

# TANAKPUR

Bible and

Medical

Mission.

1916.

ALLAHABAD:

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## TANAKPUR BIBLE AND MEDICAL MISSION REPORT, 1916.

When friends have so many and great troubles and sorrows to take up their thoughts and time two or three words will suffice with regard to our year's work here.

And the first thing must be a note of thankfulness to God for the loving thought He has put into the hearts of kind helpers who, thinking this work might suffer owing to so many calls at home, have not only continued but increased their subscriptions and donations. This enabled the building of the Womens' ward to be begun, a thing much longed for by Dr. Butcher,—a grass hut in this windy and dusty place not being idealic for nursing a pneumonia or serious surgical case in.

The second thing which calls for remark is that 1916 was the first year we stayed down here on the plains during the hot weather instead of going up to Lohaghat and having a Dispensary and Hospital there. The number of patients decreased week by week as the hot weather went on but I found as regards the Evangelistic work that when the majority of the people go, it is a good time for having a quiet talk with the

few who are left in the grass hut villages to look after the cattle and wait until the hot weather harvest is gathered in. Of course it is a case of " up in the morning early " or late in the afternoon ; all work is stopped practically between 10 or 11 a. m. and 4 p. m. I think the people were glad to have us here and some of the wives stayed on just because we were here, they told us ; and in this place where *all* the daughters of a caste are dedicated to an immoral life it is a great thing to have, at any rate, some of the respectable married women stay on with their husbands.

When we left, after the rains had begun, practically all the people had left or were packing up to leave, except the 100 odd, who stayed on all the season. And even amongst them many were simply comers and goers, contractors who had to see to timber being shipped off by train ; or shop people, who take it in turns to stay here for a week or two and then go to their shops in the large towns and healthier places while a " Bhai " (relative) comes here for a turn ; or the one or two Government Indian Officials, who get from a month to a six weeks' holiday out of the time, etc., etc. More shops were kept open than usual last year, however, as the hill people had to keep coming

down to buy grain for their families ; rain having failed in the early months of the year their crops got burnt up and nearly famine conditions prevailed. Grain has continued dear and will continue so on the hills until the next crop ripens. Curiously enough this place has probably reaped a benefit from this fact. The hill pack ponies coming so continuously all the rainy season and grazing around the Bazar had kept the grass from growing to its usual great height, and so the place was healthier.

Scriptures have been distributed freely to those who could read. A warning was received lately from the British and Foreign Bible Society Branch at Allahabad, saying that they had heard from different Districts that owing to the dearness of paper, merchants in the Bazars are buying the Scriptures and using them for wrapping papers. As regards this place and District I have not found, except with very few exceptions, that the people misused the Scriptures given, but one, of course, will be still more careful in the distribution of them. We have the satisfaction of knowing that a good many Scriptures go over the border into Nepal.

Pictures of the War with explanations in Urdu, (Farsi) printed by the Overseas Club in London have

kindly been sent to us by Mr. Evans of Sat Tal and have been given to Mahommedans, who can read Farsi writing. If the Overseas Club would print the same in Hindi we could distribute still more. It is a great thing to have the facts of the war and the fighting placed so clearly before the Indians, for very absurd rumours get about sometimes.

I got some No. 12 Pusa wheatseed from the Government Agricultural Farm at Aligarh and distributed it to 9 of the cultivators of the District, who already report its superior appearance in the fields to that of the local wheat seed used by them. I have also sown a small patch one and a half months' later than the usual sowing season, to see how late one can sow in case of failure of the first sowing in these parts.

Subscriptions and donations sent through me are as follows :—

## Receipts.

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## Expenditure.

|                                  | Rs.   | a. | p. |
|----------------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Balance in hand, 31st Dec., '15, | 611   | 11 | 3  |
| Miss H. M. T. ... ..             | 225   | 0  | 0  |
| „ F. D. ... ..                   | 30    | 0  | 0  |
| „ A. N. ... ..                   | 30    | 0  | 0  |
| „ M. F. ... ..                   | 15    | 0  | 0  |
| A. J. N. ... ..                  | 225   | 0  | 0  |
| Miss G. P. ... ..                | 7     | 8  | 0  |
| Mr. & Mrs. R. and friends        |       |    |    |
| Toronto ... ..                   | 30    | 0  | 0  |
| Mrs. J. B. N. ... ..             | 15    | 0  | 0  |
| „ F. ... ..                      | 150   | 0  | 0  |
| Miss F. ... ..                   | 75    | 0  | 0  |
| Total ...                        | 1,414 | 3  | 3  |

|  | Rs.   | a. | p. |
|--|-------|----|----|
| Scriptures and Christian Literature ... .. | 29    | 8  | 0  |
| Handed over for medical work ... ..        | 900   | 0  | 0  |
| Balance in hand ...                        | 484   | 11 | 3  |
| Total ...                                  | 1,414 | 3  | 3  |

( 5 )

GEORGINA NICOL.

## MEDICAL REPORT.

During 1916 the Tanakpur dispensary remained open for seven months only closing for the rains. The hot weather began early and was an unusually trying season. Failure of winter and spring rains resulted in severe scarcity on the hills. Coolies could not return to their homes for want of food, and died of exhaustion, fever and dysentery on the roads. One man found dying in the jungle beside another already dead, was brought in to Tanakpur but died of dysentery in a few days, another found in extremis by the river bank, recovered, being well looked after by the bazaar folk who provided him with suitable food. He was a Brahmin, and after found the life so pleasant that he remained on, a professional beggar. Another admitted as in-patient in a dying condition recovered and got work.

The other in-patients, still accommodated in a grass hut, include a nearly blind girl operated on for entropion, a bad joint case in a little boy made very much worse by the native remedy of fastening a chain tightly round the inflamed joint. An accident was retained two days on account of hæmorrhage, another for the removal of a tumour. The first labour case admitted

on the present site of the dispensary had a still-born premature child on the fifth day, making a good recovery.

A coolie woman digging clay was buried under a fall of boulders and was brought in with fractured arm, and pelvis, and other cuts and bruises. On her return home six weeks later her own hut was burnt down, over her head and before she was able to walk. While in hospital her daughter-in-law was admitted and operated on for deep abscess of three months' standing. The out-patients include many cases that are usually treated as in-patients.

Injuries requiring minor operations are numerous, most seasons show one or more mastoid abscesses, cases of necrosis, nasal and aural polypi requiring operative treatment.

Malaria was much less than in 1915, and no other serious epidemic was present. A few cases of paratyphoid came down from the hills or occurred in connection with canal drinking water, but Tanakpur is undoubtedly becoming healthier, thanks largely to a better supply of drinking water not to mention lurid sanitary sermons dispensed with physic at hospital !



The end of the hot weather left two very limp human rags to recruit at Sat Tal ; unusually heavy and and constant rains did not conduce to robust health or much exertion ; private patients and a few cases not suitable for the Government dispensary four miles away, filled up the time. Our winter population of Bhutias had suffered heavily from an earthquake in the autumn. They arrived late and in smaller numbers than usual, owing to broken roads and loss of animals.

The first ward—for women—was begun, and at time of writing is near completion, absorbing the balance of the funds remaining at the close of the year. It contains a well-lighted and well-aired room, sheltered verandah, kitchen and bathroom, the design being suggested by a mediæval leper hospital, still in existence as a charity in the west of England. Exigencies of climate, jungle fires and earthquakes, to say nothing of the little ways of boulder masonry and masons, required important modifications and the result lacks the picturesqueness of the original but one hopes is more sanitary.

The civil forest gave a free grant of timber. Their for ceilings had to be bought, but it and cost of sawing were paid for from proceeds of deodar which could not be removed from Lohaghat.

Friends have kindly sent us *kurtas* and toys for children. Gifts of drugs and medicine bottles were received from Mrs. Ricketts and Mr. Jones, and seasoned timber needed for door and window frames was supplied at a reduced rate by the Rajah of Askot.

Statistics during seven months :—

New patients—2,583.

Total attendances—4,390.

In-patients—9.

Operations—105.

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**Receipts.**

|   | Rs.          | a.       | p.       |
|---|--------------|----------|----------|
| Balance at Allahabad Bank,<br>1st January, 1916 ... | 648          | 13       | 4        |
| Balance in hand ...                                 | 69           | 11       | 9        |
| Balance at Smith Stanistreet's                      | 10           | 0        | 0        |
| Grant from Almorah District<br>Board ... ..         | 300          | 0        | 0        |
| From ditto for moving dispensary<br>... ..          | 57           | 5        | 6        |
| Ditto do. furniture sold                            | 60           | 0        | 0        |
| Grant from Naini Tal District<br>Board ... ..       | 256          | 1        | 0        |
| Mrs. Butcher ... ..                                 | 295          | 1        | 6        |
| Miss Morrison ... ..                                | 1            | 14       | 0        |
| C. S. Stampe Esq. ... ..                            | 4            | 0        | 0        |
| Miss Ferguson ... ..                                | 20           | 0        | 0        |
| „ G. Nicol ... ..                                   | 180          | 0        | 0        |
| Per Miss G. Nicol ... ..                            | 900          | 0        | 0        |
| Dispensary Receipts ... ..                          | 48           | 2        | 9        |
| Surplus Building material sold                      | 27           | 5        | 9        |
| Balance due to Dr. F. Butcher                       | 92           | 10       | 0        |
| <b>Total</b> ...                                    | <b>2,971</b> | <b>1</b> | <b>7</b> |

**Expenditure.**

|  | Rs.          | a.        | p.       |
|--|--------------|-----------|----------|
| Drugs and Hospital Requi<br>sites ... .. | 502          | 4         | 0        |
| Wages and coolies ... ..                 | 294          | 8         | 6        |
| Food ... ..                              | 3            | 2         | 9        |
| Fire and Light ... ..                    | 20           | 6         | 6        |
| Building ... ..                          | 968          | 6         | 6        |
| Repairs ... ..                           | 23           | 9         | 9        |
| Sundries ... ..                          | 19           | 6         | 0        |
| <b>Total</b> ...                         | <b>1,831</b> | <b>12</b> | <b>0</b> |
| Balance at Allahabad Bank                | 1,139        | 5         | 7        |
| <b>Total</b> ...                         | <b>2,971</b> | <b>1</b>  | <b>7</b> |

F BUTCHER, L.M.S., S.A., M.D.

