weak girls. We must choose the temporary loss or risk the loss of the whole herd. So we chose and sought the help of the director of the veterinary department ere the doctor and his staff came. One of our valuable milking buffaloes became ill and died and five others got the virulent infection. Our district veterinary and the special doctor worked hard and these animals were saved. At great cost to the veterinary department the research veterinary was kept here for five weeks vaccinating and caring for the herd. We were grateful for this help, all free. In the hot season the disease that had not left the district raged severely, cattle dying daily in large numbers, but our animals again tested by the doctor proved immune. While we worked regarding the 'rinderpest,' foot and mouth disease came in, the second appearance that season; by dint of care we had only one case. It was our busy time irrigating crops as the oxen were mostly under treatment and many of the men on that work. We had to work our two small engines hard at the wells pumping water, beginning at 4 a.m. to 7 p.m. Our days often went on to 11 p.m. in care of sick animals. We proved 'As thy days so shall thy strength be.' Also what good stuff was in the lads who had been taught to run these little engines to reach all the fields possible to

irrigate. Through all this time we felt the loss of Babu Master who was in Poona hospital. Then there fell a blight on many of the beautiful grain crops. However, when harvest time came Babu Master came back and directed the work and the sowing of the green crops for feeding the animals. Again came a visitation of foot and mouth disease, the third in the year—really it had never gone. This time 13 animals were sick and put out of the work. We kept them in a far away field with two men to attend them and by so doing saved the milking herd. So we praised God.

We had less grain this harvest for many reasons, including having less people to watch for the birds. However, we are thankful for all we had, some 36,000 lbs. of grain for the eater, besides seed for the sower. There were good crops of Indian maize and Sudan grass and other grass for green feeding; also for the first time a successful experiment in growing oats for green food, so that all the year round there was some green feeding for the animals, and fruit and vegetables to help the family.

The new year has been begun, three months have passed, but we cannot close without a tribute to our faithful Babu Master who went to be with the Lord after much suffering on July 8th. For fifteen years he served the mission as foreman of the field work, ever since the great influenza time when dear Pandita Ramabai was told one morning of the death of the old Hindu foreman and she said,—‘Tell Babu to look after things.’—He has faithfully done his part, humble, unpretentious, never seeking upper seats, patient, willing, understanding, helpful, counting every animal and tool as though they were his own, and as a stewardship. Some people ask if mission orphanages are worthwhile. This faithful quiet life is a sure reply, for from the famine orphans he is a fruit for those dear servants of God who have greatly helped with their substance.

This year’s report may sound like the report of the coming of Job’s Sabeans, but like Job we say, ‘Blessed be the Name of the Lord’ and ‘although the fig tree shall not blossom and there shall be no herd in the stalls yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation.’ Our herds were spared to us by our Father and He sent Miss Wells back to us to work hard and make new stalls for the spared cattle.

JOAN MCGREGOR.

Surely our God is still ‘the God that doeth wonders’ and He cares about all that touches us, and tempers every trial with His mercy. May we go on trusting Him day by day till faith is lost in sight.

Praise and Prayer Notes

Praise for four new baby girls this last ten days.

Praise for two new workers expected D.V. in December.

Praise for a blessed two days of meetings held during school holidays, by Rev. A. Garrison.

Praise that in spite of pressure and difficulties, the Lord has been a very present Help.

Pray for funds to carry out repairs and extra needs.

Pray for all our young people returning to school.

Pray for health and strength for workers and girls.

Pray that we may be kept from plague. It is all round us.

*Ramabai Mukti Mission,
Kedgaon, Poona Dist.,
India.*

EUNICE WELLS,
M. LISSA HASTIE.

Treasurer in England:

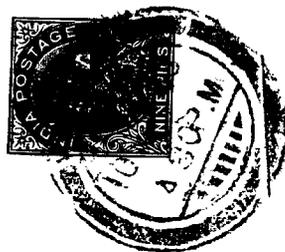
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