

v. 19 (1939)

TIDINGS

From Bengal-Orissa



THE NEW SCIENCE BUILDING AT BALASORE



No. 1

MARCH, 1939

36

T41

v. 19

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Dr. P. H. J. Lerrigo, 152, Madison Ave., N.Y.
Single subscriptions \$0.30 each.
Four subscriptions \$1.00.

Local subscriptions from—

Mrs. J. A. Howard, Khargpur, B.N. Ry.—6 As. each.



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THE ANNUAL REPORT

KHARGPUR ENGLISH AND INDIAN WORK

By REV. C. C. ROADARMEL

Lack of variety has never been a characteristic of our experience in missionary work. Once more the needs of the work have brought us to the South Side in Khargpur to take over the duties of Rev. and Mrs. Brush since their departure on furlough in April. This has meant the duties of pastor in the Union Church (English) and administrative work as Mission Secretary and Mission Treasurer, in addition to the supervision of the Hostel and the other Indian work which had been in our charge before.

Union Church

The English Church activities are not of a spectacular type, but continue to build Christian character among the European and Anglo-Indian people and to call them to a loyalty to Christ which is in itself a witness to Him in this land where they are surrounded by non-Christian peoples.

Sunday evening worship and preaching services, a Mid-week Prayer and Bible Study Meeting, and two Sunday Schools, one in the church building and the other one in a private home on the North Side, are included in the program.

Recreational and Social Life has been encouraged by the Tennis Club throughout the year, by the monthly meetings of the W.C.T.U., by the Annual Church Dinner and the Sunday School picnic. A group of younger boys and girls have made use of the Badminton Court during the season.

The W.C.T.U., in addition to the social features already mentioned, has made its influence felt in the community by the steady teaching and enlistment of Christian people in opposing the use of liquor. This type of work presents a special challenge to the Christian forces when the Hindus and Mohammedans in Government are co-operating to introduce prohibition in certain areas.

Late in the year a Junior Christian Endeavor was organized under the leadership of Mrs. Roadarmel to give the boys and girls more training in self-expression.

Through the generosity of the original donors of the Phillips Memorial Building, it has been possible this year to make extensive repairs on the church property, including a new floor, roof and window repairs, and complete painting and varnishing.

Ward Memorial Church

The Ward Memorial Church has continued its self-supporting work under the leadership of Rev. Kritibas Behra, with two Sunday Schools, church services in Hindustani and Oriya, and Mid-week services. One united Christian Endeavor has been formed to take up the work which had been more or less dormant for some time. The work started with enthusiasm and has continued steadily through the year. Special weekly services have been held in the group of Gonds from Orissa, who have come to work at the Dairy Farm. Thirteen of them were baptized during the year, altogether, 25 persons were baptized during 1938 in this church, 16 from Christian families and 9 from non-Christian.

Telugu Church

The Telugu Church has rendered a vital service throughout the year to the group speaking that language. The pastor, Rev. Ch. Prakasam, has worked faithfully in spite of financial and other difficulties. Eight persons were baptized during the year.

Special Evangelistic Work

Among the women of the town, Miss Ujjayini Pradhan and her helper, Mrs. Peter, have continued their ministry of teaching, sympathy and sharing of the "Good News" of Christ. They have gone into homes in various parts of the town and vicinity and during a part of the year have gone regularly once a week to give special teaching to the Gond women in two places.

Babu Sukumar Das carried on special personal work among non-Christians until he resigned at the end of October. An effort has been made to find someone else who can work into the situation here, but so far no suitable person has been found who can be spared from other work.

The Hostel

The Hostel for working men has been well-filled throughout the year, and the young men express appreciation for the opportunity of having good quarters with facilities for games and reading. I have not been able to spend the time to carry on a really constructive program, but have only been able to look after the most necessary matters.

Administrative Work

My administrative work as Secretary and Treasurer of the Mission have required considerable office work, but have also given me the privilege of entering into the problems of the various missionaries in a fuller sense than I had ever done before. As Chairman of the Home Mission Board, the Executive Body representing the churches, for this year, I have been able to have some part in trying to work out the problems faced in that phase of the work.

My one regret in carrying on the English Church and the administrative work has been that it left so little time for vernacular work. I have had to leave undone much in the line of Workers' Training and Counsel which needs to be done. I did have the privilege of sharing

in the Workers' Training Conference at Ramchandrapur in March, for two days, and in October in the Second Annual Institute for Oriya Young People at Chandipore and for the full period in the First Annual Institute for Midnapore District Young People at Jhargram.

The Better Half

Mrs. Roadarmel has been an indispensable helper in the various responsibilities throughout the year. Her active participation in pastoral calling, assistance to the needy of the community, the choir, Sunday School, W.C.T.U., Christian Endeavor and all the other activities of the church has been a vital contribution to our ministry here, in addition to the innumerable details of her work as home-maker.

We trust you will unite with us in prayer that we may be guided to find the ways in which we can best share the love of Christ and the more abundant life He came to give.

DISTRICT WORK AMONG THE SANTALS

"The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."

By REV. A. A. BERG

Evangelistic

The year under review has not been marked with the progress and increase we had anticipated. The eleven village churches (excluding Bhimpore) in this end of the field reported 34 baptisms at the September Half Yearly meeting, with a total membership of 484. In some churches disciplinary action has been necessary more than once, to maintain the good name of the church in the community. In some places there has been vigorous Catholic propaganda. In Ulda alone 35 names were struck off the roll, exhortation and instruction having failed to retain these within the spiritual fellowship and unity of the church. Since they left our group the disaffected members had to petition the priest to remove the "padre" who had been appointed as their shepherd,

on account of excessive drunkenness. Most of the Santals have suffered enough under the curse of drink to realize that if Christianity does not save them from this awful habit it is not worth embracing. Some of these experiences have only served to weld the true believers closer together, and we may be the gainers in the end. In the Choinsole-Monapara area the S.P.G. group has worked in almost open opposition to us. But we trust this will terminate, now that the arbitration award has been published.

It is unfortunate that under these circumstances, when our churches have been in special need of instruction and guidance, that the preaching staff has been further reduced during the year. Two of the senior Santal preachers were retired due to retrenchment measures by the Home Missionary Board. In addition the tragic and untimely death of Rev. Benod B. Murmu, experienced and successful Santal evangelist further depleted the staff. We have had a conviction for some time that the evangelistic work among Santals will progress most satisfactorily when it is promoted by lay and voluntary workers. The shortage of funds and paid workers will compel us to accelerate the program of training lay leaders for this task. The Christian village school teachers should become the natural spiritual leaders where we have churches, and the zealous evangelists in non-Christian communities. The Ramchondropur Conference and the Jhargram Young People's Institute (Cf. *Tidings*, June and December, 1938) illustrate efforts in the direction of training workers of this type. More frequent training guidance of such nature will send folks back to their villages with a power, a message and a desire to make Christ known to their neighbors and friends.

Several factors have militated against the missionary giving a lot of time to this important work during the year. The construction work at Jhargram during the entire cold season and several months into the hot weather last year; continued vigilance over the 70 village schools; at least 40 entire days spent in actual committee work—exclusive of time spent in travel to and from these meetings—all these activities may well be termed “serving tables” instead of a faithful ministry

of the Word. And it is the latter the churches have a right to expect of their evangelistic missionary. With the Jhargram home completed, and we being located in the midst of the churches, we hope to do better in the future.

To compensate for this, Rev. A. L. Maity, senior evangelist and church supervisor, has served most conscientiously. He has at times labored almost to the point of exhaustion, going about on his cycle, visiting churches and Christian communities. We regret to announce that he has been led to resign, hoping that by so doing money may be released to engage others for pursuing and extending the evangelistic work. He hopes to continue in a voluntary capacity. Because of depleted budgets no large scale cold season touring was possible during the year. Rev. Maity and three of the younger workers did some itinerating during the cold weather.

The Dampara work has continued with Rev. N. S. Soren as resident pastor at Chukripara, assisted by Ramdoron Murmu as itinerant lay worker. Half of the support for the latter has been realized from the local churches on the Dampara field, which is an encouraging feature. They have given rice, paddy, etc., besides small amounts in cash. One poor widow was reported to have given 20 lbs. pulse from her little plot of land, towards the support of the pastor. If the churches outside the field contributed in the same spirit and proportion the work could be largely augmented there. Only two workers where Christians are scattered in some thirty villages over 200 square miles is not enough. The well at Chukripara was at last completed in May. The Government contributed about Rs.500 towards the project.

Under the auspices of the Bengal Christian Council Rev. P. J. Heaton has made a preliminary survey of evangelistic opportunities in our Bengal field. This is to be complemented by a further inquiry in March, 1939, under the direction of Rev. F. Wittaker, Mass Movement Secretary of the National Christian Council, assisted by the Bengal Council Committee.

The Arbitration Board of the Bengal Christian Council completed its work in March with reference to our dispute with the S.P.G. Mission

concerning work among Santals in the Jhargram Sub-division. The report of the above Board was accepted by the Executive Committee of the Bengal Council. The Board stated that "they are strongly of the opinion that misunderstandings, such as have occurred in the past, can be avoided only if the task of building up the Christian Church in the area in question is entrusted to one organization. From the evidence studied by them they are definitely of opinion that the claim of the American Baptist Mission to priority in occupation of the field has been established They therefore recommend :

1. That the S.P.G. withdraw from the Jhargram Sub-division, including the part south of the Subornarekha River.
2. That if the S.P.G. desires to continue its missionary activity among the Santals in the Midnapore District, an arrangement be made by mutual consent whereby the S.P.G. should be given occupation of another area in the District.
3. That arrangements be made by mutual consent under Part II, Section 7, of the Statement on Comity of Missions, for the pastoral care of the members of the Church of India, Burma and Ceylon, in the Jhargram Sub-division, the said arrangement to be reported to the Christian Council of Bengal and Assam.

Village Schools

The 74th annual Santal Village School Teachers' Convention was held early in January, 1938, with an average daily attendance of 100. Special speaker was Mr. B. C. Mukerji of Calcutta, with special emphasis on adult education and Laubach methods.

The Santal Education Board Schools in Midnapore District totalled 68 during the year, including 5 unaided schools. They had an enrollment of 2,411, with 81 teachers. Of these 13 were upper primary, from which 89 appeared at the Government primary final examination in November; of these 90% passed. Out of 315 candidates for the lower primary examination 71% passed. The Government contributed Rs.12,103 towards the maintenance of these schools, and the Mission

Rs.1,400 towards supervision, besides about Rs.700 from Home Mission Board funds for salaries to circuit teachers in religious education.

As the majority of these schools are for non-Christians, the question was discussed at the annual Mission Conference whether it is a sound investment to put so much time and money into this program. If most of the schools were near Christian communities, economy of time in co-ordinating the supervision of these schools and the churches could be effected. But it is a fact that where most of the schools exist no churches are found, not even individual Christians. This problem is still being studied, and we expect definite recommendations from the Evangelistic Survey Committee as to what course ought to be followed.

Mission-aided primary schools for Christian communities numbered six during the year, with 241 pupils. Five of these schools were in the Dampara area. Repeated requests for aid to these schools, through sub and deputy inspectors, having failed, we have addressed the Education Department direct. As a result word has just been received that aid has been sanctioned to three teachers not previously aided. The only unaided school, at Jhaprisol, has been temporarily closed. The school for Koras at Hatiband has been transferred to the Santal Education Board, thus entitling it to government stipend.

The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few. *Pray ye therefore!* It is our sincere desire to have the greatness of the task and the paucity of human resources compel us to test to the limit this exhortation during the year we have just entered.

THE KORA FIELD

By REV. J. A. HOWARD

The landholdings of the Kora people are rather unstable. As they frequently are without land, and their only home consists of a dome-shaped hut of straw and bamboo, they readily move from one place to another. One of these moving communities has now become stabilized

and they are paying toward permanent plots of land. This is at Kondarol and the new settlement consists of twelve Christian families where there was formerly only two. Most of these came out of Amda which was the first village to accept Christ. There are nine families left there. Those who had gone over to Catholicism there have also left, but continue to disturb the peace by revisiting and threatening their former neighbors.

We are glad to report an advance in gardening. This is mostly due to the good example set by one of the preachers who has demonstrated the growing of eggplants, tomatoes, papayas, sweet potatoes, beans, etc., in his garden. It takes a little care to water them, and to keep out the cows and goats, but the effort is more than worth while, because of the great deficiency of vegetables in the village diet.

The rice crop in the vicinity of three of our communities was practically a failure due to insufficient rain. Many must go elsewhere to find work which considerably disturbs church life and Christian growth.

Politically the land seems quiet and people in general are pleased with their Indian officers.

Health conditions are not so good. Great waves of malaria fever have taken their toll of life and strength. A number succumbed to cholera last summer. Coughs and colds are now prevalent. Good water would help a lot towards alleviating certain illnesses. Two new tubewells have been sanctioned by the local government for Christian villages and are to be sunk soon.

Education is gradually spreading, and we are beginning to get leaders. In three churches laymen occasionally conduct the services. Now we aim to start Sunday Schools in each locality. Money contributions toward the work are not great, but perhaps they give as much as their small means allows. Two communities have built new churches for themselves entirely at their own expense.

We continue to stress temperance inasmuch as the drinking of ricebeer is the chief tie with the old heathen life. It is a very great and everpresent temptation, and the devil secretly enters numerous

homes through its indulgence. It must be wiped out with patience and persistence.

The prospects were never brighter than now. There seems a deep interest in many directions. Two families in a village called Chaltagaria have lately been baptized. It is reported that their witness may be the means of bringing to Christ relatives in five other villages. During 1938 on the whole field there have been 32 baptisms. This is but a fraction of what the harvest should be. The renewal of a deep spirit of prayer on the part of all of us combined with hard work and an outpouring of God's Spirit will mean success in this corner of the vineyard.

MIDNAPORE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

By MISS RUTH DANIELS

1938 stands out in my mind for the finding of a number of people, who make such a difference to the work. When things go wrong or there are problems and discouragements, I still go on thanking God that He gave me our clerk, Mrs. Ghosh, our Headmistress, Mrs. Biswas, our matron, Miss De, and my assistant, Miss Biswas; but then I do not know where to stop, for the Secondmistress, Miss Laha, is beautifully efficient and above the average and among the others there is a spirit of co-operation and unity that we have not often enjoyed before. So our blessings are many.

For the first time in our school a clerk (office secretary) was appointed in January, 1938. Mrs. Ghosh, a Hindu widow, was at one time a teacher in our school and, though she had no experience as a clerk, she had abilities that have made it possible for her to learn much in one year. She collects the fees, hustles the ones who do not pay up, sells exercise books, paper, etc., acts as librarian, always knows where anything is when we want it, and, as for school accounts, I have almost been able to forget them.

Mrs. Bina Biswas was my assistant from July, 1937, to May, 1938. Then the post of Headmistress fell vacant and she took that. I knew

she was a fine and capable teacher and a devoted Christian, but I did not know she would succeed as she has as an executive or so quickly master the details of school management and Government rules. The discipline and atmosphere of the school now make it a delightful place to be. She takes a personal interest in each pupil. I am rapidly becoming unnecessary to the management of the school. She also takes an interest in church and community, teaches a S.S. class, and in October took time out of vacation to attend and teach a class at our Young People's Conference at Jhargram, where she was really an inspiration.

Then there is our Boarding (Hostel) matron, Miss Hemlota Dey. Usually a matron is not paid as well or looked up to as much as a teacher, though it certainly seems that the mothering, nursing, feeding and "bringing up" of girls during 18 hours out of the 24, requires as much skill and refinement as teaching their classes at school for the other six hours, and nothing could offer a greater opportunity for spiritual influence. Miss Dey was an Infant teacher for years but she has given that up and taken a lower salary to do this work she says she has always looked down on, because last March when she was praying earnestly to know God's will for her future, He very definitely presented this call to her. We had long been hunting a good matron and when I wrote Miss Dey about it in March, back came the reply, "I have felt this call at times for two years but said I would never do it. Now I surrender to His will and shall begin in June." I need not tell you that she is always happy and is a success.

Another efficient person who makes me thankful is Miss M. Biswas who has the position of my assistant which Mrs. B. Biswas left in June. She does much of the teaching I was doing and supervises the Boarding. After securing her in this post, it took six months "to find her". She has a way of giving a very poor impression of herself. In the first three months she offered to resign three times. She seemed displeased with most things. She said she was not religious, could not go out to homes or conventions, could not teach English or do translation work, could not direct a play or give a talk at school, and

more, but before long she had volunteered to take a S.S. class; she attended the Women's Conference where she led a prayer group three mornings; she translated a dozen chapters for a new book, gave a splendid chapter review at W.W.G., arranged and staged two plays, one on Tithing by the women of the community and the other a short form of Pilgrim's Progress by the Hostel girls. In short we have found out that, no matter what she says, she can do most things well and will spare no pains to do whatever she is asked to do and besides all that she thinks and has ideas and cares.

And my thankfulness does not end there. There are many girls to be thankful for. For instance, there is Sneha Bagal. A missionary of the Mission from which she comes wrote asking me what sort of a student and girl she was and apologized for giving me trouble. Trouble to write about Sneha? That was one of the easiest tasks of the year. I wrote one long page and when I read it over had to add another to tell more good points I had omitted. Full of life and fun, a good student, an actress who can make one laugh or weep, she is also one of the most prayerful and earnest Christians and was President of our W.W.G. for two years. When she went home for October vacation she said she would come for the Young People's Conference, though it made her give up half her time at home and she kept her word in spite of the fact that she had been ill most of that time at home. Often tests come to us in little things and unexpectedly. She receives some help financially from the Mission and according to our rule should do a certain amount of extra work. She was informed of this rather suddenly in the middle of the year and, although she was a Senior with much studying to do, she immediately said she was ready to do it and she showed that same willing spirit when doing the tasks assigned her. There is a Hindu girl in her class for whom we are praying and I feel that Sneha's prayers are one of the strongest influences over her.

Now I come to some facts and figures. The number on the roll in 1938 went up to 192. This was not a large increase over the 176 of the preceding year, but the number of girls in H.S. Dept. was 80, a 50% increase over the 53 of 1937. In 1939 we have already passed

200 in the total enrollment and more are coming. The number in Hostel reached 40 at one time, but the average was 30 for the year.

To increase our class-rooms, we built a spacious, comfortable and well-lighted mud building of four rooms for the Lower Primary Department. The teachers and children like this very much. The cost was Rs.1,038, of which all except Rs.75 was contributed locally, Rs.500 being a grant from the District Board.

We needed more room for Cooking classes, so have adopted and adapted rooms in the nearby "goomti" in addition to the former cook-house. Now we can have three cooking classes at the same time.

We also require a room for the girls to take their lunch and so that has been begun, though we do not know how we shall get all the money. Part has come from the interest on the Reserve Fund and part from the proceeds of last July School Sale.

Although our expenditures in 1938 increased by Rs.83 per month, there has not been a deficit because the receipts from fees also increased. The number of girls coming by bus has increased so that one bus cannot bring all and so it has been necessary to purchase a new half bus, partly from money in reserve for this and partly from borrowed funds. In addition to the bus fees collected, about Rs.125 per month has to be spent from the regular school account for bus.

We have two Girl Guide Companies and two Blue Bird Flocks. In November our Guides entertained the Guides from five other Companies in a Divisional Rally. They won a number of honours in the competitions.

Nine girls took Matriculation examination in March and eight passed. Four passed in the First Division. Three of the eight were Christians.

When the Inspectress visited the School in March, she wrote in her report, "I find that this school is growing better and better every year."

The teachers have their weekly Bible class and prayer meeting. Since July we have taken up "The Manhood of the Master" which is available in Bengali.

Girls go once a week to the Hospital to sing and tell a Bible story. Sometimes they take fruit or flowers. They conduct three S.S.'s among

low caste children and at Christmas time held a service with the three groups together. There were trees with candle and gifts—the money for the gifts having been raised by themselves. Each group of children gave interesting numbers on the program, even though they are illiterate children of illiterate parents.

Our W.W.G., organized in 1937, has studied Africa this year. They gave Rs.10 to the Home Mission field here and sent \$2. to the Guild at home to be used in the gifts for foreign work. They made frocks for poor girls and bookbags for a school in the Home Mission field. Three girls went to visit the Home Mission field at Dampara 60 miles away in Easter holiday. There they cheered the Christian people, gave the Gospel message in the homes of non-Christians, and brought home inspiration for themselves. At the last meeting of the year in December the girls who were on the losing side of the Reading Contest of the year, gave a play to the other side.

Midnapore Church

Under the leadership of several sincere members the church went forward. For eight months it had a pastor of outstanding ability and consecration. The church attendance increased. All members were won back to co-operation. Where the contributions had averaged about Rs.12 per month, they increased to over Rs.50 during part of the year, and in addition money was raised to pay a debt, to entertain Yearly Meeting and to make extensive repairs. The repairs have greatly increased the atmosphere of worship in the church. On Easter 12 men and women and this New Year's, 10 young men were baptized. Now the church is without a permanent pastor.

The Women's Society is doing well. Mrs. Howard helped them in their semi-monthly programs till May and since July they have been studying John, chapter by chapter. The President is alive and she with another member collected Rs.19 for the Women's Conference special Bible Woman. She attended the Conference and largely through her efforts five others also went. Just recently they gave here a play on

Tithing which was presented at the Conference. A large audience of women and girls received pleasure and inspiration from it.

BHIMPORE GENERAL WORK

By REV. H. C. LONG

The year 1938 was not a particularly eventful one for the high school nor the community at Bhimpore, save that we repeated our "cent per cent" of 1937 in the matter of passing candidates in the matriculation examination. This time we sent up four, all Santal boys, and all passed in the second division.

Our new science master, engaged to meet the requirements of the University which will examine boys in science in the matriculation examination of 1943, has taken his three months special training, and is finding his place in the school. His skill at sports and his ability at music make him an especially useful addition to the staff.

Some progress was made in the industrial training of the school boys, though much remains to be done. The full time carpentry work is suffering a temporary set-back due to changing from the system of paying by the day to the piece work basis. This however was necessary as we had no one who could or would hold the workers up to reasonable production, and the shop was losing money.

Our experience in the past year impresses us with the need of a change in the mental outlook of many people before much progress can be made. People are constantly calling upon us for financial aid for one purpose or another, mostly quite worthy, but we cannot get people to learn such simple operations as sawing out boards to increase their income. Mental inertia, lack of foresight, and false ideas make progress along this line very slow. Still, an increasing number of boys are getting industrial or technical training, and finding places for themselves.

The condition of the Bhimpore church is not very encouraging. Without a pastor for most of the year, services were conducted by the

members. Now they are getting weary of that, and are talking of calling a pastor. But one group want to call a pastor whose pay will be within the present budget. This totally disregards the needs of the school children who are, six days in the week, in touch with much better trained and keener minds than there is hope of getting on such a paltry salary; and it is doubtful if he could do much but fill the time Sunday morning.

There are some encouraging signs, however. Recently we baptized a woman about twenty miles from here; she is a widow, and the aunt of a man who was baptized a few years ago. She is having to undergo some persecution for her faith, too. Near at hand, also, there are signs of spiritual life. A young man who had read up to the I.A. examination recently brought two other young men of Bhimpore asking for baptism, and they have been attending a preparation class. The grandfather and grandmother of one of them are also ready to be baptized out of paganism.

In the school, the new year has begun with an enrollment of over 160, with forty in the "Christian" boarding. This is the best record in several years, and we hope it foreshadows the best year in other respects, and the beginning of a wider and more effective service to the underprivileged folk of this region.

BHIMPORE WOMEN'S WORK

By MISS GRACE HILL

Girls' School and Boarding.—It was with a distinct feeling of loss that I faced my little group of boarding girls in the chapel on the first Saturday evening of 1938 after school had reopened. It was the smallest group we have had in our boarding for many years—21 girls in place of the 31 or 32 of the year before. A large number had left and very few had come to take their places. The reason I am not sure of. Perhaps it is because of a larger number of good Upper Primary Schools in Christian communities. It may be that inability to pay fees is keeping

some from applying. But it was not only the size of the group that struck me so forcibly that first Saturday evening. But it seemed that all at once we had lost the girls upon whom I had depended for leadership in boarding activities and discipline. Those who were left seemed very young and irresponsible. Where had these older girls gone? Four went to Midnapore High School, one for nurse's training; the others are at home. One of them is trying to interest the girls of her village in school, and is teaching a group of them. Our boarding is coming back to its own and it is interesting to watch the new leadership that is developing.

There have been no significant changes in the school during the year. The largest enrollment was 131. This had dropped to 119 at the end of the year. Of these, 69 were from Christian homes.

In November the children made an offering for the children of China. The amount collected was not large but it represented much interest on the part of the children, real sympathy for these other unfortunate children, and some real sacrifice. Nearly every child gave something, though there are many children in the school who rarely have enough to eat. One boy refused to eat his rice till something was laid aside for the China children. A little girl has ten pice a month to spend (about five cents). Of this she must pay eight pice for school fees, leaving two pice a month for herself. Very happily she brought one of these precious pice as her offering. The boarding girls gave up one meal of rice for two Sundays in succession that they might take it to school to be sold for China. This was all without my knowledge or suggestion. I knew nothing of it till it was all over.

At Christmas time we had one of the best programs we have ever had. The little children played the Christmas story. The older girls after hearing the story of "The Other Wise Man" wanted to play it. They wrote and rehearsed the play themselves. While it was far from being a finished production, there was considerable feeling put into the playing. My feeling at the end of the program was that certainly every child, Christian and Hindu, has this year found something of the real meaning of Christmas.

Four teachers have carried on the Guide and Blue Bird classes. While our Guides did not carry off any prizes at the fall rally, there was a decided improvement in their work and they have had a very happy and profitable year.

The girls' C.E. has met regularly. For about two months before Easter, I took time for a class with the girls in preparation for Easter and for church membership. Three girls were baptized on Easter Sunday. These were all Bhimpore village girls. One of these girls, a very quiet and timid girl has since married and gone to live in a village where there are but two Christian families. When she came home for a visit I asked her if they had Sunday services. She said they did. When I asked who led them, she said, "I do".

One of the teachers with some of the boarding girls has carried on a village Sunday School regularly throughout the year.

Industrial Class.—This class had become smaller and smaller as we failed to get sale for our lace. Now the lace-making has stopped altogether. But as there was a great need for some means by which village women might supplement the family income, we are now experimenting with Bengali rag dolls. We hope that these dolls will prove popular that we may give work to more women. We are also doing some weaving.

Evangelistic Work.—Four Bible women have been working in the vicinity of Bhimpore. Regular classes in the school as well as the administration of the school have kept me from accompanying the women in their work except for occasional visits and one short camping trip. I have met the women for prayers and taught their Bible class. The few visits I have made with them to the villages have made me feel the need for concentration on a few villages rather than trying to cover so many. There are villages which are receptive, others where people seem to be hardened to the gospel message.

A Hindu school has been opened in a village not far from Bhimpore. Miss Malina Marndy, one of the Bible women, was invited by the masters of the school to come once a week to teach a Bible class. She was of course glad to go and as there has been no objection on the part of

the parents, she has kept up this class now for several months. I visited the school with her and found the children much interested in the Bible stories and remembering them very well. They learn Bible verses and songs. The masters, too, show an interest in the lessons.

An assistant of high qualifications has joined our school staff this year through a special appropriation made by our Society. She is taking over supervision of the school, part of the administration and classes have been so arranged that extended absences from school will be possible for me. I have planned a long camping trip for next month in a new Christian group. I am hoping to try out some new ideas of work in this community.

Medical.—A trained nurse was of great assistance during the year. An epidemic of measles in rather severe form struck the boarding and having the nurse saved me hours of work and much anxiety. Then after a trip with a number of the girls to Midnapore where they spent the night without mosquito nets, several of them had fever and the nurse was kept busy. She helped in cases of sickness in the village, had many calls from Hindus as well as Christians to assist in childbirth. The number of people coming to the veranda for medical treatment has greatly diminished with the coming of a new compounder to the village. Our nurse left the first of January to return to her hospital where she still owes service to pay for her years of training. There seems to be no one available just at present.

Junior Church.—The children are still enthusiastic over their own service. The attendance at their morning service is very good, often over forty. I feel that the religious and the moral training that the children are getting in school and Sunday School and Junior Church are among the most hopeful parts of our service.

I am hoping that Miss Knapp will soon join me in the work here. There is much work that is not being done, many problems to be worked out, others to be shared and made easier in the sharing. As we enter another year of work we need your prayers that we may be guided by Him that there may be fruits of service.

THE HATIGARH FIELD

By REV. W. C. OSGOOD

Reporting what a missionary has done with his time during one of these flying years must be as unsatisfying as the effort to tabulate statistics. It lacks those intimate personal contacts and the possibility of showing the growth and development or failures and successes of individuals which alone makes the incessant toil and endless journeyings of a missionary worth while. One can express activities in terms of so many thousands of miles travelled by foot, cycle, motor cycle, automobile, third or inter class train travel, etc. The score of these travels would average several hours a day throughout the year. The account might include a list of the number of meetings attended or led; general meetings of the church or groups of churches, special evangelistic meetings, meetings with young people, pastors, Biblewomen, teachers, and a chronicle of the long series of conferences with individuals on personal problems and the efforts to strengthen their spiritual lives. It might well tell the tale of so many committee meetings a week; recall the hours spent over accounts, reports, correspondence, in inspection of village schools, translation work and the like. There would be a statement of the building of a new school house in Chordia, an evangelist's house in Panchkahania, a house for boarding school pupils at Hatigarh, a well at Gengtabani, the burning of so many thousand bricks and maunds of lime, repair work on such a number of buildings. The report might describe the number of trees felled, hand-sawn into planks and turned into doors, windows, tables, almirahs, chairs, desks and the like or report the different crops cultivated and new plants experimented with on the school farm. Efforts to interpret the lessons derived from the experience of others in mass movement areas and in the development of self-support to the constituency of the churches and especially the leaders are included along with these activities.

Another means of approach would be to tell of the efforts to combat the discouragement and financial distress of the evangelistic and pastoral

workers under continued cuts and to stimulate voluntary lay effort and develop a sense of responsibility for the work still largely considered the responsibility of the Mission on the part of the Indian Christian community. Several hundred rupees have been raised in India for various projects and half of an evangelist's salary has been taken over by an association of eight small churches and individuals in those churches. There has been one baptism for every ten members in the area. Two Christian boys of the area passed the college entrance or matriculation examination; three young men completed elementary teacher's training courses and one young woman. Two young men went for commercial and stenographic training and one for agricultural training, during the year. The enrollment and standard of work in most of the schools improved. Work with opium addicts to the number of 431 was added to the work for 504 lepers and many hundreds of general patients carried on by the Leper Clinic and Dispensary staff. The maternity and child welfare worker was called upon for an increased number of visits in the homes and helped at a number of confinements as well as teaching home nursing and infant care to the older girls. Young men's groups in the two larger churches have undertaken new responsibility for the advancement of the Kingdom of God in their communities. Such things as these are certainly not the work of the missionary alone but he with many others has a small part in them.

The part of the missionary wife and mother in such a series of activities, maintaining an exemplary Christian home in an isolated place without many of the amenities of life, is very great. The burdens of frequent separations on account of the work and the schooling of the children as well as the trials of travel under difficult conditions fall heaviest upon her. The calls upon her as "mother" of the children in the central boarding school and for helping the poor and the sick are legion. Through Sunday Schools, women's organizations and personal contacts she strives to encourage and help the women and children in their work and home life and lead them to wider outlooks and fuller Christian living. Her advice and support are in constant demand. A heavy share of the correspondence as well as many duties such as

making nearly all her own and the children's clothes and sweaters fall to her lot.

EVANGELISTIC WORK AMONG WOMEN IN BALASORE DISTRICT

By MISS LILLIAN BRUECKMAN

In Balasore district we have seven evangelistic workers among women, who are working under the direction of the Home Mission Board. Two of these have had Bible training and one has had senior teacher's training. In addition there is one trained nurse stationed at Hatigarh and a woman who goes with her as her companion. One of the above-mentioned seven workers is being retired at the end of 1938, so that our staff of women workers for 1939 is reduced to six Biblewomen and one nurse. Since there is no school available where women, desiring to enter evangelistic work, can receive Bible training in the Oriya language, it is becoming increasingly difficult to secure well-qualified women workers. I hope that plans will materialize whereby an adequate Bible training course for women workers may be developed within our Mission.

Since it is inappropriate for a single lady to travel about among the villages alone, and very difficult for a foreigner to approach the more backward village women, I felt it to be imperative for me to have an Indian assistant. I am especially grateful for the splendid co-worker whom I have found in Miss Satyabati Behera. Her appointment in January, 1938, was made possible by a specific gift from the W.M.S. of the First Baptist Church of Hammond, Indiana.

Our work among women has two important phases, the development of women's work within the churches and efforts toward the evangelization of non-Christian women.

Some fifteen years ago our annual Women's Conference was organized. The work of this conference has grown in a most gratifying way, but we find that it has been chiefly the women of the larger Christian centers

who have participated. To-day the evidences of Christian growth are most noticeable among the smaller village churches scattered throughout the district. Our task is to train the women in every church to recognize and to accept their responsibilities within the church and the Christian community. During the past year my co-worker and I have visited eleven of the seventeen churches in this district. In each of these churches we have endeavored to encourage the work of the church women and to organize new groups in those churches where there were no organized women's groups.

At Mitrapore, a small village with only eight Christian homes, we have recently made special efforts to foster a spirit of unity among the people and to revive the work of the women's group within the church. Upon our departure, the one request of all the women was that someone come and visit their group at least once a month to encourage them in their efforts. Continual visitation among the smaller churches is essential but the villages are scattered and difficult of access so that it is a physical impossibility to visit each of the seventeen churches so often as once a month. Women's groups are now organized in six churches of Balasore district.

In our evangelistic efforts among non-Christian villages it is my desire to work in as close co-operation with the pastors and evangelists as possible. Frequently the women of a community have been approached with the Gospel message while the men of those same families have been neglected. The evangelists report a similar condition in other areas where they have made special efforts to win the men to Christ but, for lack of approach to the women, the work has been hindered. During December, 1938, such a co-ordinated program of approach toward both men and women of a single community was carried out in the villages round about Kondgordia, an almost inaccessible area in the southern section of our field.

In our work among non-Christians intensive home visitation is required in order to win the confidence of the women. Whenever possible a small group is gathered on someone's veranda or any convenient open space. Here the Gospel message is proclaimed through

a story, the reading of the Bible record, the interpretation of Bible pictures (supplied through White Cross boxes), or through the singing of hymns. The parable method of approach so frequently used by Jesus is still the most effective in reaching the hearts of the people. The simplest illustration drawn from the life of the person concerned can often open the way to a helpful discussion of some Bible truth. Often one wonders what will be the result of all of these efforts. The incessant questioning on the part of village women and the knowledge that so often they fail to understand our motive, is many times discouraging but we must remember that God's word is as a perfect seed which, when carefully sown and watered with much prayer, will in due time bring forth fruit.

Throughout the year there have been several conferences to attend, in some of which I have had a small share in planning the program. In February, 1938, the first Women's Conference of the eight churches in the Hatigarh-Salgodia area of Balasore district was held at Amdhia. It was a most heartening experience to see some forty women from these eight village churches meet together for a three-day program planned and carried out entirely by themselves and to enjoy the fellowship of this retreat. This group is planning its second annual meeting to be held early in March, 1939. This group meeting might be compared to an associational W.M.S. gathering in America while our annual Women's Conference for all of the churches of the Mission might be compared to one of our state W.M.S. house parties or conferences. Such meetings contribute much toward the strengthening of a bond of fellowship between the women of all of our churches as well as providing opportunities for training in leadership.

Our annual Women's Conference held in Jaleswar in October has been reported upon by others. While the attendance, due to the rains, fell short of what we had hoped, yet the program was helpful and the fellowship most delightful.

Programs in Oriya for the Women's World Day of Prayer were obtained from Miss Thompson of Cuttack and sent to those churches where women's groups were organized. This year Miss Behera and I

are preparing the program in Oriya and hope that it will be used in a number of women's groups in the various churches.

In May a workers' conference for pastors, Biblewomen, and laymen and women of Balasore district was held in Balasore. At this time Mrs. Howard conducted a very helpful study on "Winning others to Christ". This study course was attended by about fifteen women.

At the second annual Oriya Young Peoples' Institute held at Chandipore from September 28th to October 2nd, a time of fellowship and inspiration was enjoyed by all of the sixty persons attending. In the daily classes the following subjects were studied: How we got our Bible, Our responsibilities toward the church, Sunday School methods, Personal evangelism, and Choosing a vocation. This annual retreat affords a splendid opportunity for leadership training which is greatly needed.

During the past year I have served as President of the women's work of the Balasore church. Here the women meet in two groups each Saturday afternoon. Occasionally a joint meeting of these two groups is called. During the year four socials were enjoyed by the women and the Women's World Day of Prayer was observed. The Balasore women have during the year contributed twenty rupees toward the Home Mission Board budget and fifty-two rupees toward the special offering raised through our Women's Conference, by means of which the Biblewoman, Miss Joba Singh, is supported in the Kora field. In addition to these offerings the Balasore women contributed six rupees and four annas toward the China relief fund this year.

From March 1st, 1938, the work of the Zenana Association of Balasore was closed. A Government grant had been accepted for the maintenance of this work for many years. Due to the lack of qualified teachers, it was becoming increasingly difficult to meet the Government requirements. The Zenana work has filled a definite need during the past and has doubtless borne its fruits. With the increased educational opportunities made available to Balasore girls and women, it was considered more advisable to spend our time and efforts in developing the evangelistic program among the women out in the district.

The one school project among the Harijan, or outcaste children, carried on under the Balasore Zenana Association, was continued through December, 1938, in order that these children might complete the school year. As a result of the splendid work of the teacher, Mrs. Mondodori Fullenton, and our special efforts to encourage the parents to allow their children to continue their education, nine of these Harijan children are enrolled in regular schools of Balasore, beginning January, 1939. I am aware of the responsiveness of these Harijan people and am keenly interested in promoting a definite program of evangelistic work among them. I hope that the funds and a suitable worker may be available from May 1st.

I have found the use of stereopticon slides on the Life of Christ to be an effective means of presenting the Gospel story to women. In the district I have used these with groups of Christian women as well as in gatherings of non-Christians. In Balasore town a magic lantern party proved so successful that it was repeated two weeks later. When I invited the women of three neighboring villages to come to our bungalow on a Sunday evening for the showing of these pictures, I was curious and a bit dubious as to the number who would attend. They were slow in arriving but when the crowd finally gathered, I was pleased to find ninety-five women and quite a number of children seated on the floor of our large living room. The two Biblewomen told the story of Jesus' life as I showed the pictures.

May the love of Christ be reflected so brightly in the lives of us who are His followers that many will be attracted to His marvelous love.

MISSION GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL, BALASORE

By MISS ETHEL CRONKITE

Orissa was made a separate province from April 1st, 1936. Sir John Hubback, who was formerly Commissioner, was made the first Governor. This year on February 3rd and 4th, he and his wife made their first visit to Balasore. On this occasion, on Saturday morning, February 4th,

we had the honor and pleasure of having Lady Hubback preside at our Annual Prize Giving Ceremony. She also formally opened our new Domestic Science Building. Lady Hubback being the Provincial Commissioner, was especially interested in reviewing the Blue Bird Flocks and Girl Guide Companies. The Blue Birds greeted Lady Hubback at the gate of the Grammar School Building. After Lady Hubback visited this school, she and I rode in a car the short distance between the Grammar School and High School, while the Blue Birds flew along on either side of the car. Lady Hubback inspected the High School Building after which the Girl Guides sang a song of welcome. Then Lady Hubback walked down the path between the two lines of Girl Guides to the new Domestic Science Building. There she was given a pair of silver scissors to cut the pink ribbon, at which time she declared the building open. She was very pleased with the new building and the equipment. Just as Lady Hubback came out of the building, she was presented a garland and a bouquet. Following a very short program by the girls, Lady Hubback expressed her appreciation of all that is being done in the school for the children. She especially commented on the report in regard to the little children in America who give the "Love Gift" of \$10 a year to help provide tiffins for a few poor children. The children were delighted to receive their prizes from the hands of Lady Hubback. Following the program, the members of the Girl Guide Executive Committee met Lady Hubback. An hour or so later, Miss Brueckman and I took lunch with the Governor and Lady Hubback which was a grand way for me to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the day I first arrived in India.

The Staff both for the High School and Lower Primary School is well qualified. There has been only one change during the past year. A Bengali Hindu graduate lady resigned and in her place was appointed a Christian graduate from the Madras Women's Christian College. The Staff consists of 13 Indian women, 2 men and myself. Three Indian women are graduates, two others have passed the Intermediate Arts Examination and are trained. All the members of the Staff except three are Christians.

The enrollment of the school a year ago was 225. The highest at any time during the year was 238. This year on January 31st, the total enrollment was 252, of which 125 are Christian, 121 Hindu, 4 Santal and 2 Mohammedan. Forty-eight are studying in Bengali and the rest in Oriya.

Thirteen girls of Class VII took the Lady Stephenson Hygiene Diploma Examination and all passed, four in the first division, six in the second, three in the third. During the latter part of the year, a course of lectures on Home Nursing according to the St. John Ambulance Association syllabus was given to the girls of the four highest classes, by the Lady Doctor of the Sadar Hospital. The Civil Surgeon and Assistant Surgeon gave the examinations and all except one passed.

There were three girls studying in the Matriculation Class; we are sending two for the Government examination this month.

The Government increased the grant to the High School to Rs.50 per month from March 1st, 1938. So we are getting a Government grant of Rs.350 per month, a grant from the Municipality of Rs.30 for the Lower Primary classes and school fees from the children (including the bus fees for some) of Rs.270 per month. Including my salary which has to be counted in Government records, the Mission gives Rs.390 per month to the school. In addition to this, the Mission gives toward the maintenance of the hostel known as "Sinclair Orphanage". The amount that comes directly through the Mission Treasurer and special gifts through missionaries averages about Rs.200 per month from America. Fees collected from the children for board last year averaged about Rs.100 per month.

At present 50 girls are living in the hostel, of which number five are from non-Christian homes. Several more non-Christian girls expect to come this month. The buildings are getting worse all of the time. I had to build up an inside wall part way to shut off the danger zone. Then I put three small windows in a store room so that it could be used for a sleeping place for the ten smallest children.

Now I must go back to school in my report. Each day is opened by a chapel service, conducted in various ways, viz.:

Bible Memory Work, General Knowledge, Singing, and Talks by different teachers. Bible classes are taught three times a week in the primary classes and twice in the higher classes. Bible is compulsory in the primary classes because there are other schools in town; but optional in the higher classes because there is no other high school for girls either in the town or the district. Usually two Bible prizes in each class have been given to the two who get the highest marks; but in some cases this rule is not fair to the non-Christian children, so this year from Classes II to VII, in which there are about an equal number of both Christian and non-Christian pupils, one prize was given to each group.

The Middle School compound has a playground equipped with seesaws and swings made possible by gifts from Srimati Sabitri Dei, Rai Bahadur Monmatha Nath Deb, and parents and friends of the school. On the same compound there is a tiffin room for the Hindu students, built from the funds donated by Rai Bahadur Monmatha Nath Deb, Samanta Radha Prasanna Das and Rai Bahadur Bhuyan Bhaskar Chandra Mohapatra. Near this is a tubular well provided by the Mission.

The High School has the use of several periodicals: the Moga Journal, the Indian Guide, the Light, the Utkal Sahitya, Hygeia (an American magazine) and the educational section of the Orissa Gazette.

The Guides and Blue Birds are increasing in numbers every year. Last year there were 48 Blue Birds in the two flocks and 60 Guides in two companies. During the year one girl passed the First Class, and 21 the Second Class Guide Examinations. Several passed the Proficiency Examinations for the Cooking, Laundress, Sick Nurse and the Child Care Badges. In March, the Guides and Blue Birds from the Barabati Girls' School joined Guides and Blue Birds in having a Rally in our Middle School compound. Miss Hacon, the Guide Trainer, was present. Mrs. Cassidy, our District Commissioner, has left Balasore, for which we are very sorry indeed. We are most grateful for all of the help and encouragement Mrs. Cassidy has given to the Guides and Blue Birds.

The school has been inspected by our new Director of Public Instruction, Mr. S. C. Tripathi, M.A. (Oxon), I.E.S., Miss N. Nayak, B.A.,

B.T., Inspectress of Schools, and Miss B. Sarengi, B.A., B.T., District Inspectress of Schools. While Miss Sarengi was in Balasore, the local Girl Guide Executive Committee members held a special meeting at school, at which time Miss Sarengi presented the badges and certificates to the Girl Guides. Miss Nayak wrote in her report that she would recommend the continuance of recognition of this school. Mr. Tripathi has approved of an equipment grant of Rs.207 and has also written that the recognition of the High School is continued up to the 31st December, 1939, and that candidates may be presented at the Matriculation Examination of the Patna University in 1940.

In 1921, the Woman's American Foreign Missionary Society celebrated its Golden Jubilee. At that time a special gift was given to our Bengal-Orissa Mission Field for a Girls' High School. Since there were many high schools for Bengalis and only one for Oriyas, it was decided to locate the building at Balasore. This new building was completed in 1927. Some years later, a portion of the Jubilee Fund was used for a hostel in Midnapore, and the balance of Rs.4,458 was returned to Balasore. This year it was used to build the new Domestic Science Building for the High School. This building consists of a lecture room, laundry room, kitchen and a small store room. It has been built and equipped to meet the requirements of the Domestic Science Course for the Matriculation Examination, which includes the following subjects: Physiology, Hygiene, Child Care, Household Management, First Aid, Home Nursing, Needlework, Laundry Work and Cooking. The children of the lower classes also use the building. The 4th and 5th keep their garden tools in the store room; the 6th and 7th Sewing and Hygiene Courses are taught in this building; and every child is weighed here once a month. Each year the Lady Doctor gives lectures on either First Aid or Home Nursing. One day each week one of the classes from 6 to 11 prepares something to sell for tiffin. The aim is not to see how much money can be raised, but rather to learn to manage and plan well. The girls have to give a notice in regard to the sale day, make out the list of things needed from the bazar, cook the food, sell it and write the account.

The contributions for equipment have been received from various sources, including Rs.200 from American friends, a donation of Rs.50 from the members of the Staff, Rs.150 from proceeds of a play given by the teachers, and a Government grant of Rs.207.

This year the teachers plan to give another play to raise money for a Poor Fund, which is badly needed. The freeships allowed by Government have already been allotted. There are still several good scholars, too poor to pay school fees, for whom this Poor Fund would provide. We also would like to have more money to use for tiffins for poor children. At present a group of little children in America give a "Love Gift" of \$10.00 a year to furnish tiffin for a few in the two lower classes. Another gift is being used this year for several Harijan children. Every child should have the privilege of securing at least a primary education and having sufficient food.

Gifts have not only been received by the school but donations have been made by the teachers and pupils toward worthy causes. Collections have been taken up for the Anti-Tuberculosis Fund, for a Blind Boy who sang in Chapel, and the Hospital Fund, the total amount being Rs.33-8.

I wish to express my appreciation to all of my American friends who support the Mission work through the regular budget, who send the designated gifts, the specific gifts, the White Cross boxes and magazines. The "Love Gift" from the children of Plainwell is again being used for lunches for some poor children at school; the money from a lady in Vermont for Christians at the hostel; the donation from the Bath Missionary Society partly for Christmas and partly for the prizes of the Lower Primary classes; the several gifts from Hartford, South Haven and Alpena, Michigan to help meet the extra expenses that were required this year on account of Lady Hubback's visit. It has been just eleven years since a Governor and his wife visited Balasore. At the time I received the gifts I had not heard that the Governor and Lady Hubback would be visiting Balasore. How wonderfully our Heavenly Father plans for His work in ways we do not understand at first! A few things from the White Cross boxes are in the First Aid

Cabinet and other things were used for Christmas and for prizes. Hygeia that comes from the ladies of Michigan is used in the Domestic Science Building. We have many reasons to give thanks. Continue to pray for the teachers, girls and me that we may reveal Christ's love for our daily service.

BALASORE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

By R. K. SAHU, B.A., B.ED., *Headmaster*

By the Grace of Our Heavenly Father the year 1938-39 has been a record year for us from various points of view.

We are proud to announce that during this year our Secretary, Mr. J. G. Gilson, received the Kaisar-i-Hind medal from the British Government, in recognition of his meritorious services. Be it noted that this is the first time that the Government has decorated any one in the Bengal-Orissa field though our Mission has been working for over one hundred years.

The result at the Annual Matriculation Examination of one hundred per cent. of students passing from this school is an incident unprecedented in the history of this school and one that occurs only very seldom under our university controlling about three hundred high schools.

The total number on our roll at present exceeds 260. This breaks all records of the past. Besides the rush for enrollment at the beginning of this year was so great that many guardians had to go away disappointed as we could not take their wards in our school, several of the classes having reached their maximum strength. Much as we wish to duplicate some classes lack of space in the school building stands in our way.

From the beginning of the year 1938 all the boys in the lower four classes of the school are learning at least one period of spinning a week in the Technical School. This is in addition to our already existing arrangement for the boys of upper four classes so that they may have woodwork, electricity, and commerce.

We request every well-wisher of this institution to remember us in prayer.

BALASORE DISTRICT EVANGELISTIC WORK

By REV. W. S. DUNN

My annual report begins with the second half of the cold season touring beginning in January. A party of preachers and I went out camping in various places and spent some time working among the Hindu people. The people of the villages were visited and by means of the stereopticon lantern illustrated lectures on the life of Christ were given. Since the Annual Meeting of the Indian churches was held in February the touring had to be discontinued at that time so the preachers could attend the meeting. After the meeting a party of preachers and I went to the southern end of the field and made camps at Pirhat, Ghanteswar, Chasakand, Kandgordia and Chordia. The Balasore District meeting was held at Chordia in March. This is the first time a District meeting has been held in Chordia, which is one of the newer churches, since it is in a part of the country which is not easily accessible. After the meeting at Chordia we returned to Balasore and my wife and I visited several of the churches and Christian communities in the Hatigarh-Salgordia area.

During the year I have taken some part in meetings which have been held. One important meeting was the Annual Retreat for Christian workers and any others who may be induced to come from our Christian communities. This year the Retreat was held in Balasore in May. My part on the program was to prepare some lessons on the subject, "The will of God; and how can we know what it is". We discussed the idea that sometimes misfortune may come as a result of violating the laws of God, or going contrary to His will, in contrast to the fatalistic way of thinking, which is so common in this country. As we studied this subject from day to day considerable interest was taken in the discussions in which the people themselves took part.

I spent my hot season vacation in Darjeeling where our children were in school. While in Darjeeling I had an opportunity to hear several addresses given by Bishop Pickett on work in mass movement areas about which he has made considerable study. I found his lectures

and material which he has published on the subjects to be very interesting and helpful. I think there is much which can be helpful to missionaries whether they work in mass movement areas or not.

During the year, either with the Indian Travelling Secretary or alone, I have visited rural churches and I have tried to be of help to the churches and Christian people who live in these communities. Sometimes I visit a place where there are only one or two Christians. I think it is as important to visit Christians who live alone in a non-Christian community or where there are only one or two families as it is to visit the larger communities. It encourages and helps the people and the preachers to know that the missionary is willing to help them in the work and in the services of the church, and that he has an interest in them and their lives.

One interesting meeting in which I spent part time was the Young Peoples' Institute which was held at Chandipore in September. About sixty-five young people were enrolled for this Institute. Several Indian leaders and missionaries took part in this meeting. I think it is worth while to take some time to help guide the minds of the young to think about and consider the church and the Christian work.

One task which was assigned to me this year was to prepare some notes on the second half of the Book of Isaiah for the preachers' reading course. This year an attempt was made to help guide the preachers in their study without the examination of the old type. I tried to prepare some questions which would help guide them in their reading and which would help them to do some thinking for themselves as they read. I think the preachers took more interest in studying and preparing papers in their homes in this way than they did in getting ready for examinations, and I also think that the work was more helpful to them. In order to help the preachers in this work I had to do considerable study myself, so the work was also helpful to me.

In November and December some touring has been done. The Balasore Local Committee sent out two parties of preachers. One party camped at Kandgardi near Chandbali, and worked there and at Chordia. The other camped and worked nearer some of the churches

around Balasore. I spent some time with the latter group. My wife joined me for a ten days' stay at Ujurda in November.

During the year there have been thirty-six baptisms in the churches in the area of the Balasore Local Committee.

CHRISTIAN HIGH AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL, BALASORE

By MR. J. G. GILSON

The opening of the new year finds the High and Technical School with a 12% increase in enrollment (318 full-time students as compared with 284 in January, 1938) and a large number of prospective students turned away for want of accommodations in both school and hostels.

The result of this increased demand is to emphasize anew and further accentuate the inadequacy of our present buildings, grounds and equipment and the urgency of the need for additions to the plant. The Franklin Basley Memorial Hostel completed in 1926 and the Miss Kate J. Anthony Memorial Hostel completed in 1930 are both good buildings but are quite inadequate to the present demands. Seven new beds were made for the latter hostel making its "common room" into a dormitory, but seven more could have been filled if there had been a place to put them.

The High School building is not a good one, and never was suitable for a school. It is an old residence built more than 100 years ago and occupied by the school in 1893 as a temporary expedient until a suitable building could be built. Further expansion of the school is now impossible until the new building is available. A gift of \$25,000 (or even a smaller amount) for new buildings would be greatly appreciated.

I am glad to report that land has at last been purchased for a new playground from funds collected by the sale of other property in Balasore, and it is expected that the Government will give a grant for levelling and preparing the ground. It is also expected that the

Government will give a grant for half the cost of a new building for manual training and spinning, the Mission's half of the cost being met, from the profits of the school workshop. These additions will help to relieve the congestion in the workshop and the playground, but do not touch the problem of hostel and high school class accommodations.

The reasons for this increased demand on the school, aside from the fact that there is a general increase in enrollment in all schools in Orissa, are to be found in the results of the last year and the generally growing appreciation of the value of the practical type of education provided in the school. 100% of the students sent up for the 1938 Matriculation Examination passed as compared with about 60% of those sent up by the local Government school. All of the students passing from the Technical Department are employed in their trades in spite of the general unemployment.

Spinning was introduced as the handwork for all the lower classes (grades 5 to 8) last year and was found very successful. The first lot of cloth from thread spun by the boys was woven in December,—two dozen "Jharans" to be used as dust cloths for the school. A better quality of cloth will be woven from the fine thread now being spun by most of the boys.

Commerce has become popular as an additional subject for the Matriculation Examination. The first two boys are being sent up in commerce this year. There are 6 boys in the 12th grade class this year, and 7 in the 11th grade. Six boys in the 11th grade have also taken up Manual Training (woodwork) as their additional subject. The classical course in Sanskrit will soon be abandoned altogether.

The experiment of sending boys to the Government school for Science proved unsatisfactory, and so this year we are arranging our own Science class although we have very meager equipment. A well-equipped Science laboratory is one of our most pressing needs.

The workshop continues to operate as before. The volume of business handled during the year was more than in the previous year, and a good profit was made. The profit is being applied to supplement-

ing the Mission's appropriation for the school pay roll and for making improvements, especially the new Manual Training Building. The business of manufacturing septic tank parts having outgrown a school shop was turned over to a Calcutta firm who will pay us a royalty, and we made a new start in designing cheaper types of septic tanks which will be available cheap enough for middle class Indian homes. Two such tanks have been built on our own compound, one at the Headmaster's house, and one at the Kate J. Anthony Memorial Hostel, but the biggest project was the designing of a complete sewage disposal system for the Baptist Mission Hospital at Berhampore, Orissa, including 9 separate tanks to serve the different buildings, which Dr. Gregory reports to be a great success.

In January, 1938, Mr. Archibald of the Children's Special Service Mission held a series of meetings in Balasore which were followed up by Mr. Frost and the school staff. As a result ten boys of the school were baptized during the year, one of whom was a boy of Hindu parents. An ever-increasing number of Hindu boys live in the hostels along with the Christians. They attend and take part in the hostel prayer meetings and the Christian Endeavor meetings, and some of them also attend Sunday School and the Church services. They learn to know Jesus and to live as Christians whether or not they break with their families by accepting baptism.

One avenue through which their new spirit finds expression is through the Boy Scouts, of which two new troops were organized during the year. Our boys have for many years helped with arranging the funerals and burials of poor Christians. This year also they have arranged the cremation of some Hindus who died without any relatives to perform their last rites. It is a joy to see Brahmins and outcaste Christians working together in service for others without any thought of caste or creed. The impossible has happened!

Since Mr. Frost left on furlough in April a heavy load has fallen upon the rest of us in Balasore. This keeps us busier than ever (and we always thought we had all we could handle) so we are looking forward eagerly to the return of the Frosts in 1939.

NEWS ITEMS

It is with profound regret that we announce the death of our friend and fellow missionary, Rev. J. H. Oxreider. He died November 21st, 1938, at Granville, Ohio, where he had been living in retirement since 1931. His outstanding service of 29 years was connected with the beginning and development of the work in Khargpur. A special memorial service was held for him in the Indian church, Rev. K. C. Mohapatra, presiding.

On January 26th, 1939, Mr. J. G. Gilson was presented to His Excellency, Sir John Hubback, Governor of Orissa, in durbar at Cuttack to receive the silver Kaiser-i-Hind medal awarded him last June. In presenting the medal the Governor said :—

“ Mr. John Gustave Gilson, it is indeed a privilege as well as a pleasure for me to present to a citizen of the United States of America the insignia of an honour conferred by His Majesty. I have for many years heard of the admirable work you have done for technical education since you first came to Balasore 14 years ago, and I hope to have an opportunity of getting a closer acquaintance with it when I visit Balasore next month. I offer my good wishes not only you but to all those who have brought about that comity of nations which permits me to give and you to receive this insignia.”

On February 4th the Governor paid his promised visit to Balasore and to the workshops of the High and Technical School where he left the following note in the visitor's book :—

“ This is one of the most interesting things I have seen in Orissa since the province was formed. Here we have an attempt (and I may say a successful attempt) to develop technical training side by side with literary training, which has been the ideal of educationalists for many years, and is now foremost in the recommendations of nearly all of them. In fact the school has

tried out 10 years ahead of public opinion the ideas which are now finding favour elsewhere. It is not my function to go into details, though I should like to, but I very strongly commend the work done here to all who desire to see a satisfactory balance in India between technical and literary education.

(Sd.) JOHN HUBBACK,
Governor of Orissa."

Published by Mrs. J. A. Howard, for the A.B.F.M. Society, Khargpur,
and Printed by P. Knight, Baptist Mission Press,
41A, Lower Circular Road, Calcutta.