

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

PRAYER BELL REPORT

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

1940



THE POTTER—HE MADE IT AGAIN—*Jer. 18: 4*

THE POTTER

If we would let the Potter have His way
With us, and mould our lives like plastic clay
Upon the wheel of time, our souls would be
Pressed by His fingers to transparency
Where all could look right through the crystal thin
And see the face of Christ enshrined within.

Edna M. Shaver.

‘Marred; So He made it again another vessel as seemed good to the
Potter to make it.’ *Jeremiah 18: 3, 4.*

The pages of this report will show how our Almighty Potter re-makes souls. Day by day we continue to sow the seed and He continues His making with endless patience. When one of His vessels is marred and broken He doesn't throw it away but lovingly gathers it up and makes it again another vessel as seems good to Him. The vessel may have missed His first plan but His blessed Hands take hold of it and His Fingers do the moulding until the Potter's likeness emerges from the pressing of the Love-pierced Hand. Many such lives have gone out from 'Mukti' full of praise to the Lord for His re-making.



1939

GENERAL REPORT OF RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

1940

Giving thanks always for *all* things unto God and the Father in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ.—Eph. 5: 20



HE year has passed with the usual routine of events. Babies have come in as usual, weak and diseased, and have been cared for by loving hands and yet slipped away to Jesus. Only a few days ago, the last one who died, after having survived all other maladies, contracted measles and left us. They have been nursed and cared for carefully, but in spite of it all have faded away. We still have a goodly number left on both sides of the road, a lively lot they are and happy as larks. You should hear them sing!

At the outbreak of the war, finances began to tighten as everywhere, mails were delayed and

much anxiety was caused as we were so dependent on the merchants for monthly supplies. A legacy of £500-0-0 had been left us in New Zealand. The Lord chose this time to send it to us. Ordinarily we would not have realized more than a half or two-thirds of the amount, but by wise management of friendly business men in New Zealand, we received in instalments, £400-0-0. This lifted the load.

The next momentous event was the arrival of Neil George Hahn, October 8th, 1939, to gladden the hearts of his proud parents. It is quite a new thing in Mukti to have a white baby. He is now a fine, strong boy of ten months, a perfect picture of health.

In November, our two new missionaries, Misses Schrag and Shaver arrived from America, after a long, hard voyage via the Pacific. Soon they were engrossed in the study of Marathi.

Christmas came all too quickly, and although we hadn't much to spend, everybody was remembered, and we had a happy Christmas. A special gift from Indian Christians, former members of our Christian community, gave Bartmi Sadan and Bai's friends a treat of curry and sweets too.

Word came from America that Miss Woodward must have a furlough either in America or in India, so off she



SHEKUNTALA

She is asking, 'What is the black box up to?'

went to Ootacamund where she remained for ten weeks under protest. She would far rather work than rest such a long time. She returned in time for the hot season struggle.

The three Language students were off to Mahableshwar by the 1st of March for three months study.

Miss Amstutz left for furlough the end of April. Our last word from her was mailed at Honolulu. She had had a calm and pleasant voyage thus far. Needless to say we miss her and look forward to her return.

The School has made advance in discipline as well as scholarship. We are most grateful to

Mr. G. Carner for his effort on our behalf and the impetus he gave to the school. His ideas and suggestions have been carried out with great profit.

Krishna Bai is reported to be doing a great work for Mukti in America. She, with Miss Patterson, has travelled thousands of miles by car and held hundreds of meetings. She is booked to sail on August 21st for New Zealand and Australia.

We miss our fellow-worker, Miss Craddock. While she says she is well, we know she is having an anxious time in England because of the terrible war conditions. There is no definite news of her return.

Miss Callan, Miss Schrag and Miss Shaver are taking their share in the mission work. Miss Callan passed her First Language examination in October with honours. She is now in charge of the Sunshine Hospital and gives great medical help

with the babies. Miss Schrag has slipped into the Children's Compound in Miss Amstutz's place. Miss Shaver teaches English in the 6th and 7th Standards. All have village Sunday schools. Miss Fletcher has taken up the Church and Evangelistic work in addition to her office work.

There have been 101 admissions to the home this year, 95 departures, 17 marriages and 25 deaths, mostly little babies. Total number, 702.

In closing I would say that it is highly desirable that we should improve our industrial work both in the school and work-rooms. Bai's friends do much of our sanitary work but with some one to give them time and attention they might learn some useful work which would keep them happy and perhaps brighten their dull minds a bit. The mothers in Krupa Sadan might have some remunerative industry and thus help to earn their living and keep them contented and busy. Time

and some money are needed to launch such an enterprise.

We appreciate all your prayers and the loving gifts sent us the past year. May our Lord richly reward you for them all.

Yours in His Name,
EUNICE WELLS.

PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT, 1939-40

The printing of the revised Ramabai New Testaments began in January, 1940. We now have most of them home and housed in big tin lined cupboards. A number of letters of appreciation have been received, complimenting us on the beauty of the book, the clear bold type, the good paper. Although the size is a bit large, the ease with which it is read is a great asset.

The better quality ones are not yet in great demand, because they have not been much advertised, moreover the price has not been

definitely fixed. Two hundred and forty of the ordinary ones and twenty-eight of the better quality have been disposed of. Through our pandit, Mr. Deshmukh, twenty-three were sold and the Testament recommended for the Language School text book.

In September, the presses and most of the type were sold. There was weeping over the big press, real sorrow of heart, in which we could not do other than share. Before it went however the Lord enabled us to buy paper and print 5,000 copies of Matthew's Gospel. Such joy as there was over this work we likewise shared. In due time all were bound and ready for distribution. Then we had to come down to the hand-press, but with fairly good grace the girls accepted it. We have printed *Prayer and Praise Notes*, and one story, 'No 13,' for the office, besides letterheads, envelopes, receipt books, and texts on picture cards—about 2,000 for the ladies to use

in their village Sunday schools. *A Great Question*, a tract sent by a gentleman in America, was translated and printed. *God hath Spoken* was almost out of print so we have just finished 1,000 of those. *Scriptural Catechism* by Ramabai, was low in stock, therefore we are doing another 1,000 of them. They are very useful in the villages.

We have sold in the past year 2,522 Gospels, 2,954 tracts and booklets, 240 New Testaments, 3 Bibles, 34 *Daily Lights*. Many Bibles have been given free to poor Christians.

The roof of the printing press building required repairs, the tiles were relaid, the sky-lights renewed, cupboards and shelves renovated, all the books were taken down and dusted after the tile-laying. Only whitewashing is left to be done. If we continue this work, i.e., the printing, we must have a small handcutting machine.

E. WELLS.

ACCOUNTS AND VISITORS CORNER

As I begin this report, I would like to sound a note of praise to the faithfulness of our God.

Financially we have gone through some hard times this year. By November our grain bills were five months in arrears. As I looked at the bills and then at our bank-balance it certainly seemed hopeless; the merchants were very kind to us and did not press for payment.

Both the girls and workers were praying earnestly that the Lord would provide. Then the money started to come in; a legacy from New Zealand, cheques from England, India, America and Australia. It was a happy day when I was able to send word to the merchants to bring their bills. They were astonished when we told them that we were paying off five months all at once. The coming Sunday we announced the good news to the girls in church. With one accord we rose to our feet and sang the Doxology;

I wish you could have heard us. But we cannot stop there, for every month there are bills to pay, so continue with us in upholding this need to God in prayer.

After passing my second examination in February I took over Anand Sadan compound. It is a bit of a mixture, for in it there are nine older women and eighteen girls who are boarders, they have come from the surrounding districts to go to school.

Then I have the visitors to look after. Miss Woodward has been doing this work for over a year. We have not had so many visitors this year but one never knows when they may turn up either by bus or train. In any case our faithful bullock tonga goes to the station to meet most of the trains. As the road between here and the station is very bumpy I'm afraid our visitors get rather a rough ride.

One Brahmin gentleman on being taken round

to see the place, expressed his astonishment at seeing so many girls sitting together in school without fear of defilement. For our girls are taken from all castes and creeds, also we have high and low caste children who come here as day scholars. But on entering our doors they lay aside caste, for we make no distinctions.

Often a missionary who pays for the support of a child will come to see her. Great is the rejoicing on the part of the girl, who feels very happy and important.

One day a lady from Bombay made us a visit, she wanted to see the place that afternoon as she was leaving next morning. We set out and it took us a good three hours to get round, but we only touched the most important things. People express surprise on finding that there is so much to see and that Mukti covers so much ground.

We are always glad to welcome any who may come to visit us. GLAYDS FLETCHER.

EVANGELISTIC WORK

We were able this year to set up two camps. The first one was in Supa, a village twelve miles from here. As no missionary is working there at present we were able to stay in the bungalow, so we were saved the trouble of taking along all our camp paraphernalia.

Here we were entering into another's labours and hence had a more cordial welcome among the people.

One man with his family said they were ready to be baptised then and there, if only we would let him come and live on the Kedgaon premises.

Pray for him as well as many



MISS AMSTUTZ OFF TO CAMP

others in the low caste section of the town, who already know the power of prayer. They won't begin a new piece of work without asking the true God's blessing on it and them. I heard one young man being instructed about planting a fruit tree. His elders said, 'You know you ought to pray before you plant that sapling.' Would to God we were always so keen on asking His guidance on every new undertaking.

The people just begged us to stay and live in that bungalow. For they said, it would not look so desolate, and the evil spirits would not lurk about. But we had to be back home in fifteen days.

Our camp in January was set up in one of the prettiest groves in the district, with great shady trees and the sacred Bhima river flowed a stone's throw from us. In the rainy season they tell us, that the river flows right over the place where we had our camp. Our faithful Bible-women had to

carry on a good part of the time by themselves, and they did it very efficiently. They however would not let the people know that the moushie was not on the spot.

It had been nine years since a camp had been set up in this part of our district.

The people were eager to have us come to them. Many of them say they have given up idols because they know they cannot help them.

It was a joy to meet two Christian young men who just at that time were living with their Hindu parents. Amidst many sneers and taunts they are witnessing for Christ. One said, 'Even if I die of hunger I will never forsake my Lord.'

In another town our women found a Christian family living in straitened circumstances, but happy in the Lord.

Pray for the Word that has been spoken and also for the printed Word that has been scattered in almost every village visited.

At other times of the year we have four women going out four and five times a week. Three being regular Bible-women and we draft a fourth from any one of the departments in the place to accompany them.

ELDA AMSTUTZ.

BARTMI SADAN

The home for the blind, Bartmi Sadan, is an unusual place. Many of the women do their own cooking even though they cannot see. They carry their own water from the well, all calling as they come, carrying jars of water on their heads, 'Come along.' In spite of their handicaps and suffering, they are far happier here than they would be in their own villages.

These people are in separate dormitories. The old women have their room while the children have their separate room. Asha, the little one who is about ten years old, finds it very difficult not to bite her finger-nails. Janki, who is a trifle

older, is in disgrace much of the time, but she is always willing to say that she will try to be a good girl.

A part of the compound is kept clear of pebbles, etc. This is where they gather together to pray in the evening, or to hear a letter from their special missionary, Miss Craddock. When they go to church, they are guided by holding to the shoulder of the girl in front of them while someone who can see leads the line. Thus they go for walks also, and how quick they are to scent the perfume of a flowering tree or hear the sound of something coming towards them. Even though they are usually happy with their employment and Braille books, still their lives are difficult and their outlook is narrow. They also need your prayers.

We thank God for the opportunities these girls are having, and we trust that He will lead them all closer to Himself day by day until He come.

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

CHURCH WORK

As I look back on the work the word that comes to mind is, 'Hitherto hath the Lord helped us.' And surely He has been with us and blessed us.

After the rainy season a lady evangelist, Mrs. Tobit of North India, was with us for a week and gave us splendid messages on, 'Full Consecration.' They were appreciated by all.

During the Prayer Week in January, Mr.

Choudhari of the C.S.S. Mission, was with us for four short days and ministered the word of God to us in his unique way. All were touched and many determined that more than ever, they would serve their Lord faithfully.

On Monday, February 26th, Mr. Bukt Singh, a Sikh Christian evangelist, on his way through to North India, spent three precious hours with us. It was a service long to be remembered, because of the Lord's presence with us. Every



MISS FLETCHER AND HER VILLAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL

nerve and muscle was strained to get all that the Lord had for us.

Three of our thanksgiving offerings this year have been sent to the Rev. John Malelu, working at Osmanabad, Nizam's Dominions, towards the building of a church there. They have a little nucleus of a church and the Lord is working for them. A high official at his own suggestion promised to contribute just as much money as they might be able to raise by voluntary contributions. The foundation stone is laid, and in less than six months they hope to have the church finished.

Our Sunday schools go steadily on, as well as morning prayers in the church and in the compounds. Instead of meeting every morning as formerly we have eliminated the Monday and Friday morning prayer-meetings and the girls have prayer together at night just before retiring. The reason for this change was that, on these two

mornings their water is given out and there was always that hurried attitude among the listeners, also the workers' staff has decreased so tremendously, that it is hard to find time for all these meetings. By making this change the responsibility is cast on the matrons, which after all may be a good thing.

Pray with us that the coming year may be one of blessing.

ELDA AMSTUTZ.

MUKTI HOSPITAL REPORT, 1940

'And He received them and spake unto them of the Kingdom of God and healed them that had need of healing'.—Luke 9: 11.

This is the prayer and desire of our hearts for Mukti Hospital—that those who, because of sickness, are brought within these walls may hear the Lord Himself speak to them of the Kingdom of God; and that they may trust Him to heal their bodies. We pray that those who do know

the Lord as their own personal Saviour, while laid aside may be drawn closer to The Master; and that others who have not yielded to His claims may open their hearts to Him and leave hospital healthy in soul and body.

Mukti hospital consists of four large rooms opening out on to a long verandah. Three of these rooms are connected together; but the one to the extreme right is more isolated. Let us begin from the left. Here is a room which can hold about ten beds; but in it you will generally find a few cots and baby beds swinging from the beams. In this room we always nurse sick babies and children from the Blossoms' and Children's compounds. This might be called 'The Sunrise Room.' Then from there we go into the middle of the three rooms, the largest. It generally contains twelve beds. Here you will find girls and women from Teachers, Bethlehem, Working girls, big girls, Krupa Sadan and Bartimi Sadan com-

pounds. The next room contains six beds; and here matrons and akkas can rest in a somewhat quieter atmosphere. Then we come to the separate room. We might call it 'Sunset Home', because here we have at present seven old women to whom this is Home. Through old age and weakness they are unable to care for themselves. Here their needs are attended to and they can have that little extra care which they now require. At night in each of the rooms one of our nurses sleeps and gets up to attend to any who may be in need.

This year we have had a lot of sick babies. The Lord took quite a few of our little ones to be with Himself; but others who were very sick recovered wonderfully. There have been quite a few cases of impetigo, itch and boils, which did not respond quickly to treatment; but we are glad to say that at present we have only two such cases, and they are healing. Chickenpox and measles visited us this year. They are unwelcome

guests! and they caused much suffering. Four of the children contracted pneumonia with the measles and were critically ill but the Lord raised them up again. Three of our older women have gone to be with the Lord. We rejoice that they do not go out in darkness. One was a Bible-woman in Pandharpur for some time and came home to rest, then went to her eternal Rest. We are grateful to all who help us in this part of His Vineyard. Praise God for His Hand of healing upon us.

Praise Him for Okambai, one of our own girls, a trained nurse, who is a good, faithful worker; and also for the other nurses who have throughout the year faithfully helped to minister to the sick. Please continue to pray for Mukti hospital that it may be a house of healing for soul and body, and that the nurses may have all the needed grace, strength and patience to do their work as unto the Lord.

The prayer of faith shall heal the sick.

JANET CALLAN.

VILLAGE DISPENSARY

'If ye ask anything in my name I will do it.'

—John 14: 14.

As we look back upon the past year it is with praise and thanksgiving to our Saviour, who has so wonderfully answered prayer on behalf of many of our patients.

We have treated over 1,700 patients and taken in 76 delivery cases besides those we have delivered in their own homes. Each year our number of delivery cases increases. We are glad that the women are beginning to find out that the hospital is the best place at such a time.

Many of the patients who come to us are very dirty and seek to try their own remedies before coming to us. Often they come to us with their wounds plastered up with cowdung or chopped-up leaves, etc.

A cobbler who had badly cut two of his fingers with his own knife, came with them bound up;

after taking off the rags there were strips of what looked like string applied to the wound. On asking him what it was, he replied, 'I shaved a bullock's horn and then applied the shavings.' What queer things these people do!

A man with a large cancer on his face repeatedly came to us for help. He had heard the Gospel many times in his village from our Bible-women and also at the dispensary. The last time he came to seek help, he asked if there was any hope of his recovery. I had to tell him, No. I then asked him if he was prepared to die; it was good to hear a definite answer: 'Yes, I am not afraid to die for I know Jesus. I am ready to go at any time.' He certainly had a bright face in spite of his pain. In about ten days time we heard that he had gone to be with the One he knew. We also heard from his village people that he died happily taking the name of Jesus.

Last December a badly burned case was ad-

mitted to our hospital, an old Marwadi woman, over sixty years of age. The case seemed to be a pretty hopeless one as her burns were very extensive. She had two sons; one of them looked after her while in hospital. For a few days she appeared to be nearing the end as she was getting weaker and weaker. But we cried unto God for her recovery in order that she might hear more about Him and be saved. She did recover and heard and realised that Christ alone is able to save her. She is now in her own home and we occasionally visit her.

A young man was driving a bullock cart and on account of the ground being rough, the cart overturned and the man was thrown out. His right foot caught under the wheel; as the bullocks were still on the trot they drew him along with the cart, and as a result his foot was badly wounded, a part of it being torn away leaving the ligaments and tendons exposed. The wound was also full

of soil and dirt. I wanted to send him to a doctor, but his people would not take him. They were willing to keep him in our hospital until he recovered. We did the best we could for him putting in sutures where possible, but where the flesh had been completely torn away, we had to keep clean with daily dressings. We praise God that he, too, made a complete recovery.

Many people come to have their teeth extracted. Some get afraid while they are waiting and run off before their turn comes. One woman who came was prepared to pay four annas and have a painless extraction rather than one anna and have it out otherwise. I gave her the cocaine and by the time I had got the forceps ready she had flown; she must have lost her courage. She lost her four annas and kept her tooth. We went after her to persuade her but she had gone.

After giving a male patient the cocaine and removing his tooth, he continued to sit on waiting

for the tooth to be removed; he was told a number of times to gargle, but he insisted he would gargle after his tooth had been taken out. He got a pleasant surprise when we told him it was already out.

Other Indian people are afraid they will go blind after having a tooth extracted. They first ask, 'Will it affect my eyes?' And only as we assure them that no harm will come to the eyes, will they allow us to extract the offending tooth.

There are many other cases one could write about if space would permit.

Our Bible-woman, 'Pearl,' has been very faithful in giving out the Word. Each morning before our patients are attended to, they receive the Word of Life, and we trust that souls will really come to know Him. Many who don't outwardly confess Him, believe in their hearts that He is the only Saviour.

ELIZABETH MORRIS.

INSIDE DISPENSARY

In this dispensary first-aid treatment is carried on. Small ailments such as wounds, coughs, colds, etc., are treated. We have two practical nurses working here.

Usually the girls come in numbers, each compound matron bringing her own group. The 'Blossoms' are the first to come. 'What is the matter?' is the question asked. From one you may hear, 'I have hurt myself with the swing.' Another, 'I have a cough' and a third, 'I have a sore eye.' So one and all are treated, medicine is given or applied as the case may be and bandages used where necessary.

Next will come along the



OKHAMBAL, OUR INDIAN HEAD NURSE AND BABY PATIENTS

children's compound. These girls are a little older; you may see one wrapped up in a blanket, you will know just exactly what is the matter. She is suffering from malaria and is therefore feeling chilly, hence the blanket; her temperature is taken and if she has fever she is sent to the hospital, where she will get further treatment. Others have decided to take a dose of salts. When asked, 'Why salts?' They reply, 'We have a pain in our stomach and think it good to take a dose of salts.' May be, they do need it; so two ounces of salts is given to them. One would think it was a pleasant drink to see them drink it. There is no accounting for taste!

The Jerusalem compound girls are still older. They are quite capable of coming to the dispensary without a matron. They know exactly what is the matter with them and what treatment they require. These girls are of an age when they don't care to have a bandage on and would prefer to have something not so conspicuous, such as adhesive tape. But we do not always have this on hand, so they have to have a bandage.

November last we started with chickenpox and a goodly number of our children developed it. We had hardly recovered from that when measles broke out; almost every child contracted it. This resulted in a few serious cases; four of the children developed pneumonia. We praise God that all of them recovered.

One day as I was in to see the measles cases, one of the little girls touched my face and said, 'Auntie, you, too, have measles, you had better come in with us.' I am glad she was wrong in her diagnosis!

We are very grateful to Dr. Greenfield and Dr. Rankine for their visits to us and for their interest taken in our girls. The last time Dr. Rankine came out to Kedgaon, she found that we had a little girl with her heart on the right side. After having her X-rayed we found that all her organs were completely reversed in position.

ELIZABETH MORRIS.

BUILDING REPORT

We have done no real building this year. The verandah on the south side of the chawk (the square where most of us live) was so dilapidated that it was likely to fall down at any time. This was repaired. Brick pillars were substituted for the old wooden posts, sky lights put in the roof to lighten our living rooms, thus making them comfortable and the verandah respectable. The storm in April wrecked Miss Craddock's verandah so that it had to be rebuilt. Repairs are going on all the

time and yet one looks around and wonders what has been done. Three or four walls are still propped up lest they fall and injure some one. One inside wall in Charbagh fell some weeks ago and is waiting its turn to be rebuilt. The workmen are busy all the time, with howds (tanks), fences, gates, roofs, pipes, cupboards, and whitewashing. With so many workers or 'aunties' who have ideas, it is hard to keep up with them. Were it not for God's wondrous grace, one would get discouraged trying to keep the place in any kind of order. The money goes and there is little to show for it.

We have not abandoned the idea of the new nursery. Plans are being made for it. Much wrecking must be done before we can build, and a little more money must be in hand. E. WELLS.

SANITARY WORK

This is one of Miss Amstutz's various departments. She did it cheerfully, but by experience

I know, it was often irksome to her. This year the work has had its troubles. The septic tanks have been cleaned out and readjusted. Constant vigilance is the price of liberty in this department. The Indians are not naturally clean in this line, hence, although the septic tanks are an improvement on the old method, they need very close attention. The place must be kept clean for health reasons as well as respectability.

SHARADA SADAN SCHOOL REPORT

'In quietness and in confidence shall be your strength.'

During the past year we proved that God was our strength and guide. It is wonderful to rely upon Him.

We began our school with God's blessing after the summer vacation. The girls looked well-rested and quite ready for school again. We have 119 in the Primary School, 54 in the Middle

School and 30 in the Nursery School, making a total of 203. Our classes are much larger this year than last year. Soon we shall need more desks for our higher classes.

Five out of seven girls passed in the Vernacular Final Examination. One of them came first in Poona District; two are taking Bible training in Poona; one is in St. Andrew's High School, and one is in Sholapur for kindergarten training. One is staying at home, for her people cannot afford to give her further education.

We had a very happy time at the presentation of the shield for scholarship to the winning house. The house system has been a great incentive and inspiration to our girls to do better work.

It is interesting to note that in spite of the fact that there were three changes of teachers in the English classes, this year most of the girls were successful in their final English examinations.

Mr. Gerald Carner presented the seventh

standard with English New Testaments for good work in English, and the girls enjoy reading them each morning at the beginning of the English class.

The grant for the Primary School was Rs. 877, and for the Middle School, Rs. 515, making a total of Rs. 1,392.

At present there are 32 new-comers in school, of whom 13 are Hindus. We are trusting and praying that soon these will give their hearts to Christ. We have had many requests this year to take boys of 12 years of age, but because of the committee's decision that only boys under twelve may be admitted, these boys have had to be turned away.

At the suggestion of the educational department, all our school children were given blue and white uniforms, and they now make an attractive picture as they come in and out, and go to classes and to the playground.

We are glad to report that our teachers are faithful and conscientious in their work. They would appreciate your prayers.

BHIMABAI HARISHCHANDRA.

The Nursery School is a fascinating place, the children do their action songs with a will and it is so good to see their attention and interest. They are just at an age where shyness or self-consciousness does not bother them. When visitors come, they so enjoy the little ones that it is hard to get them away. What a change is here from the



MISS WOODWARD WITH SOME OF THE
LITTLE ONES

poor mites who live on the dirty village roads, with no such joys.

The Nursery School children can tell you quite a lot about Jesus, and love to listen to Bible-stories and all unconsciously are learning lessons that will tell for eternity.

NURSERY

Roly-poly Subhakti, dainty Sindhu, fair Elma, teasing Neela, independent Mohini, happy Sugundi and all of the other toddlers were running to and fro in their dormitory, each holding a bright flowered

dress, and calling to each other or talking to their matrons in high-pitched voices. Why were they so excited and happy? They were going to church again! The quarantine was lifted at last!

In spite of precautions chickenpox had developed among the Mukti babies, and before the last one had recovered, we were amazed to find that three of the Toddlers had the measles, so they were in quarantine for six months or more. This period was trying for the matrons because of the anxiety and loss of many hours of sleep. The children who were well could not understand why they could not go to school and for walks as usual. But at last they were free, and now the Sunday frocks were being taken from the shelves and given to the owners. The tots were in such a hurry to get to church that the matrons were hindered in making rapid progress. In spite of having been absent for so many months, they sat quietly throughout the entire service.

We lost three babies during this period, and some of the little ones are suffering from the after-effects of measles. Two have a tendency to T.B., and several have rickets. A few are healthy, active little girls. Kindly remember to pray for these motherless babies. It is a joy now to see some who formerly had rickets able to play and run with the others. Some who were simply skin and bone and seemed too frail to live have grown, and now are going to the nursery school.

Soon after the rising bell is rung (at five o'clock) the day begins for the little folk in the nursery. Each is given a cup of warm milk, then put back to bed to have a nap. At 8.30 they are up again and ready for whole wheat porridge and buttermilk and they much prefer the latter to milk and sugar. Then comes play time with a pause at ten o'clock for a piece of Indian bread and a cup of milk. Then more chatter and play until twelve when they have boiled rice and

pulse with a little curried vegetable. Next comes a long noon nap followed at four by bread and milk, then more play until six, when for the last time they line up along the wall of the little dining room, some with both eyes closed, some with one open, others with head bowed but both eyes open, asking the blessing of the Heavenly Father Who loves each one. The oldest child says the blessing first and word by word the others repeat after her: 'Father—for this food—we thank Thee. In Jesus' name. Amen.' Then they sit down and have their rice and curry and milk and a piece of bread. When their plates are empty there is usually a piece of sweet waiting for them. Some are hungry, and their plates are empty very soon. Some eat a grain or two of rice, then just play. Others won't touch their food until the matron sits down and puts every bit into their mouths. It is the same with the milk. Some drink their portion and wait for their younger sisters' portions

if any is left over. The matrons, with four or six children of various ages, do not have much time to look after their own interests, so pray for them also that they may have special strength and grace for these important and sometimes trying tasks.

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

THE BLOSSOMS

The Blossoms number twenty-nine and we have had an unusual year of poor health. First of all, one and then another got bad sores; some were treated in the dispensary and some had to go to hospital and were there for many weeks before they got well. The next thing was that chickenpox appeared. All the cases got nicely cleared of that and then measles began and lingered on for some time, some had pneumonia and were very sick. We praise the Lord that He answered prayer and eventually all recovered. Two are still in hospital. During the year one of the Akkas left the com-

pound to be married. We have Sunday school on Sunday afternoon for these children, they are all bright and happy and excel in singing.

None have been sent to the Children's Compound for health reasons; but some will be ready for promotion soon. We aim at having the names of each of these little ones written in the Lamb's Book of Life. M. L. HASTIE.



A JOYFUL QUARTETTE OFF TO SCHOOL

PEARL BAGH or CHILDREN'S COMPOUND

This year on the average our numbers have been eighty, and I am glad to say we started with good health; but in February we had chicken-

pox, and the next month we had measles. Mostly those who were afflicted with the former were attacked by the latter disease as well, so they became quite run down. Two of the measles cases developed pneumonia, but with constant care they recovered nicely.

At Christmas time the children were told they would not be getting their regular well-flowered Sunday frocks

but instead they would get each a new uniform for school, white blouses and blue skirts. The older ones blue saris with white blouses, so they were quite pleased about it. But later as they saw their Sunday frocks get more faded they felt

a bit sad about it; however God saw their need and put it upon the heart of one of Mukti's former missionaries to have a ladies' circle make 100 frocks for Mukti's children. Although she tried hard she could not get them to us for Christmas because of the war conditions. Nevertheless God's clock never strikes too late.

In March 15 girls were promoted to other compounds. It would have been hard to transport them before then because they were waiting for their auntie's birthday, when all had a treat of some brown sugar and cocoanut, and how they did enjoy it.

It is hard to leave these lambs among whom I've had the privilege of working over ten years. Many a time one's heart has been touched when one heard them praying with such implicit faith that God would do just what they asked of Him.

ELDA AMSTUTZ

(Gone on furlough.)

BARTMI SADAN

Unless you were told you would never guess this was a school—but it is the Blind School. The children sit on the mud floor. Just a low bench is their desk. It is here these blind children learn to read and write Marathi and English in the Braille System.

All the school books were made in our school. The headmistress of the school can see and she reads from an ordinary text book while one of the blind teachers writes it in Braille. So each book means hours and hours of labour. Also it means a sore arm and shoulder for days because of the continual punching which makes the raised dots on the other side of the paper. Therefore, of each book there is only one copy in the school. When there are several girls in one class, one has a reading lesson while the others have a writing lesson. This also means that they have no books to take home at night for studying to-morrow's

lesson. They have study hours in school which must suffice. For some, this time is sufficient but others are slower to grasp things and would like more study time. However, all do the best they can.

At the middle of the last school year, the children were promised bangles if they passed. To them bangles are as much a part of their dress as a belt is to us—an unnecessary article which we consider important. The Mission cannot afford to buy the girls these bangles as they are of glass and break easily. The necessary thing is to feed and clothe them. The thought of receiving bangles was quite an incentive to study hard. After the final examination, every girl passed—one girl passing only by a margin of four points! Then came an excursion to the village market place. Excitement ran high. Although they could not see, still they knew what colours they wanted. Each girl received two bracelets for each arm.

Because the bracelets were so small, the two little first-graders got theirs for half-price. With the rest of the money they each bought a balloon and five biscuits. That was four months ago. All the bangles are broken, but we hope they will all be eligible for more bangles next year.

The one end of the room is the Blind School and the other end is the Blind Industrial Department. Here the girls make rope from fibre, baskets from the banana fibre which is gathered from our banana grove, cane stools, re-seat chairs with cane, and make bed tape. The rope and bed tape is made for Mukti's consumption, whereas the baskets and stools are sold. These useful occupations keep these girls happy.

LOUIS HAHN.

CHARBAGH

This large compound with its four departments houses little girls who are just out of school, the

less robust girls whom Pandita Ramabai found to be frail physically and nervously, the women who came here as young girls but are now gray-haired, and the middle-aged girls of Bai's time who now have become white-haired. These girls compose the working class at Mukti. Some work in the fields; some are room-girls; some cook; some have dhobi work and do various other tasks in different departments.

When the rising bell rouses the sleepers, the working women have to get up and cook their own food quickly, then leave for the fields, carpentry shop or masonry work. These must report for work by seven-thirty. Those in the sewing and printing departments leave at nine for their work. Then the compound is empty and the doors are locked until noon when they open for about two and a half hours. When the girls return from their noon meal to their various tasks, the doors are again locked until six when the

women return home. At night after their evening meal, their voices can easily be heard as they gather for prayer before retiring. Since the war began, they eagerly await fresh news, then how they do call upon God to help! They remember also to pray for those who support Mukti Mission with prayer and gifts and provide them with a home and food. When you pray for them, please especially remember the younger ones whom we want to see nearer to Christ.

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

ANAND SADAN

This compound can hardly be called a teachers compound any more. The name has served its day; but now we have not only teachers, matrons, cooks, carpenters, seamstresses, school girls but holiday-makers and visitors from everywhere.

Our senior matron, Mulya akka, a woman of Ramabai's time, does very well in trying to keep

this cosmopolitan crowd to adhere to the laws of the Medes and Persians, 'which altereth not.' They have had very little of Moushie's attention this year. I am glad to hand over this important work to Miss Fletcher. May God's blessing attend her as she takes it over.

ELDA AMSTUTZ



ANAND SADAN YOUNG PEOPLE

KRUPA SADAN

'When the enemy shall come in like a flood,
the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard
against him.'—Is. 59: 19.

During the past year, I have many times
praised God for answer to prayer on behalf of
some of these girls,
whose lives have
been broken by sin.

It is encouraging
to know that we have
a Saviour who is able
to give them a clean
heart and set their
feet upon the Rock.

Although one is
often discouraged,
still we have been
encouraged to see
some of these women

gathering for prayer in the evenings, and to hear
them pray and give a word of testimony. We
trust that a number who have not as yet found
Christ may soon do so.

We have a number of Hindu women in our
midst, for whom I would value your prayers.



NURSERY TODDLERS

Many of our girls
in here are from
Christian homes.
Born Christians!
But not born-again
Christians. So we
desire that these girls
may experience a
spiritual rebirth.

We are praying
for a revival in our
midst. May God
pour down His
Spirit upon us.

The girls and women of the Rescue Home go to the different departments for work. Some to the fancy needlework or plain sewing, others to learn cooking, and some are used as baby nurses. We try to keep them all occupied as well as to teach them something useful.

We have taken in 56 this year. Some have left to go to their own homes or else have been married. Some of our marriages have not turned out successfully, so the girls have returned to us.

We have 23 tiny babies and 18 bigger children, making 41 in all. Thirty of our mothers' babies were taken from us and in each case the mother was very upset.

One of our babies was adopted: a little twin boy, by a Christian couple in Bombay, who had no children. We hear that he is very happy and that the parents are very proud of him. We pray that he will grow up to serve our Lord Jesus Christ.

ELIZABETH MORRIS.

BAI'S FRIENDS

Here in 'Mukti' we have a company of 'defectives' who go by the above title, because the mother-heart of Pandita Ramabai went out to them. She was so full of pity for their sad condition that she often devised little treats for them and let them know that she loved them.

Now the time has come when they really need a worker of their own. What a boon this would be! So we send out this S.O.S. for a woman called of God for this work. She must have a mother-heart, a woman of strong nerve; for 'Bai's friends' at times make hideous noises. They shout and let out hysterical laughter and idiotic laughter too. Epileptics, irresponsibles, some who seem almost insane, they are for the most part an unlovely lot of about fifty. They live in a compound of their own, have their own dining room and some old matrons who have got very tired of such work. They, too, would probably do better

if they had an 'Auntie' to help them. Sometimes the 'friends' fall down and get sad cuts and bruises; yet these same people do lots of sweeping and cleaning, etc., all over 'Mukti.' We are often amazed at the amount of work they do and would miss their services very much if they were not here. How they respond to love and sympathy! They enjoy singing the songs of Zion and listening to simple Gospel stories; and will even chime in with some Bible thought that has reached their beclouded brain.

May God lay this work on the heart of one of His children, whom He will equip with health, strong nerves, ability to be firm and even stern at times, a heart filled with Calvary Love, and lots of good sense. One who for the Master's sake will take up this flotsam and jetsam gathered in from everywhere, women who would be a menace to others and a misery to themselves if allowed to wander at large.

The Secretary, Ramabai Mukti Mission, Kedgaon, Poona Dist., India, would be glad to hear of such a worker.

NEEDLEWORK DEPARTMENT

Again our cupboards are bare! Food cupboards we want filled, but there is rejoicing when the Needlework cupboard is about empty. Nothing is more discouraging than to have stacks of needlework on hand with no outlet for it. That means that it becomes soiled and yellow. We praise the Lord that even in these critical days, parcels have gone to England and America. And from England a letter recently came requesting more goods to sell. Although their thoughts are at the battlefield, they have not lost their interest in the battlefield in the Regions Beyond.

Our numbers are gradually diminishing as the younger girls get married. As they establish homes of their own, the training they have had

with the needle will stand them in good stead, but it makes the fulfilling of orders quite difficult. We are trusting the Lord will keep sending new girls to train.

You would be surprised to see the grey-haired women doing such fine work as the hankies, etc. Very few of them can do both embroidery and drawn thread work, therefore the ability of each girl must be considered when work is given them or the linen might be spoiled, which however rarely happens.

At present, the difficulty of getting linen has arisen. We request prayer that we may find a way to get this much-needed linen in spite of the fact that shipping is limited.

Every evening from 4-30 till 5-30, thirty-two school girls come to learn sewing. Even in their first year some do very nicely but others have no aptitude whatever. Still, all learn the rudiments of sewing which is so necessary in making their

own clothes. The older ones also learn simple embroidery stitches which they will be able to use on their own blouses. Some are very eager to learn while others consider it a burden. Children are the same the world over!

Some of our regular girls come to sewing in the morning and go out as Bible-women to the various villages in the afternoon. In this way they have a large share in furthering the Gospel. This past year, one of the matrons and several girls were out in camp. By 'camp' we mean the setting up of a tent beside a river or under a shady tree. Here they camp for several months in one place, daily going to new villages to preach the Gospel. In this way villages are reached that are too far away to be visited from Mukti. These times of camping are a real challenge to our girls as they realize the degradation of those in sin about them. Therefore, they determined to burn-out for the Master. Do pray for the Glorious

News that has been preached in these villages which are far from the beaten track.

LOUISE HAHN.

PLAIN SEWING DEPARTMENT

This is a small department when considering numbers as there are only five girls and one matron. But it is a very important department. Here we make the clothes for all the babies, school children, some blind people, the defectives and for the hospital.

During the past year these half-dozen girls made 159 pairs of knickers, 350 blouses, 180 skirts, 280 frocks, 9 coats,



DEEP IN THOUGHT

15 shirts for the boys and 80 cot-covers. For the hospital they made 40 pillow-cases and 70 sheets. Besides making these new articles, they mended about 400 articles. To make these things they cut up hundreds and hundreds of yards of material. Our children needed more clothing but there was no material with which to make them. Still, all have had at least one outfit this past year. Our family is huge and the needs are tremendous. The Lord has provided and will continue to provide, for which we render Him praise.

Out of this group one girl

goes out to the villages every afternoon to preach the Gospel and another goes quite frequently. May the Lord bless the work of His handmaidens.

LOUISE HAHN.

STORES

In spite of famine prices and other difficulties, our storerooms have never been empty. Our girls and women have never had to go hungry. When food is scarce, the conditions are made known to our family. The girls and women have accepted the plain food and seem to thrive on it, for most appear plump and well. Our God Who cares for the orphans and needy ones has met and will continue to meet our needs. In times of special need the women and girls especially appreciate our farm that supplies us with green vegetables when none can be obtained from outside.

What would you do if you had to supervise the cooking for three hundred folk and did not have trained cooks? What punishment would a girl deserve when, because of some quarrel in her dormitory, she scorched a whole tub of rice or burned every bit of bread she baked? These are some of the problems with which those in charge must contend. Many of the women who do the work are here because they made trouble in the Mission where they used to be or are in the rescue home. They do not want to be here, and have no interest in the work nor pride concerning their report. The matrons are old, and these restless, undisciplined young girls often cause them much trouble. We have to pray for grace and more grace to use the material we have and get the work done and at the same time, try to get the girls' minds on higher and better things.

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

DHOBI (WASHING)

This department has continued its duties under great difficulties. Although the old women are willing to work, they cannot even see the lines in the frocks by which to keep the pleats straight. The younger women who once worked in this department have married and gone to homes of their own, so now we find ourselves forced to use outside help to get the washing done.

JULIA G. WOODWARD.

FARM REPORT

Although we cannot report a record year still there are many high spots for which praise should be given.

For five years now, we have been praying and looking for a really good rainy season. Most of us do not appreciate the value of rain. We get plenty in the homelands and usually it falls just at the right time to aid growing crops. Here in

India it is just the opposite. From June to September, 1939 (which is our rainy season), we here in Mukti did get lots of rain. *But*, it all fell at one time. Crops flourished for a couple of months and then everything began to dry up and die. However, for our own need we harnessed every available ox and drew heavily upon their strength and also upon our water-supply. For four long months we never stopped pouring well water upon the dry and thirsty land. Praise God, the water held out and the harvest rewarded us with grain which alone was worth 700 rupees more than last year's crop.

Now as I write this report, we are in the beginning of our 1940 rainy season. Even though this should come in next year's report, still I cannot refrain from telling you that for the beginning of the season, the rains have been wonderful. Already we have about thirty-five acres planted and all are doing well. Only God knows what

the next few weeks have in store for us. I trust while we are praying here, that you too are doing all you can before the Throne of Grace to 'stay up our hands' as Aaron and Hur did Moses' hands (Exodus 17: 12).

Five years ago all our cactus fences were destroyed by disease. Since then we have been working hard to build others. During this time finances permitted only a few barbed-wire ones. The rest of the fields must be protected by placing thorny branches side by side to form a fence. These due to decay and theft must be replaced each year. Two of Mukti's older women help me very much in this need. They are Jeviebai and Sonibai who spend all their time as watchwomen. They deserve your prayers as day in and day out they are always on the alert to drive out any trespassers whether man or animal.

Besides these two women, there are twenty-five other Mukti women doing what they can, con-

sidering their age and strength, to help keep the farm clean. Two-thirds of this group keep the animal stalls clean and grind any grain we may be feeding to them. The other one-third, although they too are worn and in need of a Sunset Home, still try to cultivate what they can. Most of them have spent thirty or forty years in these fields and say, 'We want to die right here.' They have the will to do but not the strength.

In one of our quarterly *Prayer Bells*, I wrote about my new helper, Mr. Patoli. He came to us last August and has been a real help ever since.

All our animals contracted foot and mouth disease which left them in a terribly run-down condition. For three months we had a large animal hospital under the shade of our orange trees. Each animal's feet and mouth had to be washed several times a day. Then when they could no longer eat fodder due to large ulcers in the mouth, they had to be kept alive by feeding

them liquid foods with a bottle. Though the days were long and tedious, yet we Praise God that not one animal died. The disease also affected our milking animals considerably, and left us very short of the necessary milk for our large family.

All our irrigation channels leading from the wells are built just with soil. Each year much time and money has to be spent filling in washed out sections. Big black ants are constantly making a network of subways underneath, resulting in a continual waste of water through leakage. To overcome this waste, as finances permit, we want to build permanent stone channels. We are glad to report that this year one channel three-hundred feet long has been completed. There still remain to be built, if all were to be completed, ten channels, totalling about 3,500 feet. If for each foot of channel five gallons of water are wasted each day, in six months' time about three

million gallons of water are wasted. Now do you see why we are concerned.

Bamboo is a very important item on the list for the building material here in India. This year I have planted fifty trees in various fence-line places. Once a start is made, there is a continual shooting forth of new trees from the roots of the old. In this way the growth will continue indefinitely and a ready supply will always be at hand. If all the trees live, even within three years we should have over three hundred trees.

There are still many things that could be reported, but in closing I want to say how proud we are of our new 8 H.P. crude oil engine. Along with it we have also installed a new 3 in. centrifugal pump on one of our largest and most important wells. These two new pieces of machinery working together are doing very well. On one well alone they do the work of twelve bullocks. Besides this, the engine (which is on

wheels) is used at two other wells: one for pumping drinking water into Krupa Sadan, the other for supplying bathing water for Mukti family and irrigation water for our farm. Praise God for this new equipment. Now will you stand with us in praying for two additional engines and pumps of the same type?

LUTHER HAHN.

The Prayer Bell has brought in over £100 this year. We do praise the Lord that He uses it. We often think how insignificant it is; but God still uses the weak things, the base things, the things that are not—or things that are nothing—wherewith to accomplish His plans and glorify His Name.

Last December we got out a calendar and many were sold and letters from very many expressed appreciation and they said that it was a stimulus to prayer and added to the interest

and knowledge of the work, and many loved the front page picture of Bai and Tai.

Owing to the outbreak of war last September the correspondence has been very restricted. For two months we had no mail from any country, and no money; but what a blessed experience it was! The Lord was so very present and walked and talked with us until our hearts ran over with praise and thanksgiving and He taught us that He had other ways of sending money than just through the mails. One big amount came from India and several smaller sums too; and all our needs were supplied and we had learned to know the Lord better. Letters are still a very long time in reaching us; and to and from Europe communication is suspended. We are not allowed to send mission reports or magazines, but as the LORD has so lovingly undertaken in the past we know He will undertake still and we go on *Believing God*. M. L. H.

RAMABAI MUKTI MISSION

Balance Sheet for the Year ending March 31, 1940

	RECEIPTS			EXPENDITURES		
	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on hand, April 1st, 1939 ...						
Building and Repairs ...	622	1	8	2,635	11	3
Clothing ...	1,390	0	0	1,421	9	3
Church and Evangelistic...	4,857	13	10	2,028	0	0
Farm ...	14,162	14	0	17,540	11	2
Food ...	22,996	15	10	22,084	0	10
Industrial ...	1,245	14	1	3,863	15	6
Medical ...	1,605	5	3	1,776	14	3
Mukti ...	25,583	12	1	17,075	10	1
Publishing ...	6,015	11	9	5,045	5	5
School ...	2,528	10	0	5,346	9	0
Travelling ...	244	6	0	622	6	9
Workers ...	13,321	7	7	11,879	14	3
				94,575	0	1
Balance on hand, March 31st, 1940						
				91,320	11	9
				4,043	13	11
				Rs. 95,364	9	8

Bills to be paid—		Rs.	A.	P.		
Food ...	1,918	0	3		Donations from 'Readers	
Miss Amstutz, Furlough ...	1,069	10	0		of <i>The Christian</i> ' ...	£ 4 0 0 = Rs. 53 7 0
Mr. Hahn for engine (set aside) ...	1,399	11	0		Received, but paid out in April.	
	Rs. 4,387	5	3			

We very gratefully thank all who have sent pictures and old Christmas cards, they speak for the Lord Jesus Christ with their Marathi texts written in large letters. One day we expect to meet souls that they have helped along 'The Way.' We also give very real thanks to the Poona doctors, Dr. Greenfield and Dr. Rankine, who so readily visit and help us. St. Margaret's Hospital ever opens its door to our girls and babies who need medical and surgical attention. What arduous days these doctors have, and often nights too. We request your prayers for them.

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