Woman's Missionary Conference.

Minutes of the Seventeenth Session.

Dec. 30th, 1903—Jan. 4th, 1904.

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society,
Methodist Episcopal Church,
New York Branch,
Room 401, 150 Fifth Ave., N. Y.
REPORTS AND MINUTES
OF THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION
OF THE
Woman's Missionary Conference
OF THE
Methodist Episcopal Church
IN
BENGAL
HELD IN
Calcutta, December 30th to January 4th, 1903-4.

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Reports.

ASANSOL DISTRICT.

BENGALI WOMAN'S WORK.

Mrs. Byers ... ... ... Missionary.

In looking back over the past year, we feel thankful to see some advance in the work God has given us to do, even though it may appear small in comparison with all there is to be done. We are grateful for each busy day, even though it brought very often weariness and care.

Our present great necessity is the erection of our new W. F. M. S. and school buildings. A large piece of land has been secured in a high and most desirable situation about a mile out of Asansol. We are very very crowded in our old quarters and scarcely know how to live. In our little Mission House and compound we have the Missionary and his wife and nine young ladies, 100 girls, 20 widows, three teachers, besides our servants. I do not know what we shall do when the hot weather comes, but we hope before then to be able to move at least part of our family. In our plans for the new school, we are going to try the cottage system for our girls and have mud houses built, each to accommodate about 12 girls, and have them like in a home, so that they may learn to keep house, as they would in their village homes. As Miss Forster has charge of the school, she will give a full report of this work.

A very important feature of our work in Asansol is our training class for young lady assistants. God has been sending us from time to time young ladies of sound Christian character, who are heart and soul with us in the work. One has been sent to the Muttra training school, and we have now with us eight young ladies of this country being trained in mission work. They keep house themselves and one who has a gift for house-keeping is called home mother and has charge of the house and the management of the boarding. They are the happiest family I think I have seen in India, and it does my heart good to see how each one takes a pride in her work. Each one is trained in house-keeping, dispensing of medicine, care of the sick, keeping accounts, buying, and all have regular lessons in the vernacular. Two help in the
boys' school, two in the girls' school, one in medical work and one is responsible at the Mission House to look after the people who come while the others are employed outside. Miss Moore has charge of the Evangelistic work amongst the Bengali women, and Miss Swinnerton amongst the Santalis. Miss Moore and Miss Vernieux went up for their Bengali examination in Calcutta this month and both passed. Miss Moore has visited regularly in Asansol and in the adjacent villages and has been a help and comfort to many of our Christian families as well as having taught and visited a great many who are still in heathenism. We have three village Bible women at work, who do faithful though quiet work. They are middle aged and widows, dress and live simply and have the love and respect of the people where they work; they receive only their food, clothes and books. Two other widows who are quiet, thoughtful women are in training, one as a nurse, and the other as a Bible woman. Chandi, one of our workers, came to us about five years ago, she was a Hindu, and one of two wives. She was not very well and could not work and as times were hard her husband told her to go and beg or do as she pleased. Some one told her about us, so she came and found a home here. Her baby was born in the school, and she was cared for and was soon able to help in work about the compound. She has conducted herself so quietly and is so happy as a Christian that we are letting her visit with Miss Moore and help to teach the women. They have together made 475 visits in 25 villages. This last month they made a tour of two weeks, visiting a great many of the Christian women, and holding meetings for the heathen women. They were welcomed every where, and our Christians took the greatest care of them, giving them food and arranging for a bullock cart when the distance to the next village was too far for them to walk. After Conference we expect to go out in another direction and open our Santali woman's work. Miss Swinnerton can now speak a little Santali and sings a few hymns, and Chandi the Bible woman knows it well so we expect to have good news to report of this most interesting branch of work before another year rolls by. There are already a number of Santali Christians gathering around us and as the old bungalow has been given us by the Bengal Coal Co. this will be our new station and centre for work. There are thousands of these industrious and accessible people and Miss Swinnerton is heart and soul in the work, and very anxious to be able to live among the people. The name of the place where she will live is Sentulrak, and I am giving you the name as I expect you will hear much more about it. There are a number of Bengali Christians here, and there have been some baptisms lately. We were very disappointed in one young wife who was to have come out, but who gave way to the entreaties of her mother, who plead with her all the night before with tears and cries not to be baptized. The husband however stood firm and we hope the wife may yet come out.
The leper women number over thirty in our Leper Asylum and are now nearly all Christians. They are taught regularly by Rani, one of their number has been appointed Bible woman amongst them. She was wonderfully converted two years ago when Chandra Lela visited us and had meetings in the leper chapel. Rani is like a bright spirit, amongst these poor ignorant and afflicted women. She is always ready to comfort and help and is the peace-maker in any quarrels or disputes which may arise. We were all saddened and grieved to hear a few weeks ago of the death of Lady Seafield, our staunch friend and sympathizer for so many years. A large photo of her hangs in our leper chapel as a reminder of her love and thought for the poor lepers and we trust she may have met in the better land, and rejoiced over some who went up from the Leper Asylum at Asansol.

Our Hindu day school under Mary Mullick has been regularly in class, but has been crowded out of every where, until they have at last taken refuge on a little back verandah. When our boarding girls remove to their new home, the day scholars will then have plenty of room and more will be able to come.

The Widow’s Home has also had trying times because of lack of room, but the women have been fairly good and faithful. Each has her appointed task and all attend class for three hours each day. Some find it very difficult to learn to read, but they make some progress, and also are instructed in Bible truths.

In the evenings when the day’s work is done, and the girls and widows locked up for the night, I wish you could look into our little front room and see our young ladies each with her sewing or reading or music, enjoying the quiet home hour. We thank God for each one and for the love and sweet fellowship which exists. Each young lady takes her turn in taking prayers for one week at a time. We believe our Master will hear our prayer for help and guidance and will enable us to gather in His poor little ones from all over this large district in which we live.

BENGALI GIRLS’ BOARDING SCHOOL, KEMPER HALL, ASANSOL, 1903.

Miss Forster ... Missionary.

I find it difficult to write a report at this time, of the work done in the past year, for my thought goes back over the period I have been in India, the entire five years; and my heart is filled with gratitude that it has been my great privilege to come to this land. Work for God is sweet, and forming the acquaintance of his children of this race among which we live, has lent my life a joy inexpressible. Their simple trust and their patience has often been an inspiration to me. Among the dear girls of our school, while seeking to be all to them I could, I myself have received
a blessing from them. And while out in the villages among our Christian homes I have found that a Christian life among the Bengalis is equally as beautiful a thing as in those of our own land. It is this which makes one forget the repulsiveness of heathendom and the lack of lovableness in the surging masses of people about and see only the precious possibilities there are in all. I sometimes think of how those who live faithful Christian lives of our people of Bengal will one day grace the heavenly home to which our Master calls them, Jeremiah 31. "At the same time, saith the Lord, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people. Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love; therefore with loving kindness have I drawn thee."

We have had a busy year in our school. The first half of it was spent at Santibari, when on finding we could not purchase the property we came back to our former school. The girls all felt very sad at leaving Santibari, where they had spent such a happy year but with the addition of a large verandah to the old school building they are comfortably provided for, till we get our own place soon. We have an ideal piece of land in view for our mission property. It is on a hill top just on the outskirts of Asansol and there we will build our mission house, girls' school and boys' school and in time our Bengali Church. We hope to have 12 acres (35 bighas) for our W. F. M. S. work alone, and it is the desire of our hearts that Kemper Hall may become a centre of fine work to His glory. We intend to make more homes for the Bengali girls. They will have their little native huts in their own fashion, a number of girls to each hut, and will learn to keep them clean and pretty in their own native style. They will cook their own food and learn how to make different sorts of curries economically. They will have their own little gardens where they will learn to be industrious and to make their homes look attractive. With such a large playground too, as we can have for them on our new property they will be happier even than at Santibari, and I am sure they will appreciate it all and benefit by it to an inestimable extent. We will have for their classes a separate building and with class rooms, one of which is to be a large hall for kindergarten and drill.

The work during the past year has been carried on on the same plan as before. I have several times told you in my reports of how I have every girl in the school responsible for a certain bit of work. Some have care of a number of smaller girls, some have sweeping certain rooms, grinding the wheat, cooking, etc., etc. Any child who shows a tendency to laziness (and these are usually the ones who are quick at their studies) are given special work to do, and invariably they learn to like to be helpful, thoughtful and industrious. Our sewing classes are good. Miss Addie Hoskings is a capable and faithful sewing mistress and the girls were delighted lately when they received a medal from Lady Fraser for their sewing.
Miss Ellen Vernieux still is a great help looking after the health of the girls and nursing the sick. We were pleased when lately she passed her Bengali examination, junior course. But over and above the work, our staff of workers seek to help the girls spiritually. I believe each one of our number conscientiously endeavours to be faithful to God and to those He trusts to our care. In their studies, the girls continue to make good progress under their teachers Kadambini Ghosh and Gyanida Mitter. The three girls who went up for their Upper Primary examination this year passed well, two of them in the first division. And one of our Lower Primary girls received a scholarship, the first to do so from our school.

The one thing, however, which gladdens my heart as I review the past year, is the progress the girls have made in their Christian lives. I had felt for a long time that the girls were all longing for God's blessing upon them and ever endeavouring to please Him. On a Saturday afternoon at one of our leagues at Santibari, one of the older girls was touched by what was said and cried out to God for a better life. She sent for the teacher who was the President of the league and they prayed together. And from that time I have noticed a change in the girls. There have been struggles and even failures and yet that many of our girls are truly converted cannot be doubted. I wish you could have all been present at our big league rally of our boys and girls at our District Conference. On the afternoon of the 28th of November the first part of it was given, and it was a very pleasing programme. We had flags hoisted in the compound and benches arranged in the open air, and the children gave us a real treat with their singing, drill, etc. On the afternoon of Monday the 30th was the more religious part of the league. Mrs. Mullick, our Bengali Pastor's wife, read a paper on Susannah, the mother of John Wesley, a number of girls gave a little play “শেষের দান” “The gift of love” rendering it very prettily and I gave a little talk on “How our league could be made better and more extensive.” As an introduction to what I had to say, I had six of our largest girls recite little sketches containing informations about the league and it gave me real pleasure to see how quietly and clearly they did their part not displaying that self-consciousness the Bengali girls often show but speaking with grace and thought. It was an enjoyable and helpful meeting and closed our District Conference. I have not time to tell you about our Christmas and many other things I should like to speak of.

Next year while home in America I shall dream of the girls of our school and pray for them, looking for their little letters to me to enjoy answering the same from my own snowy land. And I shall picture India to myself and our own dear Bengal and think of you all at your respective places. And I trust that the hand of the Father may bring me back soon to this beloved land.

Miriam Forster.
CALCUTTA BENGALI WORK.

Mrs. Lee ... ... ... ... In charge.
Miss Eddy ... ... ... ... Missionary.
Miss Canham ... ... ... ... Assistant.

"The Lord thy God bear thee as a man doth bear his son in all the way that ye went until ye came into this place," is true of us.

God has worked wonders for us far beyond our faith. I feel humbled in his sight when I think of all His goodness to me. But my heart is full of thankfulness, as I review the work of another year. We came back to India and landed in Calcutta nine years ago, hardly understanding what God would have us do. I felt I must spend every hour possible in the zenanas of this great city, but one day after returning home, I thought that after doing my best I had only been able to reach 30 women, and as I thought of the throngs all about me untouched, I felt this was not all God would have me do. The Lord seemed to commission me to start a training class of girls to train to go out to their own people and I thought if I could only get 18 ready, there would be 11 of us working instead of one. I found two girls and began the work. We now have 120 in the training school, besides 100 famine orphans, making a family of 220. During the year 35 have gone out into mission work, and a large number will soon follow.

Miss Eddy has reported the work of the training school. This is the fourth time we have outgrown our quarters, and my faith looks up to God for the Memorial building next, which we do need so much. We now have the site complete for which we have been praying for years. God has given us the property little by little but gives the work with it, and as rapidly as we can train workers he opens up new doors. Our ten day schools are well looked after by Miss Canham who has already reported that work. She and Miss Eddy are more help than I can ever tell. Our heart and hands would have failed during the last two years but for them and they are like two daughters given back to us in our home. I have for years been longing for the day when we should have 1,000 children under instruction in our work. We have not reached that number yet but can now report about 600. We have 14 Bible-women going out two and two doing a blessed work. They visit about 220 houses regularly. Enough to fill the whole time of a consecrated missionary to superintend. I go with them as much as I can. We have sold more Bible portions than any year before, our women have sold about 1,100 during the year. Thirty-three villages are visited more or less regularly. This is another large field for another Missionary, and a most needy work. Oh the hungry hearts in these villages. One woman said to
me, "my heart is so sad, I am sure you were sent to comfort me: I will never be afraid when I see you coming again." Others say "why don't you come often, we do not know how to do right." We are still praying for the Gospel cart, the only way we see by which the many unhealthy villages can be worked near and about Calcutta.

Our famine people are giving us much to hope for. A number of the boys and women are, I believe, truly converted. Three of the latter do Bible women's work among the Marwarsee people of the city, and one of the boys who came to us a skeleton 16 years old or more who knew not a letter can read his Bible in two languages and sells from 75 to 100 Bible portions and hymn books every week. He believe is the coming pastor of our Native Christian village, to be formed by our own girls and boys as they marry and settle down. This is another scheme which God has lain upon my heart. Through our Marwarsee famine people we are reaching the Marwarsee men and women at the bathing ghats on the river, and from there getting into the houses of that most interesting people which form such a large part of the foreign population of Calcutta.

We need another lady for this part of our work and to help us care for our famine children. Our medical work is still on my heart. We have our hospital started and are training some of our girls for nurses. One young girl is devoted to this work, and is a truly converted girl, and saves me the time of one missionary. It may be interesting to note that her parents were both Hindus, and they never became Christians. We now have a nursery of our own with six little babies, a new department opened this year. Surely the Lord is with us, and knowing He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. We are expecting great things from Him this coming year, may the Lord of the harvest send forth the workers we need.

DENNETT TRAINING SCHOOL.

As I look over the past year and think of the opportunities that have been, mine my heart is filled with praise, and I wonder at God's plan for using us in this all-important work. I believe that there is nothing which will have more lasting results and will do more to uplift India's needy millions than the proper training of the children and young people.

The Training School has grown and we now have one hundred and twenty Bengali girls, an increase of ten over last year. After the summer vacation two of our very interesting South Village girls did not return, for their marriage had been planned. They were bright girls about thirteen years old and we were sorry to lose them. Two of our teachers were also married but we have better ones in their places. The pundit has done good work and has the right kind of influence over the girls. Thirty-nine pupils took the
Government examination this year. Just now we are introducing the new Government Code, changing all the books. The Government grant-in-aid is much larger this year than ever before; and we hope to keep it up by the thorough work that shall be done. The health of the school has been good throughout the year. We greatly need the Memorial Building for every corner of the dormitory is full, and girls seeking admission have been turned away.

The greatest spiritual uplift seems to come to the school through the day of fasting and prayer. This year among those who professed conversion were two girls who had given a great deal of trouble. They were both bright girls but had never taken Jesus as their Saviour. We rejoice to see that their lives are changed; and we covet these two for mission work.

Every Sunday morning I take two of our girls and go to a Sunday-school in a suburb of the city. It is beyond the canal in a place where no other Mission is at work. For a long time we have had from ninety to one hundred children, and twice there have been over a hundred. They are all little Hindu girls and boys, many of whom had never been to school until this one was opened early in 1903. They specially enjoy learning new hymns. The collection consists of pice, cowries and rice. The Bible-women visit the mothers of these children in their homes.

There have been many things to cheer and encourage, prayers have been answered; and we go forward with joy to the work of the coming year.

MABEL L. EDDY.

REPORT OF HINDU DAY-SCHOOL WORK.

We have eight Hindu day-schools in the vicinities of Dharamtolla, Jaun Bazaar, Beliaghata, Kamardanga, Bag Mari and Kidderpore respectively; also two in the villages of Akra and Modhupur. We did not have a very good attendance at the beginning of the year owing to the plague which was very prevalent in Jaun Bazaar; but we are thankful to say the daily attendance has gradually improved. We have on the roll in our Jaun Bazaar school fifty-two; Beliaghata has sixty-nine; Kamardanga thirty-nine; Beg Bagan forty-seven; Narkeldanga sixty-seven; Bag Mari ninety-four; Dharamtolla fifty; Kidderpore forty-nine; Akra forty, Modhupur fifty. Making a total of five hundred and fifty-seven girls and boys.

We have within the year opened the two new schools in Narkeldanga and Bag Mari. Miss Marston having discontinued her school work in Narkeldanga, we took the opportunity afforded us, and reopened the school on different premises with a teacher of our own choice.

We had hoped to send up three girls for the Government Primary Examination, but were only able to present one for the
above examination. One of the girls was to get married on the last day of the examination and nothing would dissuade her parents from doing contrary to their intentions. The other girl for over a month before the examination was absent from school; she had gone with her relatives to her mother’s home which was out of Calcutta. On her return, I examined her and found she had forgotten most of what she had learnt in school. Disappointments of this kind are very discouraging at times, but what cannot be helped must be endured, and so we look into the future hoping for better results, with hearts full of trust in Him, with whom all things are possible.

Our teachers have been regular throughout the year, only absenting from school when they have been compelled to by sickness or the rain.

In company with a teacher I have often visited the children’s homes. We think it a good plan to get the parents interested in us and our work. I have seen some very definite results from this house visitation.

The Government routine is followed up as far as possible in all our schools. Needless to say scripture is one of the principal items in our school work. The girls learn the Catechism, Hymns and Bible selections. We have not had any conversions lately, but feel sure that the Lord’s word shall not return unto him void but shall accomplish that which he purposeth. We have started Kindergarten on a very small scale at present in our Hindu schools. We hope to advance in this very useful method of teaching later on. It is a joy to see the little one’s faces brighten with pleasure when the half hour set aside for drill and songs comes round. The new comers who are naturally shy, gain confidence and forget their former dread for the “mame.”

I supervise our Sunday school in Jaun Bazaar. Three of our boarding school girls assist me in the lesson, collection, and distribution of cards. We have a very pleasant time together.

ELSIE CANHAM.

CALCUTTA DISTRICT.

BOLPUR.

MRS. CULSHAW ... ... Missionary.

The work of the past year at Bolpur has, of necessity, been one of beginnings in many ways, and yet I am glad to be able to report advance in some directions.

Bible Woman’s Work.—The work of the Bible-women has been most encouraging. In July last I took on a second woman, and in September a third. These women have done faithful work. All of them have had many years of experience in it, and I have never known workers take a more genuine delight in their work. Thirty
villages round, and about Bolpur have been systematically visited. Most of the villages are only two or three miles away and can easily be reached, the furthest is five miles. On an average six homes are visited every day and about thirty women receive teaching. There are no closed doors in this branch of the work. All are eager for the new teaching and many and pressing are the invitations to come again. The Bible-women have sold 565 one pice Gospel portions and other books, and distributed 2,926 tracts. Often a whole day is spent in a village, starting out at seven in the morning, and returning after dark. Last month three days were spent at a mela, where we hope the seed sown by distributing tracts, selling books, and teaching may bring forth some fruit.

Day Schools.—The day schools for Hindu girls was reopened on our arrival at Bolpur in February, and in September we were able to use the new school-room, built adjoining the Widow's Home. About the middle of June, after the summer vacation, we opened a day school in an adjoining village, or, more correctly speaking, para. These children belong almost exclusively to the dom caste, if they can be said to have a caste at all. They belong to the most depressed classes in Bengal. I have found, however, in regard to education, that they are as eager to learn and as bright in intellect as any other class. Two other villages have asked for day schools for their little girls, but our funds were limited and they have had to wait. The Bible-women and teachers are all engaged in Sunday School work also. We have four Sunday Schools with an average attendance of 120.

Widow's Home.—In the Widow's home there are six inmates. Three women came to us for protection and help during the year, one with a baby a few days old. One has since returned to her husband, but the Bible-women have visited her from time to time supplementing the teaching she has already had. These women have their Bible classes, also one for reading and writing daily. Two of them have made good progress and have been able to help in Sunday School and day-school work.

We have many plans for the new year with more money, more workers and most of all, with the Master's blessing and guidance as to what we undertake to do.

DEACONESS HOME REPORT.

MISS MAXEY ... ... ... ... Superintendent.

The beautiful words of another come to us as we sit down to sum up the work of the year.

"They are slipping away, these sweet swift years,
Like a leaf on the current cast;
With never a break in the rapid flow,
We watch them as one by one they go
Into the beautiful past."
On the 23rd of December 1888 Mrs. Thoburn opened our Deaconess Home in the same house that we now occupy, 150, Dharamtala Street. So that we have lived fifteen years in Calcutta. ‘Fifteen beautiful years’ have dropped into the current that flows into Eternity’s sea. They have all been bright with blessing. We gratefully acknowledge—“Hitherto the Lord has helped us.”

The work of the Home has gone on in the usual way during the year and we trust that the home has been a place of refuge to some weary souls.

Miss Stumpf came to us in February and has taken up the Hindustani work of the city. There is a wide field for her in this work, for there are Hindustani speaking people in the city. Her first year has had to be given largely to acquiring the language.

Dr. Mulford left us in March to spend the hot season in the hills. When she returned in the autumn she felt that God had called her to take up work in the villages among the Bengali people, whom she loves so well. We miss her wise counsel and earnest prayers but feel that she is doing His work in another field.

Miss Smith, with heart and hands busy with her girls has been with us, helping in many ways.

It has been a great comfort, during the year to welcome to our home friends and strangers who left us as friends.

The most important event of the year has been the purchase of this property for our Deaconess Home. We owe much to our good friends Dr. Robinson and Mr. C. J. A. Pritchard. But for them and their kind interest I fear that we would still be Homeless.

Dr. Robinson has shown himself a true friend to our Home in many ways during the year.

It has been a great pleasure to have Bishop Warne in our home from time to time during the year.

Our friends have been numerous and it has been through them that it has for us to do the work, that we have done. It has not been easy for the present Superintendent to decide that she must leave for a time, the work, that has been so delightful for, in the Home. But she feels, that if she is to return, it is imperative that she have a few months rest. She does not feel that she can make any return to the many friends, who have in a thousand different ways helped to make these fifteen years, years of great joy. She can only in a little measure attempt to do for others, what the good people of Calcutta have done for her. Should it not be God’s plan that she return to Calcutta or India, yet there will be many pleasant pictures for her to think upon, and sometime there will be many whom she hopes to greet in that better Home.

She can ask nothing better for her who comes to take charge of the home, than that she shall receive the same loving consideration and support that has been given to her. She is sure that she can trust the good people to do this.
During the year Miss Blair and Miss Moyer have come home now and again, and we were always glad to have them with us, but now that they are to have a house of their own, this will no longer be home. We ask that God may bless them in their new home and that from it may shine out a strong light that shall lead many to Christ.

Miss Pritchard came to us in October. Her coming has been a real blessing. As we look back over these busy trying months we do not see how we could have gone through the work, with out her help and loving sympathy.

For several months we have had Dr. Robinson at our table. His genial words have often lifted a burden. Dr. Stokes took his meals with us for a few weeks and we have very pleasant memories of those days.

We hope that this Home may be the Anna J. Thoburn Memorial Home and that around it will cluster such precious memories that in a new sense our people will feel that this Deaconess Home belongs to us. As the Home finds a place in your prayers, it will fill a larger place in your plans. I would like to have left this Home without debt but that has not been possible, so I commend it to you, and ask that you work and pray for it, till the last rupee is paid and we have not only a Deaconess Home, but a Home for aged women who are alone in the world.

No words can convey the thanks that are in my heart for all the kind words of sympathy and love that have been given, as well as the substantial help that has come to us from time to time.

ENGLISH WORK, CALCUTTA.

During the past year I have been very busily engaged in the English work. Much has been done by me which it is impossible to tabulate or to report in any way. I have accompanied my husband in his visitation to a considerable extent, and have also made a large number of visits alone. This kind of work is very needful in such a church as Dharamtalla Street and much more of it, than it is now possible to do, is much required by the conditions which obtain. This work, wisely done, always yields encouraging results. I could readily mention special cases wherein persons have even been brought to abandon an evil course, this year, through such attentions.

I have not forgotten to visit those who have been sick at home or in the hospital, and I have strong reasons to think that the visits have often brought cheer to many lives.

As far as my own health and circumstances as well as the interests of my home have permitted, I have entertained at my house many persons in the hope of securing and retaining their interest in our work and enlisting them, if they were converted persons, as labourers in Christ's cause. I firmly believe that some measure of
success has attended these efforts, and it may also be that much unseen fruit has grown as a result. I am in possession of many tokens that these courtesies, simple as they appear, have been appreciated by the recipients.

Those who are honoured and blessed with families of their own will readily understand what I mean when I say, that it has not been possible for me to attend as many of the public meetings, as I was accustomed to attend before I had children. In those days I practically accompanied my husband everywhere, and attended nearly all the services that he attended, and my voice was more often heard in such devotional gatherings; while I never posed as a public speaker, or an expert in leading services, I well remember when I was less afraid of my own voice than I am at present. The custom of public undertakings makes one free before others. The self-denial of these privileges, and may other unnamed ones, has been indeed real, and still it has been a joy, realizing that I was discharging far higher if less conspicuous obligations. I humbly trust that there has been a quiet influence for good in my home and on my children that will tell in the days to come.

There are other ways quite as acceptable to God, and indeed more approved by Him, than in public utterance or such effort as calls the attention of others to us, however commendable that may be whenever it is performed in the Christlike spirit.

I close the third year of my residence and of my work in Calcutta assured that though more than one season of anxiety and trial was experienced in it, it has been the happiest and best of the three. I have placed myself afresh in the Saviour's hands for another year to accept whatever He may send, with joy. He knows what is best for us in all things; and no evil can befall any one who trusts in Him with fullness of heart. I pray that I may be more richly blessed in the year to come in opportunities and effectiveness of service.

Mrs. Stokes.

HINDUSTANI WORK, CALCUTTA.

Miss Stumpf ... ... Missionary.

I arrived in the field the last of February and received a hearty welcome at the Deaconess Home. Miss Maxey and Miss Knowles having met me at the landing, Miss Maxey gave a very pleasant reception in honour of the latest arrival and I had an opportunity to meet all the missionaries of our work. No one can tell how much I appreciated the welcome I received. I feel that I want to do the same to every new missionary that comes out. At first it was not very definite just what I would do. Conference had just been held
and the appointments all made, but soon Mrs. Robinson was called to America and her place in the Hindustani work was left vacant, so I was given charge of the work. The work consists of a day school and two Sunday Schools, the management of three Bible women. The school was started by Mrs. Robinson, the first of March, in a little mud hut. We soon out-grew that and now we are in a larger room much better than the first, and yet the indication are that we will soon out-grow that also. The day school has an average attendance of 20, and they have done good work considering that many, if not all, had never been in school before. I gave a prize to the girl and boy who read the best; both began with the Hindi letters in March. The boy read in Gospel of Luke, a chapter which I selected for him, for his examination.

The Sunday-schools are my greatest joy, I have one at eight o'clock in a little narrow, dirty lane, under a tree. A picture roll, S. S. cards, my harp, a Bible woman, myself and about 50 children comprise the Sunday School. The Bible woman gives the lesson and we endeavour to teach them texts and songs. At eleven o'clock I attend the S. S. at the Hindustani Church, and help what I can. Again at four o'clock I have a S. S. in the school-room with an average attendance of 35. Here the lesson is taught by a good teacher, and the Lord's prayer, the ten commandments, and texts are recited by the children. Some new text is added each Sunday and some time spent in learning new songs. The Bible women, Ellen and Alice, have done very faithful work during the year. I have gone with them in their zenana calling and have been pleased with the manner of their work and with the welcome they receive in most of the homes. They read, pray and distribute tracts in every home where they gain an entrance. Through Mrs. Lee, I have just taken on a new Bible woman, Miriam, who promises to make a splendid worker. Just as Christmas was drawing near, I wondered what I would do for my school and had decided to give them each a kaortie and was wondering where the money would come from to get the material with, when just in the nick of time a box came from home, sent by the Oskaloosa District, W. F. M. S. of Iowa Conference, Des Moines Branch. In it was more than thirty pieces of bright calicoes, just the thing to catch the native eye. Well, the problem of the material was solved and with the help of the women I soon had enough kaorties made for the girls, and for the boys I made doties out of the muslin, which came in the box. This was the day school treat, but S. S. must have something too, so I gave each child a bag of candy and an orange. How happy they were? How happy I was to be able to give them their first real Christmas. Although I have been in the work such a short time, I love it and wish that I may be able to do more and more as the years go by. I have spent considerable time on the study of the language and have not been able to spend as much time right in the work as I would like to have done, but I have greatly
enjoyed the little I have been able to do and hope soon to be able
to speak freely to the people.

REPORT OF THE CALCUTTA GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL.

MISS HENKLE ... ... ... ... Principal.
MISS STORRS ... ... ... ... Missionaries.
MISS PYNE

We look back over the year that is closing and wonder where
it has gone and what we have accomplished. Our plans have been
thwarted and our work interrupted in so many ways, and again and
again the question "why?" has risen to our lips.

Sometime in the beautiful future
When the lessons of life are all learned,
And we turn from the school by the wayside
Each wearing the laurels we've earned.

We shall know why when toiling and striving,
The Master withheld from our grasp
Those things which we strove for the hardest,
Those treasures we sought most to grasp.

For we look now through glass that is darkened,
But then we shall see face to face;
We shall know as we're known at the dawning
And dwell in the light of His grace.

The year opened with the usual number of pupils and has
continued with the usual demand upon patience and endurance.
The mere fact that we have 112 boarders, will not mean much unless
one considers the individual needs, temperaments, etc., of each of
them. Then it becomes a gigantic task.

There has been no serious illness among them and for this we
are devoutly thankful. The promise, "There shall no evil befall
thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling," never meant
so much as now.

In the Government examinations held near the close of last year,
we passed all but one in the High School, all in the Middle School
and wish we were able to give as satisfactory a report of the Primary
School, but it was there we failed. The only consolation we find in
the fact is, that we were not alone in our failure, as the other schools
fared as badly as we.

The results, in the examinations in Music, both theoretical and
practical, were entirely satisfactory as all pupils presented passed, some
with honours.

This year we received Rs. 5,520, as our Grant-in-aid—the largest
grant ever given the school. In addition to this we received Rs. 200
for the Library.

The Library is the result of the untiring efforts of our honorary
missionary teacher, Miss Storrs. I ought also to say that it has been
very largely her gift. Her plan to establish a well equipped library came to us as a delightful surprise. She throws her whole self into whatever she undertakes and the school has found in her a helper and friend whose worth we all appreciate more and more.

The Kindergarten department of the school under the supervision of Miss Pyne, who came to us at the close of last year, has made great advancement. It is a real inspiration to step into this department and see the little people at work.*

Progress has been noticeable throughout the school in the more thorough class-room work. We feel that we have had a good year because of the faithful work and the hearty co-operation of the teachers.

The last of August, Miss Samson left us. Her efficiency has been so marked in various ways that it seems unnecessary for me to say that her going has added immeasurably to our burdens.

Since the middle of November, we have been singing a psalm of thanksgiving because of the thirty-six of our older girls who heard the Master’s call in the message preached by Mr. Studd the lay evangelist. During this holiday season, we have heard from many of them telling of their temptations and encouragements and their purposes to be faithful. As we see the change in their lives and how hard they try to be really good we forget the discouragements of the year and feel that after all it pays this work with and for the children of India.

QUEEN’S HILL GIRLS’ SCHOOL

MISS KNOWLES ... ... Principal.
MISS MCKINLEY ... ... Missionaries.
MISS WISNER ... ... Missionaries.

The beginning of 1903 found me in Calcutta visiting some of the homes of our pupils making necessary purchases and planning generally for our new school year of nine months at Queen’s Hill.

Prospects for patronage brightened; and when we left on the fifth of March we took with us to the hills seventy boarding pupils a good proportion of whom were between the ages of seven to ten years when great care of physical and moral health is needed. There is nothing like this in our American schools, I mean the kind of patronage is very different in this land. Little children with delicate constitutions are entrusted to us and not only do they come to learn how to live, but much that they have learned must be eradicated.

As I come to the close of the year however, it is a pleasure to record a very marked general improvement in the scholarship of the pupils, as well as in the good results of character tests from time to time.

* A Training Class was organised at the commencement of this year and one of the teachers in training completed the course, having satisfied the Government Code requirements.
A system of badges which have been given for good conduct, neatness, etc., every Friday morning, has helped much in giving ambitions in the right direction, until Friday has come to be the important school day of the week and looked forward to with eager interest by teachers and pupils. This simple medium of reward, I think worth recording here, as it carries with it a principle. The habit of striving each week for the best we can attain, becomes a fixed one and so our little girls grow into a love for pleasing their teachers and gaining their confidence.

Quarterly tests including scripture have been given three times during the year, and reports of progress sent to parents.

Eleven pupils were sent for the Government Examinations, one for High School, seven for the Middle department and three for the Primary. Below these standards, almost the entire school will be entitled to promotion in 1904. This is due largely to the supervision of Miss Wisner who has directed the teachers of the lower classes, a most important work.

Thirty-two were sent in July to the All India Sunday School Examinations, and thirty certificates obtained as a result. Quite an important branch among us has been our cooking class taught by Miss McKinley on Saturday mornings. Books of recipes are kept, and at the close of the present term, an examination was given in writing.

The competition was close in a class of thirteen but the highest prize was awarded for the best description of how to prepare a lunch for a friend going on a journey; others for good recipes given.

Calisthenic exercises are a part of each day's routine. With the help of dumb-bells, wands, clubs, climbing bars, etc. the gift of a friend from home, we have been enabled to carry on this department with some satisfaction. The health of the school has been good: entire freedom from anything of an infectious character, and for this blessing, we are devoutly thankful.

Of advancement made in the Kindergarten, Music and Drawing classes I may make mention. These all show improvement that tell of patient and careful teaching. Indeed to the teachers as a body I wish to express my appreciation for their cheerful, faithful performance of duty; for their readiness to accommodate others; and for the loyalty which has made our household a unit. Most of the staff will be returning to us next year.

The Boys' department with limitations as to age and character, seems now to be a part of the school, although not at first intended.

We have yielded to the persuasion of parents, until next year we shall have a few boys in Standard IV. Experience has taught us that when then is a healthy rivalry in the class-room the advantage is great to both girls and boys.

The latter have their home in a separate house with separate play-ground and supervision.
Our aims are to have a school of high moral and religious tone. Convinced that a good library of healthy reading is one of the necessities, we are working toward that end and wish to add our new case of books by the close of 1904.

Several donations from friends have come to us for that purpose, and we trust for more.

I cannot close my report without referring to the great help that Dr. J. E. Robinson, our Presiding Elder of the Calcutta District, has given us. From the beginning to the close of 1903 he gave, at intervals, his time and best thought to the firm establishment of the school, for which I wish to express the appreciation and thanks of all connected with Queen's Hill. The "Almira Hall Pierce" building has served us well; dormitories, Kindergarten room, class rooms have been filled. Queen's Hill proper (the old house) is used for dining rooms, nursery, library, etc. Although there has not been much written of our doings during 1903, we have not been sleeping. Nor have we been at all indifferent to the claims of the dear home people. The days have been full of work. Queen's Hill School lives and grows. Thanks be to Him, "whose we are and whom we serve."

CALCUTTA GIRLS' ORPHANAGE.

Miss Smith ... ... ... Superintendent.

The work of the past year in the Girls' Orphanage has been filled with so many good things, we feel it would require more time and space than we should occupy, to bring them before our friends. Nothing has brought more joy to us, than the spiritual growth of the girls. As we look back a year ago, we see the lives of some of them so changed we can truly say they have been "born again." The spirit throughout the orphanage is helpful; more thought of each others' happiness and a desire to help in the service of the King. As a result they have made and sent out to friends and the sailors work, as well as the Industrial Home nearly two hundred very attractive Christmas cards made and printed very neatly by themselves. This necessitated searching for texts suitable for each card thus giving them a better knowledge of the Bible and we often find them quoting texts they have used on cards.

Two dozen picture scrap books have been made for the children in the hospitals, and if our friends could have seen the double row of happy faces as they bent over their task of love, we know that no doubt would enter as to the sincerity of their motive. We have felt very grateful to the teacher of the Calcutta Girls' School for the efforts put forth to help them. As a result a large number were rewarded with prizes, one little girl securing three. There is a marked improvement in the ability of some of the girls in cutting
and making their own clothing, besides taking charge of household
affairs. Never have we felt more the power of the Lord than
during the past year.

Often when we have had to face the old problem of meeting
expenses with a lack of funds, the necessary amount would come
to us from an unexpected source, and the fifty-one girls we have
cared for during the year, have been provided for.

Numberless pleasures have been given to the girls and we are
happy in knowing that a full sense of appreciation is felt by all
of them.

At one time during the year, we were puzzled as to how we
could provide shoes that were greatly needed. Nothing was said
about it but our petitions were answered, by having a faithful
friend of the Orphanage, come to us and say “here is a small
amount for shoes for the girls”, the amount being more than
enough to cover the need at that time. Again, before Christmas, we
were very anxious to give the girls much needed hats, when this
same good friend brought just the right number with other gifts,
the day before Christmas. We were anxious to balance our books
on the right side, but with an empty exchequer the prospects were
not very good, two days ago a donation came from an unknown
source which balanced our accounts with a small amount for the
new year. Thus, we have evidence of His blessing in the little
things.

A dear little sunbeam of a girl took a great interest with
relatives, in giving the children a Christmas treat and gave them a
delightful surprise in having a Santa Claus with gifts. The girls
were very happy in being able to prepare some little surprises for
the friends who were present and one of them said, “I have noth-
ing to give to any one this year, but its the happiest Christmas I’ve
ever had, because I’ve tried to do something for some one else”.
She was the most active in all the work of the year. We also
wish to make special mention of a box of very choice books given
by the little daughter of one of our missionaries, from her own
library. Many of them bore evidence of being gifts valuable to the
owner because of the association. This has been a beautiful lesson
for the girls and I have never seen any greater appreciation shown
by them for anything sent in.

The call comes to us so often to take girls under our care,
which we are unable to do, because of limited quarters, but
the New Year open with more encouraging prospects for a
home some time in the future, as a good friend has been
called home and left in her will a good substantial beginning
for an orphanage. With such a direct answer to our petitions
of the past year, that the way would open for a home for these
girls we go forth rejoicing into the New Year and the desire
that each movement may be according to his will.
We feel that we cannot occupy more time, but cannot refrain from acknowledging a box of very nice, practical, garments sent from America to one of our missionaries, who very kindly transferred them to us, coming at a time when they were greatly needed. With a year full of so many things that have lifted our girls to the better life, we go out gladly into the coming days.

**GIRL’S SCHOOL AND ZENANA WORK.**

*Muzaffarpur.*

**Mrs. Denning** ... ... ... Missionary.

**Mrs. Douglas** ... ... ... Matron.

Everything was new at the beginning of the year... The property, *Malighat Kohi*, bought by Rev. W. E. Byers, acting Presiding Elder last year had but lately been occupied and was not furnished to any extent. The girls had no quarters but the stable line. The floors were slanting and the verandahs had only mud floors. The first great necessities of course were proper dormitories, a kitchen, bath rooms and a wall.

Fortunately the money had been promised by the W. F. M. S. Not only the Rs. 6,000 needed on repairs, but also the Rs. 9,000 due on the Mission bungalow. Although the money was not in hand at the beginning of the year, yet Mr. Denning began at once on the needed improvements. At present we have comfortable dormitory room for one hundred girls, matron’s quarters consisting of a bed room, bath room and kitchen and extending in front of all these rooms, a good brick floored verandah ten feet wide and lacking only two inches of being 200 feet long inside the walls.

Across the compound from the dormitories are two buildings. One is the kitchen furnished with proper chimney—draught masonry stoves, and the other is the bath room and closet building. Everything about this latter building is “pukka,” that is, finished with cement and is kept spotlessly clean and pure.

Separate compartments with doors on either side give the girls all necessary privacy.

The wall enclosing the compound is 7 ft. high, 2½ ft. below ground and entire length around compound is 700ft.

The top is cement finished to resist the rains and the wall should last for many years to come.

The compound for the girls has a space for playing, some space used for vegetable garden, and it is full of beautiful leechu trees, guava trees, lime trees and plantains. All of these give an abundance of fruit for the use of the missionaries and the girls and boys in the schools.
W. F. M. S. House, Mozafiarpur.
Outside the school compound a good stable and carriage house have been built.

The bungalow is in need of some repairs especially the floor of one room, but this we hope to accomplish this coming year.

The bounteous boxes from America have supplied the girls with good bedding as well as with other supplies, and iron frame cots, have been invented by Mr. Denning which are proving very satisfactory.

The teaching arrangements are improving. We have five teachers, two of them being pupil teachers. One of the other teacher is a Pundit who is bringing the girls up on mathematics. The Bible instruction given by Louisa has been well conducted.

Four girls appeared for the lower Primary Examination held in the Government Boys’ school in the city. It speaks well for what missions are doing for female education in India, when I add that from a population of 2,780,790 there were four hundred and twelve boys who came from the various schools in towns and villages, while in this large educational district my four little girls were the only girls who appeared for the examination; though the Inspector said that there were three or four others who took the examination, privately.

My girls looked so fresh and intelligent in their clean white saris, fresh jackets and a bunch of yellow marigolds on each shoulder. A separate verandah was given to them and the old ayah sat with them. Their lunch of chapatties and vegetables was sent to them and altogether it was a great event in their lives.

We fully expect two will pass, possibly more. The result will be known in January.

Since July we have had an excellent European matron and the girls’ health is well looked after. Suniaria, a girl raised in the school acts as under matron, and is a great help to Mrs. Douglas.

As yet we have no assistant to teach in the school. All the teaching being done in Kahti Hindi, it is difficult to find any one who knows it.

Little Piyari died three weeks after we came and poor Ratni is wasting away with consumption and we fear will die before the cold season is over.

Three other very frail little girls are improving, and by the blessing of God and the free use of Mellins Food, and codliver oil we believe we shall see them, restored to health. Nineteen of the girls are orphans.

Discipline is better and we believe the foundation of a good Middle Vernacular School has been laid this year.

Zanana work is but barely begun. We teach regularly in but one house, but we are expecting Mrs. Craggs as Zanana assistant to begin work in January and trust next year, will see great progress in that work.
We are hopeful on every side, and to our great joy the last home mail brought us word that Miss Jessie Peters from the North-western University is coming out under the N. W. Branch to take up the W. F. M. S. work. Under the leadership of such a well qualified missionary whose entire time can be given to this work, we look for a great increase in the efficiency and numbers of the Girls' School. The future is bright. Our mighty, mighty Captain leads us on.

REPORT OF W. F. M. S. WORK, PAKUR, BENGAL.

MRS. MEIK Missionary.

Girls Orphanage:—Perhaps this report ought in some measure to be a review of the past seven years, as I have now been connected with this school for that time during this my second stay with them and will soon be leaving them. We note with thankfulness that the girls some of whom have been with us for the seven years, others for shorter periods have all made some progress.

We have removed from the minds of the teachers the idea, that all their efforts were to be centered on teaching and passing a few of the more pushing children, while the others were left severely alone. Instead of only eight or ten being able to write, the youngest can do her part according to the standard she is in. Instead of two or three being able to sew, and one to use the machine to do the sewing of the whole school, from the eldest to the youngest, they have been taught to sew for themselves, the older ones can all cut out their jackets and undergarments, and their fame has gone abroad for relations and friends in the villages send in their pieces of cloth to be made into coats and jackets, or frocks by the girls here. Their crochet work has gained a reputation for itself and with the money realised from selling it, a library of over a hundred (100) bound volumes has been started. This library is very popular with the girls; they take out and return the books on a set day of the week and enjoy reading them. The girls who have married earn a little money by their crochet, which they send into me to dispose of for them. These girls are all well spoken of and I believe do their best, to live up to their light in the face of much opposition.

I have examined the classes once a year so as to award the prizes and have been agreeably struck with the fact that the classes taught by those who have themselves been pupils in the school have made most progress. I have been especially pleased with the progress made in Bible study and it is a comfort and joy to know that so many of this younger generation have access to God's Word and can read it with an understanding knowledge. Ten more of the girls have professed conversion this year and by their lives give proof of changed hearts. During the week of prayer in October last, many were stirred and strengthened to
greater faithfulness. The spirit of kindness prevails where before it was cruel indifference, not all have been so changed, but the majority have.

The New Buildings:—We are very sorry that the new buildings are not completed, but, Mr. Meik's illness and some other unforeseen obstacles having arisen, this has been rendered impossible this year, but we trust that some one will soon be found to carry on the building operations. Enough has been done to ensure their being strong and commodious. A large room being intended for hospital purposes, others as dining room, kitchen, godown, and dormitory room for 150 girls allowing each a space of 7 ft. x 4 ft. so that many more could be accommodated by a little crowding, if necessary. The ground within the building enclosure has been raised so that it may be dry and well drained.

The Widows.—Perhaps one of the most trying and difficult features of the work here is that among the widows, nevertheless they also have made some progress; a proof of this arose the other day, one of their number heard that an infant grandchild was dying for want of nourishment, its mother being ill. We had taught her how to bring up a baby by hand, so while she realised that a glass feeding bottle would be an expensive item, she begged only for a rubber teat which she fastened on to a bodluah (a small tin water vessel with spout) with this she set out to show them how to bring up an infant by hand feeding.

We made great efforts to teach the widows to read, but with one exception it was an impossibility; their teacher however has taught them to memorise Bible verses, so, though they cannot read the Bible for themselves, they have some of it stored up in their minds to comfort, strengthen or reprove them in the future. They sing many of the hymns which they have memorised.

One of the girls whom we had in the school when it started in 1888 we found was unhappily married, and things came to such a pass that it seemed as though she would be forced into a life of sin, but she came and begged us to take her into our widows' home, where she has been for the past two years working quietly and bearing herself well, she has a strong, correct voice and has helped a good deal in teaching the widows how to sing, and being an industrious needlewoman has also been an example to them in this. Each widow generally has a kaatha (quilt of old rags) on hand to sew on in her spare moments, they can earn a rupee or so by this and the sewing goes a long way towards keeping them out of mischief.

We have a new little baby now six months old, the others having grown up into kindergarteners.

The Dispensary:—An average of twenty patients a day are treated at our dispensary, some quite difficult surgical cases are treated and the people come to us in preference to going to the Government dispensary which is served by a Bengali doctor.
We feel this is a most important work for apart from the alleviation of physical suffering it enables us to make friends with the people, gain their confidence and helps in a great measure to break down caste prejudices. We hope the day is not far distant when the W. F. M. S. will see their way to having a lady doctor at Pakur, for our hearts have had to ache again and again at the accounts we get of the sufferings of the poor women around us who have none to help them.

_Bible Womans Work._—This branch of the work will be reported in full by Miss Jakobson.

Isabella Meik.

VILLAGE WORK.

_Pakur._

Miss Jacobson ... ... ... Missionary.

The harvest truly is plenteous but the labourers are few, is very true here, in our district. Wherever we go, there is more to be done, than the one single Bible woman or half a dozen more could do. We have visited twenty villages during the dry season; in the rains the roads are under water, and it is impossible to get to the villages and do anything.

In four villages we have Christian families, and now quite a number of our own girls from the school in our compound, have married and live out in these villages. They always make us very welcome to their homes. They are good little house-wives, they keep their homes and themselves clean. Their Hindu and Mohamedan neighbours are invited and the girls are helping us in our little meetings, they take part in singing prayer and reading.

In the Mohamedan and Hindu homes we are very well received, and in most cases invited to every house in the villages.

It has made my heart ache, to see the look of disappointment, when we have had to answer: "We can not come to your home to-day, it is late, and we have to go home." The women listen very attentively and often ask intelligent questions and repeatedly they will ask: "Sing more, talk more." When we enter one house, all the women from the houses close by, came in to listen. Often I count 50 women and seldom less than 10 women, and numberless children will crowd in. I am longing for the day to come when we can have day schools and Sunday schools in the villages, where there are no Christians. There are Sunday schools in the one or two christian villages, but no girls' day schools.

The district is large, all along the railway line, from one station above us, right to Rampure Haut 13 miles wide. The
twenty villages we have been able to reach, none of them are any farther away than 3 miles, two of these villages count their population in thousands none count less than 50 inhabitants. If the whole district is so closely planted with villages as round about our mission station there must be many hundred villages who has never heard the name of Him who is the light of the world.

When shall we reach them?

REPORT OF THE EVANGELISTIC WORK IN TAMLUK.

Miss Blair ... ... ... ... Missionary.

Nothing especially new has happened in our Bible work this year. We have been going on quietly, visiting daily in the houses of the people, talking to them and singing to them. At one house which Miss Moyer and I know familiarly as the "house of forty," because somebody once told us that forty people lived there, we are welcomed, I might say, uproariously. It is a joint family, and half a dozen, more or less, women gather about us to listen. One, a lively little widow with cropped hair, and the proud mother of several boys very much after her pattern, frankly tells us that she doesn’t care about the story, but she does love the hymns, and she even tries—without any conspicuous success—to sing with us. The children, of course, fairly swarm in this house, and they are indeed a lively lot. Some of the little girls attend our school.

That is just one among our houses, not a sample, for each one of the sixty or more houses we visit has a distinctive character of its own. As I run them over in my mind I cannot, however, find a single parallel to the case mentioned last Tuesday evening in which the woman declared that no visitor brightened her day, and that aside from her husband she saw no one from dreary day to dreary day. In our village the most secluded do "go a-visiting" and many a flying trip is taken from back door to back door through the seclusion of the garden or along the tank. But when the very best face is put upon it, the life lived by a Bengali zenana woman is exceedingly narrow and narrowing. If we can help these women in their everyday lives to be better wives and better mothers, we shall feel that we are doing a great work. But we shall not reach our ideal nor be satisfied until we have proof that these dear women are beginning to turn from their idols to the living God. Only the other day our hearts were cheered by the direct and positive testimony of a Brahmin woman, who without any hesitation and that too in the presence of another Hindu woman, told us that the night before in the midst of trouble and distress of mind because of some difficulty she was in, she could not sleep, and remembering that we had told her that at such times she must go to God in prayer and that He would give her help, there, in the stillness of the night while al
around her were sleeping she lifted her heart in prayer. "And she said, "such peace and joy filled my heart! and though before I could not sleep, after that I lay down and fell into a sweet sleep."

We do the best we can to care for these sixty houses, but a little arithmetic will show that it is an average of twelve a day, and it is seldom that we can get to more than seven or eight. Eight or nine such visits is apt to weary one so that if there were more time there would hardly be strength for more. I hope next year to report not only more work but more workers, we need them much.

I have a Sunday-school to which the children of the day school come. There is a charm about Bengali children. I am not sure that I do not like them all the better for their brown satin skins and black eyes and oily hair; anyway they are fascinating. We have about forty of them every Sunday. When I first went to Tamluk they told me that the people objected to singing in school but bless you! parents will always let the children do what they want to if they possibly can, and the children love to sing; if they can’t do it very well, anyway they do it with a will. We always have a collection, and the past year we have collected about three rupees which will go to Mrs. Culshaw to help to support one of her orphans.

I have held a Bible class regularly with the Bengali helpers, and at the Sunday-school examination three passed, a teacher, a Bible woman and the Bible woman’s little girl. It will be a glad day when our new house is ready to go into, and that time is not far distant. The day I left Tamluk for Calcutta last time, I stopped for a moment at the new premises and found the second lakh of bricks well on the way, and left the contractor measuring off the land and getting it ready to begin digging the foundations, and we hope to be in the house for the next rainy season.

We have sold three rupees worth of books, mostly pice and half pice books—we sell the Mohila Bandhub at half a pice. I have distributed a good many tracts and could dispose of many more. I take them on Mondays, as we go in that direction, and give them out to the men sitting about the kachari. The only trouble I have is to give them out fast enough. I also distribute them on the boat as I go back and forth from Calcutta.

This is the day of small things in Tamluk, but I believe the Lord has many people there, and one day they will be known.

TAMLUK SCHOOLS.

Miss Moyer ... ... ... Missionary.

The most noticeable change in our Tamluk school this year is the increased attendance and interest taken in the school work by both the pupils and their parents. Since the rains our daily attendance has been about seventy. The children have done very nicely
in their studies and have been especially interested in their serving. They have pieced quilts, made small native garments called koortas and have worked on canvas. We have three teachers in this school who have done good work in their classes. Two of the teachers and one pupil tried the Government examination the result of which will be received sometime in February. We were disappointed in having several of our girls taken out of school during the year to be married. These little girls of nine or ten years felt that their outfit was quite complete when they carried to their mother-in-law’s houses the dolls sent to them from America and the bags and quilts which they had made in school.

We have on our list twenty zenana women who are learning to sew, knit and crochet in their homes. Some of them are regularly visited by Miss Blair and the Bible woman and others will, I am sure, be willing to be taught about Christ when they become better acquainted with us. Some are very much afraid of our teaching at first.

Last February a young Brahmin from Pipulbaria, a village three miles west of us, came and asked for service. I offered to aid him if he would open a school in his own village. Before long he had a school of thirty children which was held in a temple of the goddess Kali. Each day he has taught the catechism and Bible story in poetry and I have gone frequently to examine the children. On Sunday as often as possible I have taken the Bible women and held Sunday school. At this time not only the school children but the men and women of the village listen attentively to the Bible lesson.

In the rainy season we travel back and forth to this Sunday school on a tidal canal in a dinghee (native row boat). One Sunday coming home from this Sunday school we were delayed two hours. Our boat could not pass under a bridge until the tide began to go out so the villagers in that section began to collect on the bridge to look at us. We asked them to sit down and hanging a picture lesson scroll on a bamboo pole in the front of our boat we gave a Bible lesson, after which each one received a picture card. The next Sunday I expected to find the children waiting for us on the bridge, but on reaching it I was told that the teacher of a school near by wanted us to hold our Sunday school in his school house. He had in his school over sixty children and the one in Pipulbaria. From this school the news of our visits has spread and now we are earnestly requested to regularly visit five other schools west of Tamluk.

In August I opened a school seven miles south of Tamluk which now has an enrollment of one hundred and nine children. This school also is held in a Hindu temple and two miles farther away in the rice fields we have another school. No missionary had ever visited this section before and the people were very suspicious concerning them. The story is current among the Hindus that the English people in India want to build a bridge across a large river which is entirely
beyond their power so the English have prayed to their God who says He will put a bridge across the river for them if they will sacrifice to Him on a certain auspicious day thousands of native children by throwing them into the river and for this purpose the Missionaries are collecting the Bengali children in their schools.

Although this story is in circulation in that section yet we are rapidly gaining the confidence of the children and their parents gradually seem to grow more friendly.

Of course the people in the district are not anxious to have their girls learn to read but the more advanced are anxious to have them learn to sew. So this is a prominent feature in our schools.

It is impossible, at present, to have a school in the district without boys so we allow the latter to come if they pay a monthly fee. The progress these children are making in learning the catechism and Bible lessons is encouraging and it is a great privilege to carry the gospel to them.
CONFERENCE ROLL OF MEMBERS.

Year of joining.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Thoburn</td>
<td>1889</td>
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<td>Mrs. Byers</td>
<td>1889</td>
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<td>Miss Blair</td>
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<td>Mrs. Warne</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Knowles</td>
<td>1890</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Craig (Mrs. Smith)</td>
<td>1893</td>
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<td>Mrs. Lee</td>
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<td>1899</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Moyer</td>
<td>1900</td>
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<td>Mrs. Stokes</td>
<td>1900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Henkle</td>
<td>1902</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss McKinley</td>
<td>1901</td>
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<td>1902</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Denning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Culshaw</td>
<td>1898</td>
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<td>Mrs. Shaw</td>
<td>1903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Stumpf</td>
<td>1903</td>
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Note.—Corrections and additions will be gladly received.
WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

APPOINTMENTS, 1904.

ASANSOL DISTRICT,

Asansol Woman’s Work ... ... Mrs. Byers.
" Girls’ School ... ... Mrs. Byers and Miss Hoskins.
" Bengali Work ... ... Mrs. Mullic.
" W. F. M. S. Home ... ... Miss Reeves.
" Medical Work ... ... Miss Vernieux.
" Evangelistic Work ... ... Miss Moore.
" Santali Work ... ... Miss Mabel Swinnerton.

Miss Forster, on leave to America.

CALCUTTA DISTRICT.

Bolpur ... ... ... Mrs. Culshaw.
Calcutta & Suburbs Woman’s Work ... ... Mrs. Lee.
" Dennett Training School
" Principal ... ... Mrs. Lee.
" Asst. Principal ... ... Miss Eddy
" Girls’ Orphanage and Ghat Work,
Calcutta Day School, ... ... Miss Canham.
" Evangelistic Work, ... To be supplied.
" English Church, ... Mrs. Lowe.
" Anglo-Indian Girls Orphanage, ... Supplied by Miss Smith.
" Deaconess Home, ... Miss Pritchard, Miss Smith, Miss Stumpf.
" Hindustani Work, ... Miss Stumpf.
" Kidderpur & Hindustani Circuit, ... Mrs. Shaw.
" Girls School, ... Miss Henkle, Miss Pyne.
" Boys’ Orphanage, ... Mrs. Smith.
" Seamen’s Mission, ... Mrs. Henderson (in America).

Darjeeling, Queen’s Hill School,
" ... Miss Knowles, Miss McKinley, Miss Wisner.

Pakur, Girls’ Boarding School, ... ... Mrs. Culshaw.
" Evangelistic Work, ... Miss Jacobson.
" Mrs. Warne, in America; Miss Maxey, on leave to America

DIAMOND HARBOUR DISTRICT.

South Villages ... ... ... Mrs. Lee.
Tamluk Evangelistic Work ... ... Miss Blair.
" Girls’ School ... ... Miss Moyer.
District Work ... ... ... Mrs. Mozundar.

TIRHOOOT DISTRICT.

Zanana and District Work ... ... ... Mrs. Denning.
Girls School ... ... ... Miss Peters.
Sitamarhi Zanana Work ... ... ... Mrs. Downing.
Darbhanga ... ... ... ... Mrs. Nain Sukh.
First Year—

Forbes' Hindustani Grammar to Prosody.
First and Second Urdu or Hindi books.
Four Gospels in Roman.
Written translation of English First book (Roman Urdu.)
Writing in character from first Urdu or Hindi book (Last four pages.)
To be read: Hunter's "Brief History of the Indian People."
Conversation.

Second Year—

Mirat ul-urus, Dharmatula.
Written translation of English Second book and dictation.
To be read: "Wilkins's Hindu Mythology."
Texts of Scripture from memory.
Conversation.

Third Year—

Banaat-un-nash.
Mumuksh Britant.
Four Gospels—Urdu or Hindi.
Reading of hand-writing.
To be read: Robson's "Hinduism and its relation to Christianity."
Conversation.

Fourth Year—

Gutka, Part II.
Poetry, optional.
Psalms in Urdu or Hindi.
Essay in Hindustani.
Translation at sight.
To be read: Sell's Islam.
Forman's Arya Somaj.
Religious Reforms (Four Parts.)
Popular Hinduism.
Philosophic "
Vedic "
Modern Elective Systems.
Bengali Course of Study for Missionaries

ADOPTED BY THE

Annual and Ladies' Conferences.

The Calcutta Missionary Conference has formed an Examination Board and arranged a syllabus for a Junior and a Senior Examination in Bengali for Missionaries arriving in Bengal. The Board consists of representatives of the different Missions, and will appoint the Examiners from time to time and see that the rules are carried out, or make such modifications as experience shall suggest. It is hoped that this will prove to be a convenience and help to all concerned. If candidates offer themselves, there are to be two Examinations each year at intervals of about six months for both the first and second year course. The following are the rules and syllabus as now constituted. Ample notice will be given if, in the future, any change in the Text or Books or otherwise is made.

RULES.

1. The papers on the Text Books, Grammar and Composition shall be calculated for three hours, except the Second Year Translation, which shall be for one and a half hours.

2. In the papers on the Text Books, 60 per cent. of the marks shall be given for translation into English and 40 per cent. in each case for questions on Grammar or retranslation of phrases occurring in the Text. These questions shall be of a simpler kind in the First Year.

3. The written questions shall be framed in English.

4. The number of the Examiners shall not be less than three in each Year's course, one of whom must be a Bengali gentleman.

5. The Oral Examinations shall be conducted by a Bengali gentleman, assisted by one or more of the Examiners, who shall consult together in assigning the marks.

6. The Address or Exposition, in the Second Year Oral Examination, must be of not less than ten minutes' length. The topic may be chosen beforehand by the candidate, but the address must not be read. In the case of gentlemen, it must be delivered before an audience unacquainted with English. In the case of ladies, the audience may be a class of Bengali girls.

7. The candidates shall be placed in three divisions according as they obtain 40, 50 or 60 per cent. at least of the marks assigned in the aggregate. They must also secure one-third of the marks in each of the papers and 50 marks at least in the Oral Examination, or otherwise they fail to pass.

8. To help cover the working expenses, each candidate shall pay an entrance fee of five rupees.

9. Notice of the number of candidates likely to appear and of the alternative books chosen should be given by each Mission three months beforehand.
COURSE OF STUDIES.

JUNIOR OR FIRST YEAR EXAMINATION.

I. Written.

a. Bododhoy and Naba Kâhini omitting 'Kena' and 'Jaminda' ... ... ... 100

b. Padya Path I, or an equal portion of Hymns, and the Gospel of St. Mark (revised version) ... 100

c. 1. Sisu Byâkaran by K. P. Vidyaratna, or Bengali Grammar by Wenger or Beames, omitting Samas, Taddhit and Kridanta, 50 marks

2. Translation into Bengali from C. L. S. Second Reader, 50 " ... 100

II. Oral

a. Dictation from the Text Books ... ... 50

b. Reading and translation at sight from ditto ... 50

c. Conversation ... ... ... 50

Total ... 450

SENIOR OR SECOND YEAR EXAMINATION.

I. Written

a. The Conference Selections ... ... 100

b. Charupath II, and Padyapáth II ... ... 100

c. A Bengali letter on a given subject, ... 40 marks

   A Bengali written address on a religious topic given at the time ... 60 " ... 100

d. Translation into Bengali from the first 100 pages of new C. L. S. Fourth Reader ... ... 50

II. Oral.

a. Conversation ... ... ... 50

b. Reading aloud from the Bengali Bible ... 25

c. An exposition or address ... ... 75

Total ... 500
Journal.

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FIRST SESSION.

Calcutta, December 30, 1903.

The Seventeenth Annual Session of the Bengal Woman’s Conference met at the Parsonage, December 30th, at 2 P.M., Miss Maxey in the chair.

The session opened by the singing of the hymn “What a friend we have in Jesus,” followed by scripture reading by Mrs. Byers and prayer by Miss Knowles and Miss Jacobson.

At Roll call the following ladies responded:—Miss Blair, Mrs. Byers, Miss Canham, Mrs. Denning, Miss Eddy, Miss Forster, Miss Jacobson, Miss Knowles, Mrs. Lee, Miss Maxey, Miss McKinley, Miss Moyer, Miss Smith, Mrs. Stokes.

At this Point Mrs. Bishop Warren was introduced to the Conference.

Election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:—President, Mrs. Warren; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Denning, Mrs. Stokes; Corresponding, Secretary, Mrs. Denning; Recording Secretary, Miss McKinley; Assistant Secretary: Miss Blair; Statistical Secretary, Mrs. Byers.

Miss Jacobson and Miss Pritchard were introduced to the Conference.

On motion a Committee was elected to revise the Manuel. The Committee consists of Mrs. Denning, Mrs. Lee and Miss Knowles.

A Committee on Resolutions was appointed as follows:—Mrs. Byers, Mrs. Stokes, Miss Eddy.

On motion, the appointment of Mrs. Culshaw as Treasurer was approved by the Conference.

Report on Examinations were called for. Miss Maxey reported that Miss Moyer has passed her final examination in Bengali in part, and that Miss Eddy and Miss Canham have passed their junior examination in the same language.

Miss Maxey as Chairman of the Finance Committee reported that the committee met in July and that among other business Miss Jacobson was recommended for full membership in the W. F. M. S.
The time for meeting was fixed for 2-30 to 4-30 P.M. daily.

Reports of the following ladies were read and accepted:—Miss Canham, Hindu Day Schools in Calcutta; Mrs. Culshaw, Woman's work in Bolpur; Mrs. Denning, Woman's work in Muzafferpur; Mrs. Dowring reported verbally by Mrs. Denning; Miss Eddy, Dennett Training School; Miss Maxey, Deaconess Home.

Mrs. Denning here moved that a vote of appreciation be given to Miss Maxey for her many years of faithful service, and that she be made our representative to carry to our ladies at Home our heartiest greetings.

This was followed by two more reports: Mrs. Meik, Woman's work in Pakur; Mrs. Stokes, English work, Calcutta.

On motion the hour of 3-30 P.M., Thursday, was fixed for the election of a lay delegate to Central Conference.

Conference adjourned after singing the Doxology.

SECOND SESSION.

Calcutta, December 31st, 1903.

The second session of the Woman's Conference met at 2-30 P.M. and was opened by singing the hymn "How firm a foundation." The Conference was led in prayer by Mrs. Shaw, followed by Miss Henkle. The Bible reading was given by Miss Knowles, taken from Ps. 91.

Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Shaw were introduced to the Conference.

The roll was called, to which twenty members responded, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The following ladies then read reports of their work, which were accepted.

Miss Henkle—Calcutta Girls' High School.
Miss Forster—Bengali Girls' Boarding School, Asansol.

At this point Miss Craven and Miss Canham entered and were introduced to the Conference.

The Conference then proceeded to the election of lay delegates to the Central Conference to be held in Madras. The ballot resulted in the election of Miss Maxey and Miss McKinley as delegates, with Miss Blair and Mrs. Stokes as reserves.
On motion of Mrs. Denning the following action was taken: That a list of membership of this Conference, together with the date of joining, be prepared for insertion in the minutes, and that this list be revised annually.

It was moved that the order of business on Saturday at 3-00 P.M. be the election of a Finance Committee.

The reports of work of Miss Knowles, Mrs. Lee and Miss Smith, were read, and the same accepted.

The Conference adjourned after singing the Doxology to meet again on Saturday at 2-30 P.M.

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THIRD SESSION.

Calcutta, January 2nd, 1904.

The third session of the Woman's Conference met at 2-30 P.M. After singing "Tell it out among the nations," the Bible reading was given by Miss Smith, followed by prayer by Miss Stumpf and Miss Forster.

In absence of Mrs. Warren, Mrs. Denning vice President, took the chair.

The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

On motion the reports of work of the following ladies were accepted.

Miss Blair—Evangelistic work, Tamluk.
Miss Moyer—School work, Tamluk.

The Conference proceeded to the election of the Finance Committee. The Ballot resulted in the election of the following ladies: Mrs. Lee, Miss Knowles, Mrs. Byers, Miss Blair and Miss Jacobson.

It was moved that volunteers be called for to contribute articles to the Woman's Missionary Friend. The ladies agreed to write in the following order:

January—Mrs Byers. July—Miss Blair.
February—Miss Eddy. August—Miss Knowles.
March—Miss McKinley. September—Miss Henkle.
April—Mrs. Shaw. October—Mrs. Denning.
May—Miss Pyne. November—Miss Moyer.
June—Mrs Lee. December—Mrs. Stokes.

Reports of work of the following ladies were read and accepted:

Mrs. Byers—Bengali woman's work, Asansol.
Miss Stumpf—Hindustani work, Calcutta.
On motion of Miss Maxey the Conference collection of Rs. 15 was added to the contingent fund.

Moved that a charge of two annas be made to defray expenses of publishing the minutes of the meeting. Copies, as ordered by the members, to be sent V. P. P.; any deficit to be met by the contingent fund.

Moved that thirty copies of books of blanks for Zenana work be ordered.

Moved that the report of the Committee on revision of the Manuel be delayed until the next Conference, at which time the proof sheets will be submitted for inspection before final adoption.

The report of the Committee on resolutions was read and approved.

Moved that the name of Mrs. Shaw be added to the Hindi examination Committee.

Moved that a committee be appointed by the chair, to prepare a programme for the next Annual Missionary Meeting. Mrs. Stokes, Mrs. Byers and Miss Stumpf were appointed.

Moved that 200 copies of minutes be published. Motion made for adjournment. The Doxology was sung and the conference closed.

RESOLUTIONS.

Resolved.—That we express our great pleasure in having Mrs. Bishop Warren with us, and our appreciation of her sympathy and help as presiding officer at our Woman’s Conference. We rejoice to have her with us, and trust she may be cheered and encouraged by what she has seen of our work in Bengal. Our prayers will follow her, and we trust other Conferences may enjoy the same privilege, in having her visit them also.

Resolved.—That we express our regret, that our beloved sister Miss Maxey is obliged to leave us for a rest in the home land. She has ever been a sympathetic, kind and untiring friend and we shall sorely miss her in Calcutta. Our love and prayers go with her. May she soon regain health and strength, and return to this land where so many need her.

Our love and prayer shall also follow our sister Miss Forster as she returns to the home land for a year’s rest. May
her sweet voice cheer and help many in the home land, as it so often has done in India.

Resolved.—That we extend a very hearty welcome to our sister Mrs. Shaw, who has come to labour amongst us. May God give her favour and great blessing and make her to lay strong foundations for a great work amongst the women in her charge.

Resolved.—That we express our heartfelt sympathy and interest in the work of the W. C. T. U., and urge upon our ladies that they help in this important work in any and every way they can.

Resolved.—That we appreciate the kindness of Mrs. Stokes in putting her drawing-room at our disposal for Ladies' Conferences.

Resolved.—That we most cordially thank Miss Henkle and the ladies of Calcutta who have so kindly entertained us. Also that we express our appreciation of the tiffins given by Mrs. Barber, Mrs. F. Smith, Mrs. D. R. Smith and Mrs. Thurlow.

Resolved. That, recognizing the very excellent work done by Miss Storrs, the Honorary Missionary of our Conference, and believing that she is one with us in spirit and anxious to further our interests in Christ's name—therefore

Resolved.—That we assure Miss Storrs of our heartfelt gratitude and extend to her the warmest sympathy of our Bengal Woman's Conference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Station or District</th>
<th>Workers</th>
<th>City and Village Work</th>
<th>Medical Work</th>
<th>Deaconess Home</th>
<th>Homes for Homeless Women</th>
<th>Total No. in the Home</th>
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II.—FORM FOR SCHOOL STATISTICS OF THE W. F. M. SOCIETY FOR SOUTHERN ASIA.
###III.—FORM FOR AMOUNTS RECEIVED IN SOUTHERN ASIA FOR W. F. M. S. WORK.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>NAME OF STATION OR DISTRICT</th>
<th>VALUE OF W. F. M. S. PROPERTY</th>
<th>ENGLISH SCHOOLS</th>
<th>VERNACULAR AND ANGLO-VERNACULAR BOARDING SCHOOLS</th>
<th>MEDICAL FEES AND DONATIONS TO MEDICAL WORKS</th>
<th>DONATIONS AND SUBSCRIPTIONS TO MISSIONARY SOCIETY</th>
<th>LOCAL MISSIONARY SOCIETY</th>
<th>SUNDAY SCHOOL COLLECTIONS</th>
<th>SALES OF BOOKS AND PAPERS</th>
<th>TOTAL RECEIVED IN STATION</th>
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