REPORT AND MINUTES
OF THE
TWELFTH SESSION
OF THE
Woman's Missionary Conference
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church
IN
BENGAL AND BURMA,
HELD IN
CALCUTTA, JANUARY 27-30, 1899.

1899.
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1899.
Officers and Committees.

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President ... ... ... MRS. J. E. ROBINSON.
Vice-President ... ... MISS CRAIG.
Recording Secretary ... ... MISS WIDDIFIELD.
Assistant ,, ... ... MISS BLAIR.
Corresponding ,, ... ... MRS. BYERS.
Statistical ,, ... ... MRS. CULSHAW.
Treasurer ... ... ... MISS CRAIG.

Committee on Finance.

Miss Maxey. | Mrs. Robinson.
Miss Perkins | Mrs. Warne.
Miss Campbell | Mrs. Jackson.

Mrs. Smith.

Publication Committee.

Miss Widdifield. | Miss Blair.

Examination Committee.

Bengali.—Mrs. Meik, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Culshaw.
Hindustani.—Mrs. Jackson, Miss Campbell.

Educational Board.

Miss Stahl | Miss Perkins.
Mrs. Lee.

Nominating Committee.

Miss Knowles. | Miss Craig.
Mrs. Warne. | Mrs. Byers.

Mrs. Jackson.
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MINUTES.

First Day.

Calcutta, January 27th, 1899.

Opening Exercises.—The Woman's Foreign Mission Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Bengal-Burma Conference, met in the Calcutta Girls' High School, Friday, January 27th, 1899, for its twelfth annual conference—Mrs. Warne in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. J. E. Robinson who read from I Cor. 3, and led in prayer.

Officers of the Session.—The following officers were elected for the session—President, Mrs. J. E. Robinson; Vice-President, Miss Craig; Secretary, Miss Widdifield; Assistant Secretary, Miss Blair; Statistical Secretary, Mrs. Culshaw.

Roll Call.—The Secretary called the roll showing an attendance of thirteen members.

Introductions.—Miss Forster, Miss Blair, and Miss Widdifield were introduced to the conference and each expressed her pleasure in being one among us. Mrs. Byers was introduced and spoke for a few minutes of her visit to America, and her delight in meeting the ladies there and witnessing their earnestness and interest in us and our work, saying that she should never again feel, as she sometimes had, that nobody cared. She also spoke of her intention to keep thoroughly in touch with the home workers by the means of letters.

The following visitors were also introduced:—The Misses Frost, Staples, Wittenbaker, Barker, Adams, these being from the staff of teachers in the school who were at one time students.

Hours of Sessions.—Moved and carried that the daily sessions be held from 2.30 to 4 P.M.

Committees.—Moved and carried that the chair appoint the several committees. The following committees were appointed:—Publication:—Miss Widdifield, Miss Blair; Examinations in Bengali:—Mrs. Meik, Mrs. Lee, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Culshaw; Examinations in Hindustani:—Mrs. Jackson, Miss Campbell; Nominating Committee for finance and editing:—Miss Knowles, Mrs. Warne, Miss Craig, Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Jackson; Resolutions:—Mrs. Culshaw, Miss Craig, Miss Stahl.

Reports of Districts.—Asansol District was reported by Mrs. J. E. Robinson. [see report.]

Calcutta Girls' High School reported by Miss C. J. Stahl. [see report.]
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Tamluk was reported by Mrs. Lee. [see report.]

Conference Roll.—On motion the names of Misses Forster, Files, Widdifield, Campbell were added to the roll, and that owing to the doubtful return of Miss Daily and Mrs. Schilling their names be dropped from the roll.

Greeting.—A letter of interest and goodwill was read by the Secretary from Mrs. O'Neill. Moved and carried that the committee on resolutions send our appreciation of her thoughtfulness and prayers for us.

Adjournment.—On motion the conference adjourned to meet the following day, after singing the doxology.

Second Day.
Calcutta, January 28th, 1899.

Opening Exercises.—The conference met at 2:30, with the President in the chair. Mrs. Byers read from II Tim. 2, and led in prayer.

Roll Call.—The Secretary called the roll, showing an attendance of fifteen members.

Introductions.—Mrs. Mack was introduced to the conference.

Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Perrine from the American Baptist Mission in Assam were also introduced and each spoke very encouragingly of their work among the Naga hill tribes.

Minutes.—The minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

Reports.—Arcadia School, Darjeeling, Miss Knowles gave some bright little incidents from her school life which showed some result of the seed sown. She said:

"Two or three of the little boys were one day invited to a garden party. They went in charge of the teacher, but when the time came for going home, in some way they became separated from her and started out alone. But they lost their way, and it was growing dark, and brave little fellows though they were, they were afraid. So one of them said, "Let's kneel down and ask God to show us the way." And there in the road with the darkness gathering about them, these little fellows knelt down and prayed to be guided. Very soon afterward they met a gentleman and thinking he was surely sent to help them, asked him if he would not please take them home. He did not know them, but they told him they belonged at Arcadia, and he promised to take them there. Just before reaching it he said to
them as they were passing a "sweet shop;" "Come in, I'll give you some sweets." But the boys said they thought that was against the rules and they must not. "Well, then," the gentleman said, "here is a rupee. You can take it and buy them for yourselves." So they took the rupee and presently came rushing in to me (where I sat waiting somewhat anxiously for their appearance,) breathless and excited and said "Miss Knowles, here is a rupee and we want you to give it to the Christian Endeavour." "A rupee!" I said, "and where did you get it?" "A gentleman gave it to us," they said, "and we thought it would be nice to give it to the Christian Endeavour." And that was all I knew till next day when the whole beautiful little story came out. You may be sure I took the rupee, and I put it away by itself, for I felt that it was no common offering, and when I came down to Calcutta I brought it to Miss Craig as part of, and yet separate from the rest of the money sent by, the Christian Endeavour for the Orphanage. [see report.]

Pakur district was reported by Mrs. Meik. [see report.]
Deaconess Home was reported by Miss Craig. [see report.]
Dennett Training School and Bengali woman's work was reported by Mrs. Lee, who has the hope and faith that God will yet send her workers from the home land; surely there is no greater work in India. [see report.]
Girls' School, Beg Began, was reported by Mrs. Culshaw. [see report.]
Seamen's Mission was reported by Mrs. Henderson, who gave some bright side lights on her work. [see report.]
Bengali Church work was reported by Mrs. Mozumdar who spoke encouragingly of her work as Pastor's wife.

Adjournment.—On motion the conference adjourned after singing the doxology.

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Third Day.

Calcutta, January 30th 1899.

Opening Exercises.—The conference met at 2:30 P.M. with the President in the chair. Miss Knowles offered prayer.

Minutes.—The minutes of the preceding session were read and approved.

Roll Call.—The roll was called showing an attendance of ten only.

Introduction.—Mrs. Zook was introduced.
Committee on Nominations.—The Chairman presented the following report:

TREASURER.—Miss Craig.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.—Mr. Byers.
FINANCE COMMITTEE.—Miss Maxey, Miss Perkins, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Warne, Mrs. Jackson, and Mrs. Smith, which was accepted. It was moved and carried that Mrs. Hill be the Corresponding Secretary of Burma.

EDUCATIONAL BOARD.—It was moved and carried that the chair appoint three ladies for the Board of Education—the following were elected: Miss Stahl, Miss Perkins, and Mrs. Lee.

Reports.—Calcutta Auxiliary, the report of the W. F. M. S. Auxiliary in Calcutta, by Mrs. Warne, was the following: Rs. 69-10 for the Bible women’s work in Beg Bagan.

Committee on Resolutions.—The Chairman of the committee presented the following report which was accepted.

RESOLVED.—That whereas Miss Knowles has been granted a furlough after nine years’ faithful service in India, we here tender her our heartfelt appreciation of her services, and pray that she may enjoy her well-earned rest, and that she may soon be permitted to return to this land, where her help is so greatly needful.

RESOLVED:—That we desire to express our great appreciation of Mrs. O’Neil’s kind letter which was read to the conference, and of the interest she manifests in us and our work; and that we request the Corresponding Secretary to forward to Mrs. O’Neil a copy of this resolution.

RESOLVED.—That we express our regrets that Mrs. Henderson’s health is such that she must leave us for an indefinite period. We trust and pray that her stay in Scotland will benefit her greatly and that she will soon be at her post among us again.

RESOLVED.—That we deeply regret the absence of our Burma sisters from this and other Conferences because of the difficulty they find in leaving their work to come such a distance. We miss their help and counsel, and we wish to express to them our sympathy and interest in their labour of love.

RESOLVED.—That we wish to express our hearty thanks to Mrs. Remfry, Mrs. Henderson, and Mrs. Lee who so bountifully supplied the tiffins during the days of Conference.

Report.—Tirhooat District.—Mrs. Jackson gave a very touching report of her work in this district. A long discussion followed. It was moved and carried that we beseech the ladies at home both in private letters and through Miss Knowles to grant Miss Campbell full Deaconess’ salary and to restore to this district its former support.
Only those in the field can know or realise what it means to the work to be obliged so suddenly to close up what the Master has opened. For His sake we ask it. [See report.]

**Adjournment.**—After the reading of the minutes of the session. Mrs. Lee led in prayer and Conference closed to meet again in 1900 Deo volente.
Appointments, 1899.

Asansol District.

Asansol ......................................................... Mrs. Byers.
Girls' School ................................................. Miss Forster.
Evangelistic Work .......................................... Miss Biswas.

Bolpur .............................................................. Mrs. Robinson.
Pakur .............................................................. Mrs. Meik, Miss Jacobson.

Burma District.

Pegu ............................................................... Mrs. Leonard.
Rangoon English Work ......................................... Mrs. Hill.
Girls' School ............................................... Miss Files, Miss Illingworth.
Burmese Work ................................................ Mrs. Smith.
Than Daung Orphanage ....................................... Miss Perkins.
Absent on furlough .......................................... Miss Wisner.

Calcutta District.

Calcutta, Beg Bagan ........................................... Mrs. Culshaw.
Girls' School ............................................... Miss Widdisfield, Acting Principal.
.......................................................... Miss Caw—Assistant Principal.
Bengali Church ............................................... Mrs. Mozumdar.
Deaconess Home and Pastor's Assistant ................ Miss Maxey.
Dennett Training School and Bengali Work ................ Mrs. Lee.
Bengali Mission ............................................. Miss Blair, Miss Lamb.
Orphanage ..................................................... Miss Craig.
English Work ................................................ Mrs. Warne.
Hindustani Work ............................................. Mrs. Dowring.
Scamen's Mission ............................................ Mrs. Henderson.

Darjeeling Arcadia Girls' School ........................... Miss Stahl, Acting Principal.
Absent on furlough .......................................... Miss Boggs, Miss Knowles.

Tirhoot District.

Mozafarpur District Work ................................... Mrs. Jackson.
Zenana Work ................................................ Miss Soderstrom.
Orphanage and Boarding School ........................... Miss Campbell.
Dispensary .................................................. To be supplied.
COURSES OF STUDY

BENGALI.

First Year—

First and Second Parts of Bornoporichoy.
Bodhodoy.
Ourunodoy, First and Second Parts.
First Grammar to the end of Verb.
Geographical definitions.

Second Year—

Bostubichar.
Charupat—Second Part.
Arithmetic—Compound Rules.
First Grammar finished.
Poetical Reader—First Part.
Translation of First English Reader (Royal).
Barth’s Bible Stories, and two of the Gospels.

Third Year—

Akhyanmonjori—Second Part.
Sita Bonabash—First Half.
Loharam’s Large Grammar.
Translation, Second English Reader.
Poetical Reader—Second Part.
Two Gospels.
Fourth Year—

Bengali History.
Poetical Reader—Third Part.
Translation English Reader—Third Part.
Charupat—Third Part.
Second half Loharam’s Large Grammar.
Psalms.

HINDUSTANI.

First Year—

Forbes’ Hindustani Grammar to Prosody.
First and Second Urdu or Hindi books.
The four Gospels in Roman, with dictation.
Written translation of English first book.
To be read: Hunter’s Brief History of the Indian People.

Second Year—

Mirat-ul-urus, Dharumtula.
Written translation of English second book.
To be read: Wilkin’s Hindu Mythology.

Third Year—

Banaat-un-nash, Mumuksh Britant.
Forbes’ Persian Grammar with exercises.
To be read: Robson’s Hinduism and its relation to Christianity.

Fourth Year—

Gutka, Part II.
Poetry, optional.
Gulistan, two books.
Psalms in Persian.
An Essay in Hindustani.
ASANSOL DISTRICT.

ASANSOL.—Mrs. Robinson reports:—The past year has been a hard one in some respects for our work in Asansol. Illness on the part of Miss Carlson and her subsequent leaving of the work to be married, and the serious illness of Miss Biswas have all been detrimental to the work; but in the face of these difficulties the school work has gone on. The numbers at present on the roll are fifty-four; twenty-two boarders and thirty-two day-scholars. Early in the year Miss Biswas with Bible-women and native preachers accompanying her made a tour of the villages around Asansol preaching to and teaching the people. The word of life was proclaimed to many who had never heard it before and several baptisms took place. Miss Carlson’s illness in April brought extra work to Miss Biswas and her marriage left the work of the school in the hands of Miss Biswas. We were able in May to secure the services of Sarah Hausdah from Miss Neele’s school in Calcutta. Sarah has had an excellent influence in the school being a girl of fine Christian character and the girls have greatly improved under her supervision. They are studying in the 3rd and 4th Government standards.

In May Cholera broke out in Asansol and we had several cases in the compound two of whom died, one a girl in the school. Miss Biswas worked most faithfully with the sick ones, doing all in her power for their recovery.

Three of the older girls were married in June. The people of the villages had been saying that our school was getting a bad name owing to the fact that we had girls of thirteen and fourteen years of age unmarried, and that they would not send their children to us unless they were married earlier. We hope therefore that these marriages have served to remove the stigma from our school and to restore confidence in the minds of the people assuring them that their daughters will not be old maids.

Three large rooms have been added to the girls’ school and owing to increased accommodation the health of the girls has been much better during the latter part of the year.

Miss Luce came to our assistance in June, taking the work during the month that Miss Biswas was away on her holiday and remaining for a time after Miss Biswas’ return. After Miss Luce left Miss Biswas was obliged to give her time more fully to the oversight of the school
though she still visited in the paras and mohullas of Asansol, and held a weekly prayer-meeting in the Leper Asylum. Miss Biswas has also helped in the English work, in visiting and S. S. work and prayer meetings and in every department of our work in Asansol her help has been invaluable.

During part of October and the whole of November Miss Biswas was ill—part of the time dangerously so and we feared for a time that we should lose her. She went back to the work in December, but was not strong and has again had a severe attack of illness from which she has not yet quite recovered. She will need a prolonged rest. The opportune coming of Mrs Byers, whom we hope will resume charge of the work will make this possible. We trust that Miss Biswas' health will soon be fully restored and that she will be given back to the work which she loves.

Last week we were saddened by the loss of Ruth Tudu, one of our Bible women. She died during her husband's absence from Asansol leaving two little children, one, a baby. Ruth was a faithful worker, whose loss will be felt in the work.

The Bakery has been carried on in charge of Ellen, though its operations had to be suspended for a time. Its profits have not been equal to those of previous years.

We welcome Mrs. Byers' return with joy and are full of hope that she will soon be among those who love her, and we know that they will be greatly helped by her presence. Mrs. Byers' work in America has been a blessing to Asansol and we feel hopeful that next year will record a brighter story for the work there.

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PAKUR.

MRS. MEIK REPORTS:

The most important branch of our work here is perhaps the girls' orphanage; so I shall report that first. We have sixty-five girls now. Three of the older ones who have passed out of school, are now working as teachers in the school.

They have done very well in their examinations. We passed 100 per cent. in all the departmental examinations, and sent five girls up for the lower Primary examination, and all passed—four in the first and one in the second division.

Great care is taken with the religious instruction of the girls, and we were astonished and much gratified lately when examining the older classes to find what an intelligent knowledge they had of the Bible. The Epworth League helps a good deal in this for they follow the I. B. R. A. daily Bible readings besides the lessons they prepare for the daily Bible classes.

We feel there is an improvement in the spiritual lives of many of the girls, as well as in the tone of the whole school; one little indica-
tion of this is in their treatment of the young and sick ones. They were so selfish and indifferent to the sufferings of others and seemed to think they would be defiled or degraded by touching a sick one or doing anything for her, but that is changed and we believe that it is through the Spirit's softening influence.

The new dormitory has been built and the old one has been properly repaired and re-roofed.

There was an epidemic of mumps in the villages during the year, and it laid hold of the school and went slowly through the whole number which gave us a lot of extra work, but they all recovered and may be it was sent to test the loving kindness of the girls toward each other.

I think it is would interest you to hear about Promila, a little girl we took in about three months ago. She was a Hindoo and her cruel old father had cast her out with her mother; the poor woman made a precarious living by cleaning grain or such work in the homes of the villagers and so wandered from village to village, being paid in kind a scanty meal for a good deal of work. At last worn out with sorrow and starvation she lay down in a jungle and died with little Promila beside her; the child is about three years of age and told us herself that she was drawing her mother's breast trying to get some food, and when a jackal came she drove it away, and so they were found by some Mussulmans. These men thought the woman must have been dead two days, they were kind to the little one, taking her home with them and feeding her for a few days, when they brought her to us. She is a most intelligent happy little thing, and child-like seems to have forgotten her trouble already. At first she was inclined to run away to those who were so kind to her, but the people about persuaded her that Meik Sahib was quite as kind a Mullah as the one who had taken her in before, so she settled down with us.

Four other girls were found wandering about. One little one aged about six years was throwing out ashes and cleaning a fire-place in the hope of earning a handful of rice for herself and little sister aged about two years. The Bible woman saw the little one crying on the road-side and after enquiring into the case took them home with her; at the end of a month this tiny tot had learned to sing a hymn very sweetly. Another pair said they had run away from the house of a Mussulman whose slaves they were. Our preacher met them and took them home and so in these wonderful ways the children are coming to us.

We have a small day school for girls in one of the villages and a Christian teacher in charge of it.

Bible Woman's work: - The Bible woman goes to the Christian women in the villages and works hard and faithfully. We need an army of faithful old Bible women to engage in just the work of going in amongst the nominal Christian women and helping them to live better lives teaching them what it means to live for Christ.
Widows' Home:—A home for widows has been started, or rather we have a small number of widows, without the home or house for them to live in. There are nine in all now and they have quarters in the girls' school, but of course this arrangement is not satisfactory and we cannot take in any more for want of accommodation. They partly earn their living by grinding grain. One is a matron—a splendid little woman with just the kind motherly heart needed for the post. Another is a cook, another, old and bent, does a little by taking care of chickens. Every day there is a class for instructing them in the Scriptures, and all are urged to learn to read so that they may be able to read the Bible for themselves. Some of them have made very fair progress, and all have improved in some degree. Some few have the courage to pray audibly in the prayer meeting.

Dispensary:—The dispensary which is supported by the W.F.M.S. continues to do a good work, for by having it we always have a supply of medicine for the girls, and every morning outdoor patients are treated and we find it is very popular and a means of blessing to many.

We would like to say here that we are thankful for the assistance rendered in all forms of work by Miss Jacobson. Among other things she supervises the work of the junior classes in the schools, and in consequence their progress has been marked. We found that teachers and children had a settled conviction that a child must remain two years in one class, and the little ones must not learn to write till they were well into what we call the second book; now they write their letters while they are learning them and every now and then are examined and pushed on as they deserve. The village women also look forward to Miss Jacobson's visits and give her a warm welcome. We are all very happy together at Pakur and though there have been many discouragements, we feel that the Lord has been with us all through the year, and we have much to be thankful for.

It has given me much pleasure to correspond with some of the ladies in America about our work, and once a quarter a letter has gone from each girl supported in the school to her patron.

Burma District.

Burmesse Girls' School.

Soon after the last report of our school was written, the Government examination was held, when the pupils did well and the result grants amounted to Rs. 174.

Early in the year Dr. Goucher paid the school a visit on the occasion of our prize giving and treat and presented the prizes for the most regular attendance and the best knowledge of the Golden texts of the year. The pupils were much pleased with his address, which took the form of an object lesson and was interpreted for them.
I have been able to pay seven short visits to the school this year, and have been pleased with what I saw in the line of discipline and teaching. Mah Pu who had been head-mistress for three years and had given good satisfaction resigned in June on account of her health. Mah Ngai has taken the position, while Miss Marsh continues to do well in her department.

We have fifty children in attendance now, and since the kindergarten work demands so much careful attention, a third teacher will probably be required for the fourth standard which we expect to begin after the examination. The School has lately had to move into more commodious quarters where we are having to pay Rs. 20 per month for rent.

The Sunday School continues with an attendance of from fourteen to twenty children.

This School will soon have closed the sixth year of its history. It has improved each year under great difficulties. It ought to have a lady in charge who could give her entire time to the language and the developing of Christian character in the pupils. Good work is being done, but a hundredfold more could be accomplished if a Superintendent were set apart for the work.

M. P Smith.

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METHODIST SCHOOL, THANDAUNG, BURMA.

Fannie A. Perkins in charge.

The year has been one in which there has been the usual mixture of sweet and bitter, disappointments and successes, with a full supply of hard work.

Our building has been completed during the year and we are talking of another, it must come soon. We have twenty-seven children in the house and every bit of the dormitories is in use. We have applications from those who are willing to pay full fees and let the children do the same work as the other children. We have had little difficulty with the children as to the amount of work to be done; but there is, as in all places a desire on their part of doing it in their own way. But there has been growth along this line, and the end of the year finds much learned that will never be forgotten. The girls now do the baking, and the bread is first class. The washing is done on Monday and finished by one o'clock. The ironing is done out of school hours and usually finished on Wednesday. The sewing and darning also has to be done. So there is not much time wasted. The boys have done good work on the plantation, besides looking after the horses and cows.

The School has been in session during the year and has been registered. Our first examinations are to take place January 16th.
We are taking the course required by Government. Our recitation rooms are the dining and sitting rooms; but the children have done very good work and I think the Examinations will show it.

The Sunday School has not grown in numbers as all on the hill have been in it from the first. The collections have been good. Missions, Rs. 50; other Benevolences of the Church, Rs. 50; Sunday School, Rs 60. In regard to the scripture examination held by the L. S. S. U. We passed twenty-one out of twenty-two. One of our girls took the only prize gained in English in Burma. Christmas day thirteen were received into full membership and nine joined the Church on probation. This year we are committing to memory the book of John.

As to our financial condition we have by the kindness of our old friend Mr. Cowie, who sent us Rs. 500, been able to close the year free from debt. We have received the kindly sympathy of the officials with whom we have had to do and there is no question as to the success of the institution as planned. The children educated here will have—must have a better conception of what constitutes true Christian manhood and womanhood than they would have if every thing was provided for them in our city schools. If children come to us as boarders they can only come on the condition that they take their share in the work.

The place is now being laid out in building sites and the Government bungalow is being put in excellent order and furnished. Two or three hundred coolies are at work on the road up the hill, so that shortly the journey from Tounghoo will be much easier. We have purchased an American spring wagon which we will use between Tounghoo and the foot of the hills.

Mrs. Smith and I have had the burden of the school work. One of our boys and one of our girls has helped in some of the lower classes. Next year we will have to have one or two teachers.

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Calcutta District.

CALCUTTA, BEG BAGAN.

The Girls' School at Beg Bagan is the distinctive feature of the work there. It is a day school and the scholars, with a few exceptions, come from Hindu homes. The number on the roll at present is 37, with an average attendance of 30. Until the beginning of May, when the plague made its appearance in the city, the attendance had been about 35, but several families left the city, and those who could not do so, kept the little girls at home for fear of their being inoculated by the Police. The school was thus practically broken up, and we closed for the usual summer vacation of four weeks, re-opening about the middle of June. It was hard work to get the pupils together again.
Reports.

The school has changed hands during the year. In October the wife of Babu Proboodh Das, took charge and she and her assistant have built up the school in more ways than one. The Christian Ghee does her best to increase the number. The children come from very poor homes and are often absent from school because they have been sent out to beg. Visiting is done among the homes of these children which in a great measure keeps up the interest and the attendance. Ten houses at Beg Bagan are regularly visited by two Bible women. It is towards the support of these women that the Ladies' Missionary Society of the English Church has kindly contributed the sum of Rs. 6 per month during the past year. Besides the Zénana visiting there is much to be done among the Christians, members of the Church. The distribution of prizes took place on the 12th of January when a programme of recitations, hymns, &c., was gone through. Most of the scholars attend the Sunday School also and the Ghee, as on week days, gathers them together and takes them home again.

This branch of the work in Calcutta is small but for that reason none the less important, and we need your prayers that God may guide us in dealing with the people and give us the wisdom and the grace which are necessary to make the work a success.

R. CULSHAW.

CALCUTTA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

In reporting the Calcutta Girls' High School for another year, we are pleased to note that the school has maintained its former high standard as regards numbers and scholarship. The whole number of pupils enrolled during the year was three hundred and twenty-five. The highest number enrolled at one time was something less than three hundred.

We have had occasion recently to look up the record the school has made in the two highest Government Examinations for the last four years, and find it as follows: Presented for the High School 23, passed 19  Presented for the Middle School 41, passed 41.

The results of the Middle School examination of 1897, (which were not known when the last report was made) show this to be the only Girls' School in Bengal, represented in the First Division. Only two girls passed in the First Division in the High School, one being from this school.

In the Primary examinations, in the four years referred to, there was but one failure from this school, up to last year; when ten of the twenty-two presented, failed to pass. As a number of schools had similar results, we conclude that the examination was of an unusually difficult character.

This year forty candidates have been presented, for all the examinations. The results are not yet known,
The facts given above are a sufficient comment on the teaching staff of the school, except to say that the credit for success of the Middle School candidates is principally due to Miss Caw, who has been in charge of the standard for many years. One other point may be mentioned, which is, that in the years under review, there were almost no changes in a staff of twelve teachers. Only two changes are to take place next year. Miss Lamb, who came from the United States a year ago, and has had charge of the High School Class, will give up her work in the school to study the vernacular, and Miss May also leaves the First Standard, for other work.

The annual entertainment given by the Kindergarten department on the 25th November was one of the most successful ever yet held. The little people delighted their audience for an hour with songs and games and drills which reflected great credit upon Miss Tweeddale and her assistants. We are glad to announce that this department, which has been so successful in the past is to be made still more efficient in 1899. Miss Widdifield, a trained kindergarten from home, will be in charge, and special arrangements will be made for training teachers. We have a fine hall, and every facility for one of the finest kindergartens in India.

The public has had an opportunity on more than one occasion this year to judge of the work done in the music department, both vocal and instrumental, and the opinion so far as we have heard it expressed, has been most favourable. Credit is due to Mr. J S Derrick for the success of the singing, and to Mrs. Shepherd, who this year has had charge of the instrumental music. In October the school gave a concert and cantata in the Dalhousie Institute, which netted two hundred rupees for the Girls’ Orphanage.

The class presented for the examination in Theory of Music all passed but one, and the prize given by the “London College of Music” for the Honours section was won by Mary Baker.

Scripture has received the usual attention in all the classes, and the examinations in most cases were very satisfactory. An outline of Bible study for next year will be arranged by a committee of protestant ministers from Calcutta. In addition to the regular course in Bible study, nearly every girl follows some systematic course for private Bible reading. Just after chota-hazri we have the “quiet time” when all of the girls, in their different class-rooms, have an opportunity for private Bible reading and prayer. A number are using the card system for making notes on their daily reading; almost every girl in school is a member of either the Christian Endeavour society or Epworth League, and many take an active part in the meetings.

The girls’ missionary society has had its monthly meetings as usual, and the money raised is applied toward the support of two Sunday Schools in connection with Mrs. Lee’s work. The girls have an opportunity for practical work in connection with these schools, as two or more of them go each Sunday with Miss Caw and Miss Lamb,
to help in two Sunday Schools. During the year two of our girls, Ida Roseboom and Janet Grosser, have entered the Muttra Training School to prepare for mission work. In the revised code for European school adopted in 1897, the vernacular has no place in the Government examinations. As the course required is a very exacting one, this practically puts the vernacular out of the schools. This year, however, we have had Bengali as an extra study in the Fifth and Sixth standard.

The work of the literary societies has been very satisfactory. The annual contest was not held publicly and the character of the contest was changed to a considerable degree. The medal for the best composition was awarded without the compositions having been read in public. The silver star was given for the best sight reading instead of for recitation as formerly. This latter change will probably be permanent. Mrs. McDonald, Mrs. Robinson and Rev. B. J. Chew kindly consented to act as judges for awarding these prizes. The medal was awarded to Lizzie Moore, and the star to Jessie Boezalt.

There has been no serious illness of any kind among the pupils. We are grateful to Dr. Moses for his prompt and careful attendance whenever necessary; and are also thankful that for weeks at a time his services have not been required.

We wish to thank the patrons and friends of the school for their sympathy and co-operation, shown in many ways, and to assure them that it has been very much appreciated. The new year is bright with the prospect of opportunities for improvement on many important lines.

C. J. STAHLL.

DEACONESS HOME.

The past year has been a peculiar one in many respects for the Deaconess Home. At the beginning of the year it was decided that Miss Maxey, who has had charge of the Home for some years, should take advantage of the furlough that had been granted her some time before this. Early in January she left for a well-earned rest in the home-land. Miss Craig was appointed Superintendent during her absence. The year began with the same lines of work being carried on as before. In March it was decided to transfer Miss Oram to Pithorogarh. For various reasons this change was made, and among others the advantage of a hill climate for her was considered. Very good reports have come in regard to her from that distant field. The English work for the year has not received the same amount of time and thought as in other years, on account of a division of interests. About six hundred visits have been made in the homes of the people, and over a hundred meetings held. Fewer visits have also been made to the hospitals than in former years for lack of time, but in the early part of the year this work, and the distribution of flowers was carried
on with the assistance of Mrs. Mack. The native work has suffered
the most severely for two reasons. The first being the threatened
plague, which so seriously disturbed the city for some months. During
that time the out-door work had to be suspended, and very soon after
the arrangements were made for taking up this work again. Our
Hindustani workers were transferred to another field of labour. For
want of proper accommodations for the Hindustani boarding school it
was thought best to unite it with the one at Mazafferpur. This was
decided upon in November and at the close of the month Miss
Soderstrom and Miss Campbell removed with their children to that
station. Our prayers and best wishes for their success in that field
have gone up to the Father, that they may be guided, and greatly used
among the people there,

In September, a welcome addition to the Home was made in the
person of Miss Wight. She has taken up Bengali work and fills the
place left vacant by Miss Madsen, who was obliged to go home to
Denmark early in the year. Though the year has been one of
perplexity, and very much less accomplished than we would have
wished to have been, yet we hope and believe that the cause of
Christ has been furthered in some measure by the efforts of those
who have been connected with the Home during the year. We are
very glad to welcome Miss Blair back to her former scenes of activity.
She has been greatly missed in many ways, and we are sure that in
the coming days she will find plenty to occupy both heart and hands.

On account of necessary repairs we have been obliged to close
the "Home" for a short period. We hope at no distant day it will be
opened and friends will find a cordial welcome to its rooms. We wish
to thank all those who have contributed to the welfare of the home
during the past year, and hope that its future may be in this city, as
was its past, a blessing to many.

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Dennett Training School, and Women's Work.

It seems to us that the year is past and gone before we are half
done what we had planned at its beginning.

Our work has so opened up in various directions that we have
only been able to touch here and there, and have a general over-sight
of the several departments, each of which to have been thoroughly
worked would fill the hearts and hands of four or five more missionary
workers. But we have all through the year tried to follow the injunction
of the text we adopted as our motto for the year: "Do as occasion serve you—for the Lord is with you." And we thank him for the
assurance that He has been with us.

We have in the W. F. M. S. the same number of day schools as
last year—five, including the one in charge of Mrs. Culshaw, with about
300 children. We have a Sunday School connected with each one, conducted by the help of Misses Caw and Lamb and Mrs. Zook. In
addition to these we have opened a new and very interesting Sunday
school out in the suburbs, connected with a night school, Mr. Lee opened for boys.

We have an attendance in this school of about fifty boys and girls. They have had no Christian teaching and their interest is encouraging. Many when too ill to walk beg others to carry them to the Sunday school. This, including the Christian girls in our home and Training School, gives us nearly 500 children under Christian instruction. The number should be doubled. Last year we reported three Bible women with about ninety houses. We have had six at work this year, all of whom have been trained with us with the exception of one. Their work is most interesting, especially that of two who go to the young wives and widows, who were once girls attending our day schools. It is a delight to find these girls, now women, still able to repeat the texts and Bible stories learned in school and to see their love for the hymns we sing and how they look forward to our weekly visits. Many of them refuse to worship idols and some even avow their determination to become Christian. Such a step would mean much for them.

The Lord still looks with favour upon and is greatly blessing the Dennett Training School. We have had over 100 girls all year; our highest number being 110.

Working the industrial and educational together is no longer an experiment. Many said it could not be done, that the girls could not succeed in their studies, and work too.

Last year we sent up to the Government examination in the Fourth standard thirteen, and thirteen passed, and out of a total of eighteen, fifteen passed. This year we sent up thirty-one, and hope to hear of a large percentage passing.

We find the girls who work have better health, and as a rule are the most studious. They still do their cooking, washing and ironing, sewing, sweeping and cleaning besides making about 160 small loaves and about twenty large loaves of bread every day.

The best of all is the Christian work in the school that steadily increases.

The older girls are growing spiritually, some seeking and finding the full blessing. During a day of fasting and prayer a short time ago, twenty of our girls consecrated themselves to God for Mission work among their own people. Four of these girls have been appointed class leaders, and have very interesting meetings among the other girls every week.

We hope to put out two or three new Bible women in January, also new teachers.

We are in great need of room; about forty little girls sleep on the floor of the Bengali Church every night.

Our prayer is still for a place of our own. Is it asking too much of the Lord, to give it during this new year?
We close the year with a nice balance in hand for the support of girls and our building fund still increases. It is with a heart full of praise to Him who is so wonderfully blessing and providing for this work and still permits us to work with Him, that we look forward to the work of the new year. We are expecting God to do great things. Our text for the year is: Ah, Lord God, there is nothing too hard for thee. Behold I am the Lord the God of all flesh Is there anything too hard for me? Jer. 32: 17. 27;

Yours for His pleasure,
Ada Lee.

HINDUSTANI WORK.

REPORT OF HINDUSTANI WORK IN CALCUTTA TILL DECEMBER 1ST, 1898.

We have had in our Boarding School 21 children, beside a few day scholars. With the exception of measles which lasted over two months, the health in the school was good.

All the girls have made marked improvement in their behaviour, and also in their studies.

We have had among the children a Junior Epworth League (Miss Campbell, President) which we believe has been a great help to the girls in their spiritual life. Once a month or so we gave them tea and biscuits which they enjoyed much, and partly paid for themselves.

There was also a day school with an average attendance of 12.

In the Zenana work there have been 59 houses, in which 129 women were visited.

Once a week we had a workers’ meeting which proved a great blessing to those who attended.

Miss Campbell has done good and faithful work during the year, and her health has been remarkably good.

For the Muzaffarpore work, we have here a school or orphanage of 33 girls now. One of our little ones has gone to be with Jesus. One of our bigger girls was married this year, and two are ready for full membership next month and are also being trained for teachers. Here are large opportunities for work, as well among the children as among the people in the villages. By observation we can say, that there is village work in little hamlets for miles around, and urgent need of money and Bible women. We intend to open the 1st of February a boarding department for better class native children, as we have the promise of three little ones, but our accommodations at present will not allow us to take in more than four. We are planning to make room for twelve, if we see our way clear to do so. But we go forward trusting in Him who will do for us, above all that we ask or think, because He has said “enlarge the borders of your tent and
Reports.

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stretch forth the curtains of thine habitation;” so in His Name we will do it, that He may be glorified, and the cause of His kingdom may be spread among these people.

A. E. Soderstrom.

Muzaffarpoor, January 23rd, 1899.

During the year that is past I have been helping Miss Soderstrom in her Hindustani work, and it is rather difficult to give a separate report as so much of the general management of the work has been done in common. In the spiritual work, I have taken the prayers in the school and read and explained the daily portion of scripture. It was also my privilege to read and pray with the servants of the Deaconess Home every day, while in Calcutta. For the latter half of the year I have been President of our Junior Epworth League, and have had a workers’ meeting for our teachers and Bible women every week.

These meetings, and the League work had to be discontinued for a few weeks owing to our removal to Muzaffarpoor in the beginning of December, but they are in working order again, our Junior League numbers forty-three members. I have had a class in school, composed of our older girls who are studying Urdu, Hindi, Roman Urdu, and English. In Zenana work I have also helped Miss Soderstrom, but have not been able to do as much as in ’1897.’ First the plague scare we had in the hot season greatly interfered with Zenana visiting, and then when the rains set in and it was time to open that branch of our work again, Miss Soderstrom fell ill, and measles broke out in the school, and for some time this kept my hands full of school work, and nursing. Still over two hundred visits were paid. Some of these were to hospital, and to sick women in their homes.

Since coming to Muzaffarpoor our hearts have been cheered with the prospect of abundance of work. There are little hamlets scattered all about us, and women willing to listen to the Gospel Message. Our hope and prayer is that in the year to come we may have the means to carry to them the glad tidings we are here to proclaim. One of our workers has visited a number of sweeper women, who are native Christians, and among them also there is a great opportunity for spiritual work. I hope to see some of them personally during the week. In closing another year’s work,

We praise Him for all that is past,
And trust Him for all that is to come.

Miss Campbell.

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Seamen’s Mission.

The work at the Coffee Rooms is many-sided and various; and not the least interesting part is the work among the apprentices. It has been so pleasant, at the meetings, to see the bright faces of so many fine British lads, who are working their way up to become officers and captains. They sing so heartily and listen so attentively. Many a talk I have had with one and another about their homes; and over
and over again have they expressed their appreciation of a place like this to which they can come. One's sympathies cannot help but be moved, when one sees, as I so often do, lads of twelve years of age away from home on their first voyage. We try to do our best for the boys. I think that to any one working among seamen, the sight of the apprentice lads in their "brass buttons" awakens a feeling of interest and sympathy.

We have sailors living in the house all the time. Sailors coming and going; officers to breakfast and dinner, captains to tea young men that have different employments in the city for whom we are trying to provide a home, etc., etc., and as I said before, a great variety of work. Our Friday evening Gospel meeting for seamen has been largely attended and very successful. Next year we are adding to our meetings one for Scandinavians, as we have so many Norwegian and Swedish sailors visiting the port. Many things have occurred this year of a bright and pleasant character. Men have been converted and helped; many have signed the pledge, and many have been induced to attend religious services regularly, etc. But many things have also occurred of a saddening character. The young man that was drowned in the Shalimar tragedy was a young man that had recently been staying with us. The cholera carried away so suddenly, a young Scotch engineer just out from Skye, who attended our meetings regularly and who looked upon this place as his home. The time of the plague, was a time of great anxiety, as one man who was taken from here to hospital, was said to have had it. But it proved to be not so.

We were so pleased to see the sailors' appreciation of their Christmas entertainment. Both the meeting and the big coffee rooms were crowded long before we opened the programme. The entire place was, as usual, decorated with flags and greens. We had a full chorus of singers. I wish to thank all who so kindly helped in the singing, especially the Karen young men, and Miss Bessie Robinson who did the playing. The voices of over one hundred seamen, all singing together, was very inspiring.

Mr. Robinson, Mr. Warne, and Dr. Butcher gave the addresses, which were earnest interesting gospel talks.

We served tea, oranges, etc. and one hundred pounds of Christmas cake and Christmas cards to all the men.

They ended the evening with three tremendous cheers for Mr. Warne and their entertainers. We look forward to another year hopefully.

MRS. HENDERSON.

TAMLUK.

We have not in all our work, a more interesting field than Tamluk. A city of 8,000 people with no other mission at work among them, and our two native preachers and their families the only Christians there.
We have now about 40 girls on the roll, representing the best families of the city.

For our prize-giving last year we were invited to the beautiful home of the Deputy Magistrate, who is a high caste Hindoo, he had his veranda and compound nicely decorated. The leading officials and judges of the city were present. Also the European Commissioner of the District and his wife were present and were so pleased that they afterwards sent us Rs. 20 for the work.

We have work here for two Bible women, could we get the right kind of workers. The women gladly hear, and when I go to the city, send for me to come to them, giving many more invitations than I can possibly accept.

Ada Lee.

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DARJEELING ARCADIA GIRLS' SCHOOL.

The fourth year of "Arcadia Girls' School" re-opened on the 9th of March last, and as the year closes Miss Knowles submits, for the first time, a report to friends in Darjeeling. For the first three years the School was a Branch of "The Calcutta Girls' High School" and the closing exercises took place in Calcutta: but this year an independent existence was thought desirable, and the name "Arcadia Girls' School" was adopted.

During the past four years 140 pupils have been admitted, and all the Standards from the High School to the Infants have been represented with very good Scholarship results. Ninety-five per cent of those sent to the Government Examinations have passed successfully in the three years, but this year's results are not known at the writing of this report. Twenty-one candidates have also been presented for the Trinity College Theory of Music and only one out of the number failed; one reaching 100 marks—the maximum required. So in other departments of the School there has been a basis of good work. Drawing, and Calisthenic drill, also Scripture have had careful attention.

Four out of five passed the Scripture Examination of the International Lessons in August last in addition to doing the Scripture work prescribed in the different Standards of the School.

Two Christian Endeavour Societies, one for teachers and senior pupils; another for the Juniors, were organized in 1896, and our meetings were held weekly. These among the older ones were times of close fellowship. If there had been differences or difficulties during the week, these vanished when we considered the mind which was in Christ, read His words, and sang our inspiring hymns. As we were a school, all the usual committees could not be represented but we had a Flower Committee, a Missionary Committee, and a Helpful Committee. In meetings set apart for the latter we considered Africa, China, and also read "Chandra Lela."
Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

Questions were brought up on the needs of these countries which were helpful, and left we trust, lasting impressions. Our money—thirty rupees was given to Miss Craig for her European Orphanage in Calcutta: so though our Societies were mostly within ourselves, they were not entirely lacking in helpfulness toward others while there was a gracious reflex influence upon ourselves.

With thankfulness we acknowledge the blessing of health. There has been no case of serious illness, and in most instances, the children have become robust in health, and earnest in their work. The latter is especially true of the older pupils, and very marked improvement has given great satisfaction to those in change.

Although the year has been one of anxiety and much hard work, all this has been mingled with delightful association and there is great hope for the future of Arcadia.

Miss Knowles.

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Tirhoot District.

MAZAFARPUR.

The work has been carried on during the year as usual, a very flourishing school has been in operation in Chapra.

Zenana visiting has also been taken up. The school has been attended by children of a high class.

In Bankipore we have had a school that has been very satisfactory.

House to house visitation has also been done.

In Mazafarpur the work among the low caste women has not been kept up in the way that we had hoped, because we had no funds to pay them; and as they are all city servants they could not afford to lose the pay they would forfeit by leaving work, for a time.

They have however attended the Sabbath services and week night meetings.

I cannot say what I would of the work under the very great and unexpected blow of the cut in our support from the W. F. M. S.

Our Girls' Orphanage grows in numbers as well as spiritually.

Mrs. Jackson.
## Native Work

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## English Work

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