THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

BOMBAY

WOMAN'S MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BOMBAY, November 14-20, 1923
BISHOP H. LESTER SMITH
Thirty-Second Annual Report

OF THE

BOMBAY

Woman's Missionary Conference

OF THE

Methodist Episcopal Church

FOR

1923

HELD AT

BOMBAY, NOVEMBER 14-20, 1923.

MYSORE:
PRINTED AT THE WESLEYAN MISSION PRESS
# ROLL OF MEMBERS

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<tr>
<th>Date of Joining Conference</th>
<th>Names</th>
<th>Vernacular</th>
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<td>1902 * Abbott, Anna Agnes</td>
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* N.B.—The figure before the name indicates the year passed in the vernacular and the asterisk indicates that the course has been completed.
### WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

**Appointments, 1924**

#### BASIM DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tr>
<td>Basim, Girls' Hostel</td>
<td>Miss Abbott</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Circuit Evangelistic Work</td>
<td>Miss Abbott</td>
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<td>&quot; Primary and Anglo-Vernacular Middle School</td>
<td>Miss Greene</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Boys' Hostel</td>
<td>Mrs. Aldis</td>
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#### BOMBAY DISTRICT

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<tr>
<td>Bombay, Bowen Memorial Church</td>
<td>Mrs. Richards</td>
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<td>&quot; Taylor Memorial Church</td>
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<td>&quot; Gujarati Schools, Hostel and Evangelistic Work</td>
<td>Miss Austin</td>
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<td>&quot; Hindustani Church and Evangelistic Work</td>
<td>Miss Ruppel (Mrs. David)</td>
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<td>&quot; Marathi Circuit and Church</td>
<td>Mrs. Collier</td>
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<td>&quot; Marathi Day Schools</td>
<td>Miss Ruppel</td>
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<td>&quot; Marathi City Evangelistic Work</td>
<td>Miss Elliott</td>
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<td>&quot; Woman's Social and Welfare Work</td>
<td>Mrs. Parker</td>
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<td>District Work</td>
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<td>Igatpuri English Church</td>
<td>Mrs. M. D. Wood</td>
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<td>Kalyan, Ambarnath, Bhiwindi</td>
<td>Miss Elliott</td>
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<td>Salsette Circuit</td>
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#### NAGPUR DISTRICT

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<td>&quot; Normal School</td>
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#### POONA DISTRICT

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<tr>
<td>District and Evangelistic Work</td>
<td>Mrs. Stephens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poona Anglo-Indian Home and Taylor High School</td>
<td>Mrs. Hutchings</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Boys' Orphanage, Hostel and Day Schools</td>
<td>Miss Dove and Miss Merritt</td>
</tr>
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<td>&quot; English Work</td>
<td>Mrs. Stephens</td>
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<td>&quot; Puntamba Circuit</td>
<td>Mrs. W. W. Bruere</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Evangelistic and Medical Work</td>
<td>Miss Corner</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Mrs. Lightfoot</td>
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Kopargaon Circuit and Evangelistic Work . Miss Corner
(Mrs. Lightfoot to have charge until arrival of Miss Corner)
Talegaon Circuit and Evangelistic Work . Miss Mayer
" Hillman Memorial School and Hostel . Miss Mayer, Miss Goodall

SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Editor Marathi Woman's Friend . Mrs. W. W. Bruere
Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow . Miss Manchester
Sunday School Board Work . Mrs. Parker

On Leave.—Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. W. B. Bruere, Miss Lawson, Miss Blasdell, Miss Holmes, Miss Nicholls, Mrs. Fisher.
REPORTS OF WORK

BASIM DISTRICT

Basim Girls’ School

HOSTEL

Missionary

ANNA AGNES ABBOTT

As a retrospect of the year is undertaken our efforts seem so puny and so little seems to have been accomplished that one questions the real value of the year of service.

The numbers in the hostel are somewhat less than last year owing to various reasons, one of which is the partial closing of the Middle school. Some of the girls who might have remained for further study were married because we were unable to provide additional opportunities for them to study here. Three of the girls are studying in the Normal College of the United Free Church in Poona. Two are studying in their Middle school in Nagpur and living in our Nagpur Girls’ hostel. We are particularly grateful to Miss Drescher for caring for these girls as it enables the girls to remain actively interested in our own Church while studying in the other Mission. One girl, a young widow really, who was studying in the Government Normal College, in Amraoti, completed her course and returned this hot season.

A tiny baby came to us during the hot season but God took her before she had been with us many months. One little girl whose mother died was sent back to us after the plague had subsided and with her a little brother who is about four years of age but owing to infantile paralysis and lack of proper treatment and lack of care and nourishment had never been able to walk. After about six months he is so much improved that he walks about quite easily now. When he is a little older he will go to the Boys’ school. One of the teachers has taken special charge of him. One of the joys is the little girls who come to the school; there have been several such since school re-opened.

Before the girls had fully recovered from the various children’s diseases contracted at District Conference time last year plague broke out and the first girl attacked was dead in less than twenty-four hours. Every one was inoculated immediately and every possible precaution taken but despite this other cases and other deaths occurred. The form assumed by the disease was a very virulent one and the great majority of the persons attacked died,
not only in Basim but in all the villages round about. As inoculation seemed not to prevent the disease all the girls were sent to their homes early in February. The few remaining who have no homes were put out in the fields in huts but, as heavy rain fell, very soon they had to be brought back. They lived in the school house until all fear of the disease had passed and they were then sent to live in the new quarters built last year. Since that time the general health of the girls has been excellent. There has been an uncommonly small amount of malaria and practically nothing else. Plague is beginning to reappear in the surrounding villages and while writing this report we have again inoculated all the girls. The unfortunate thing about inoculation is that it must be done every year to have any hope of its being effective.

The new buildings begun last year have been occupied this year and have proved a very great blessing. When plague broke out the girls were all moved out of the compound into these buildings and at other times, when there have been slight cases of illness, they have occupied a portion of them. India is constantly suffering from diseases of the eyes and our school has not been free from that trouble and one of these rooms had provided an isolation room for such cases, thus preventing the spread of the disease. In addition two of the rooms have provided homes for our two trained teachers who have come to us this year. Still another room has been used as store room for general supplies.

The repair work begun on the compound last year was continued as long as it was possible to do so. All roofs had to have special repairs, having had little done to them for several years. Owing to a shortage of funds much had to be left undone.

In July we entertained the Finance Committee, Field Reference Committee, Field Property Board, and Board of Education in Basim. This was the first time any of the large committees representing the entire conference had ever met here. The last evening of their stay seventeen sat down to dinner in our dining room. This is probably the largest number of Europeans that have ever dined together in Basim. It was hinted that we might be expected to entertain the Annual Conference some time soon. It was certainly a fine thing to have these representative men and women here. Our only regret was the great hurry which gave them little time to see the work and its needs here.

One of the gratifying features of the year has been the splendid response on the part of the parents to the new rule introduced at last Annual Conference providing that they must furnish the clothes for their children in the school. One family that had never furnished any clothes nor paid any fees immediately undertook to furnish the clothes for their three girls. Another family said they were unable to furnish clothes so it would not be possible for them to send their child to school. As they had a large number of fowls we offered to buy a few of their fowls and
give cloth in exchange. The offer was gladly accepted and the little girl is now in school. We have tried to help them by purchasing cloth from the mills in Nagpur at a lower rate than they could secure it in the villages and selling it to them at cost.

It is gratifying to be able to report some real progress in character building. Some of the girls who seemed hopeless last year show that they are truly trying to serve Jesus Christ. General improvement in their work is noticeable and their conduct shows a decided change, and their willingness to testify in meetings and to take part in the Lord’s Supper show real progress.

One girl came last year from a village nearby who was so afraid when one of us came near her that she literally trembled. She has now become so much a part of the school that when she does something naughty and we tell her that she evidently does not like to act as Christian girls should act, and suggest that perhaps she would prefer living like a Hindu and it might be better if she went back to her village, she then trembles and begs to be beaten rather than sent away. She was literally alive with vermin but she is really trying to keep clean and to become a real Christian girl. She truly loves the Lord Jesus and wants to serve Him. She was very much disappointed at District Conference that we did not baptize her. Owing to the fear that her relatives may some time claim her we dare not baptize her for although she left them voluntarily she is not yet of age and if they choose to claim her they can do so.

Another girl who came less than two years ago, named Chandralila, has developed in a remarkable manner. She has only reached the second standard in school but the thing which is particularly noteworthy is her love for the Bible. She has studied that so faithfully that she knows more of it now than many girls who have had more than twice her advantages. When it came to the Sunday school examination over a period of six months, she not only answered all the questions perfectly but begged to be allowed to answer more questions.

My own health has been good on the whole and I come to the end of this year stronger than at the end of last year. This gradual improvement seems a justification of my return to India.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Missionary

L BOLA M. GREENE

We have had much to encourage us in the educational department of the Basim Girls’ School this year, although we have had some discouragements as well. We were stricken with an epidemic of plague which necessitated the closing of the school two months earlier than usual. Because of this we could not have our annual government inspection at the close of the school year as usual, but had to have it at the beginning of the new school
year in June. With the work not completed, and after a four months' vacation, the girls did not do as well in the examinations as they would have done had they completed the year's work and taken their examinations before going away for the holidays. This year we are hoping to have no interruptions in the work of the school.

While this has been a discouraging feature of the work there have been many encouraging ones. Last year in the Anglo-Vernacular department of the school we had only one class, having had to close the other classes because of the inability to secure the properly qualified teachers. This year we have two classes in this department of the school.

In the primary department we have a much better staff of teachers than we have had for sometime. One of our own girls has come back after completing her normal course. She is the first of the Basim girls to return a fully trained teacher. Another very encouraging feature is the new headmistress we have secured for the Primary school. She has come to us in our hour of need. She is not only a fully normal trained teacher, but has also had years of experience which is readily shown in the kind of work she is doing. Not only is she trained for her work as a teacher, but she is a consecrated Christian, one who gives much time and thought to the girls out of school hours as well as during school and who has a good influence over them. This is most encouraging.

We are glad to be able to say that the girls are truly developing in character. This we trust will continue until each girl has made the complete surrender to Christ who alone can bring to her a full and complete Christian life.

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**Evangelistic Work**

*(District)*

**Missionary**

**Mrs. Aldis**

Another year has passed and report-giving time has come again. The work is always intensely interesting, sometimes even exciting but I fear this report will be neither one nor the other. This year I have had for my share of the evangelistic work the three circuits, Pusad, Hingoli, and Nanded. There are seven outstations and all have been visited except one. I have travelled about one thousand miles, mostly by motor. There are fourteen Bible women and five women teachers on my circuits. All hold Sunday school, and by giving cards they keep the attendance fairly regular. Twelve of the nineteen women whose work I am reporting took some of the examinations in the course of study for Bible women but the results are not yet known. Four others were prepared but failed to reach the place of examination.
Basim Berar

Sumati Hiralal

Grace Ralph

Prema N. Godbole

Our hope for the future.
Girls in training
Pusad Circuit. Three of the men workers have been married during the past year and we now have two Bible women and one teacher more than last year. One Bible woman and the teacher work in Umarkhed, and the other Bible woman in Pusad. In Umarkhed there are a number of girls attending the school where Sagunabai is teaching, and the same is true of the school in Dahagaon a village out from Umarkhed where Marthabai is teaching, and at Pusad the woman teacher, Dinabai, has a number of girls too so there are the beginnings of three day schools for girls on this circuit. Two women at Pusad and two at Umarkhed do evangelistic work. The workers on the Pusad Circuit, and in fact all over the district, seem to be making an increasingly large number of friends among the people of the towns in which they live and are more and more welcomed as they go about their work of singing and preaching the gospel.

Hingoli Circuit has one woman in the day school work and two in evangelistic work in Hingoli and two women in evangelistic work in Kalamnuri. The school work has not prospered owing to illness on the part of the teacher, Paulinebai, and a general lack of interest which seems hard to overcome. This is to be deplored for a teacher whose pupils are regular in attendance and interested has as good a chance to do effective work as one in evangelistic work.

Nanded Circuit has one woman in school work in Purna and two women in evangelistic work in each of the following towns: Nanded, Purna, and Basmathnagar. All this circuit as well as Hingoli circuit is in the Nizam’s Dominions. From this circuit we have sent a young woman to Muttra for training as an assistant. She is an Anglo-Indian Methodist and we hope she will develop into a valuable worker in due time.

Besides the district evangelistic work I have a share in the work of the boy’s hostel. At present there are sixty-eight boys in the hostel. Up to the time of the annual conference of last year we had not had any more illness than usual. When we got home from conference we found several boys with fever and from that time for several weeks we had constant illness, sometimes as many as seventeen in the sick-room. This meant an endless amount of nursing and extra work in caring for them but all recovered and since then up to the present time we have had very little illness among them.

We are grateful to the patrons of the evangelistic work for their financial support that makes it possible to put forth continued effort and also for their prayers. May we each be ever more faithful to our part wherever we are.
Basim City and Circuit Evangelistic Work

Missionary

This area has been characterized by two things this year, changes and babies. After the summer holidays Yashodabai Tukaram, who had been at Risod during the previous year, was transferred with her husband to Basim where they are working in the Boys' school. In her place went Renokabai who had just come out of the Theological school at Nagpur, where she had completed the course of study covering three years. About the same time Jankibai who had been working in Medsi was discontinued from the work and Baijibai who had also just come out of the Theological school was sent to take her place. When District Conference came, Baijibai was transferred out of the Circuit to another appointment and in her place went Alicebaj who had been working in Pardi. To take the place of Alicebaj in Pardi, Sarlubai was transferred from another part of the District. At the same time Miriambai was transferred from Mangrulpir to another circuit and Kamlabai was brought from another appointment and sent to Mangrulpir. The only change that has been made in Basim itself was in the addition of one new worker, Sarlubai, to the number already employed.

Renokabai has a baby that was born about the first of April, Alicebaj's baby came early in the year, Ruthbai's was born about the end of October, Minimabai's about November, and Nazlibai's early in the year; all of these are doing well, while Kamlabai lost hers.

With all these things happening I fear the work has not made the progress that it should. Mangrulpir has suffered for a long time because of the fact that we have had but one woman there and she was very poorly educated. This year one good Bible woman was sent there at District Conference but the outlook was very discouraging because the city is strongly Muhammadan and it is difficult for one woman to work alone; however since that time one other women has joined her and we are very hopeful that more satisfactory work may be accomplished.

Personally I have given very little time to supervision. Early in the year illness in the school made it practically impossible for me to get out. I spent several days on the Pardi appointment visiting a number of the surrounding villages as well. I made three efforts at Mangrulpir; on one occasion I was called back because of the illness of the daughter of the tonga driver, once I was taken ill myself and it became necessary to come home; but on a third occasion I was able to go to a few places with the one Bible woman who was there. I spent several days in Medsi and also a number in Risod so that I visited all of the places where the women work and nearly all of them twice during the year.
Christmas brought me the longed for motor car, or at least the news that it had been granted, and when it is an accomplished fact I shall be able to spend a great deal more time out in these centres. I desire to express my gratitude to the givers.

BOMBAY DISTRICT

Marathi Evangelistic Work

Missionary

B. E. Elliott

This is not a year's report as I only returned to India in March of 1923. In spite of the great difficulties with which the work and workers had been burdened in Bombay during my three years of absence I found the work going on in much the same way as I had left it. Several of the old and faithful Bible women had gone to meet their Saviour and their Lord face to face, after years of service in proclaiming His message to the women of this big city. Other women have taken their places and are going about day by day proclaiming His word which He has promised us shall not return unto Him void but that it shall accomplish that which He pleases and that it shall prosper in the thing whereto He sends it.

Sometimes, as I've listened to the Bible women telling their Bible story in the homes, I have wondered if we'll ever see the fruit of their teaching. Many of the women have told us how hungry their hearts are to know God and how they have fasted and prayed for peace. We have told them of the Christ who can satisfy the hunger of all who come to Him and who gives the "peace which passeth all understanding." As yet they are "unsatisfied." As you women of other lands think of these Indian women who are longing to know God and whose hearts are hungry for communion and fellowship with Him will you not join us in our prayers that "haply they might find Him."

The reclamation schemes of Bombay which have been started within the last three years have brought about a great many changes in different sections of the city. Several of the sections which are being reclaimed are to be built up with tenements or chawls to relieve many of the over crowded sections. This new work has brought in thousands of up-country people. To many of them it was their first trip out of their villages. To others it was the novel experience of living for the first time in a properly built house, and to all it was the bewildering sensation of adjusting themselves to the new conditions which they found in this big, over-crowded city. Many of these people are village Christians who have to meet for the first time the
temptation of city life. And as so often happens while they are in the process of readjusting themselves, their religious life is neglected and before they realize what has happened they have drifted back into their practices of Hinduism. As we consider this one phase of the problem with all its wonderful opportunities, possibilities, and demands for service we are appalled at its magnitude. It is only as we remember that He has promised to be with us and that "He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think," that we are able to face this problem with courage and hope.

In one of these new sections the call for a day school was so insistent and so appealing that finally one was opened. We have nearly eighty boys and girls crowded into one little room and all taught by one teacher. Surely it is a Herculean task for one person but the teacher is doing her best day by day hoping that her bit given under such trying circumstances may help some boy or girl to get a vision of a better and more worthwhile life. There are about twenty-five girls already in the beginners' class. Many of these are rather large for this class but as it is their first opportunity to attend school they are quite willing to start in with the smaller girls in order to get what they want.

As the work of the new year opens up before us, we feel as the author of an old hymn expressed it long ago:

Peace perfect peace—our future all unknown,
Jesus we know and He is on His throne.

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**Marathi Day Schools**

**Missionary**

*Leona E. Ruppel*

It is with a heart full of gratitude to God that I begin my report for the year. While the day schools still come far short of what we would wish them to be, we are glad to report that progress has been made. All of the teachers now employed in these schools, except one, are trained teachers. Although I am sorry to say that only one of these six women teachers belongs to our Mission, still one of the joys of the day school work this year has been the loyalty and devotion with which they have done their work. There has been an increase in the attendance as well as great improvement in the regularity of attendance.

The Agripada School is our largest and best school. The enrollment at inspection time was seventy-three, the majority of the pupils being girls. The children in this school are largely Beni-Israel children, i.e. Jews. On visiting the homes one finds miniature law scrolls containing bits of the Hebrew law, fastened to the door posts. It was a joy on Children's Day to hear these
CUTTING DOWN HILLS AND FILLING IN HOLLOWs, BOMBAY
THE AGRIPADA SCHOOLHOUSE AND THE NEW WALL

TENEMENTS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE AGRIPADA SCHOOL
children sing Christian songs, honoring the Christ, whom they as a nation reject.

We are very glad to report that the wall around the Agripada School compound is now completed. This does away with the annoyance of loafers on the school veranda, both during school hours and when school is not in session. We were fortunate in getting the contract let for a smaller sum than the original estimate. This made it possible to do much needed painting, colour washing and minor repairs. It was also possible to grade the compound, lay out a small school garden, and install two swings and a see-saw. These things have made the school doubly attractive to the children and has made attendance more regular.

The Agripada School property, located as it is on a fine corner lot, is now a credit to the W.F.M.S. Just across the street is the block of a dozen chawls or tenements. When one visits these crowded, badly lighted and ill ventilated chawls and feels that one could never keep well living under such conditions, one cannot but be glad that we have such a pleasant school so nearby where these children may receive training to help them to become good men and women.

The Madanpura School continues about the same, with an attendance of twenty or more. One day I found some thirty children crowded into the one small room. The teacher of this school has been in our Mission employ for fifteen years, and is the only one of the teachers who is a Methodist. It is one of the tragedies of our Marathi work that we have to depend so largely on the off-scouring of other Missions for our workers. This school is located in a neighborhood which is largely Muhammadan.

The Tadwadi School is made up largely of low or outcaste children, whose parents are very poor. Some are not able to provide books and slates. Since putting a trained teacher in this school, the attendance has greatly improved. This teacher has real ability in handling little children and has been a real asset in handling this class of children. On October 1, this school moved into new quarters in the Improvement Trust Chawls. We were most fortunate to be able to secure these rooms. Imagine having to pay nearly $7 rent for two small rooms. Imagine still further, if you can, what it means for one or more families to live in one small room, such as these are, and pay over $3.50 rent when the income is frequently only $8 per month.

It is our hope that during the coming school year there may be more of temperance, health, and hygiene instruction, some illustrated lectures for both parents and children, and possibly a Baby Show. We want these schools to contribute vitally to the good of the community in which they are situated. Some of the children are in our schools only a short time, but we ask your prayers that the Christian instruction which they receive during that time may not be in vain and may some day bear fruit.
Hindustani Zenana Work

Missionary

Leona E. Ruppel

The greatest joy of having charge of work in a vernacular which I did not know has been to become well acquainted with Mrs. Shantabai David. It is she, who with the help of Mrs. Marybai Johnson, does this zenana work.

The Hindustani zenana work is carried on very largely in Khoja homes. The Khojas are a large group of Muhammadans who worship and follow the Aga Khan instead of Muhammad. There are always great festivities whenever the Aga Khan visits Bombay. Some of the Khoja women have thought that the Aga Khan must be Christ come a second time, but many are getting their eyes opened. They are beginning to contrast the way the Aga Khan does with the way Christ did, and ask why the Aga Khan indulges in horse-racing, gambling, and such other worldly things, and why he collects and accepts such large sums of money from his followers, many of whom can ill afford to give so much.

These zenana women are very fond of reading. In the absence of good reading material they read many trashy novels. Mrs. David is working hard to meet this need. This year she spent Rs. 22 on books and leaflets. These books are carefully read and passed on from one home to another, and more are asked for. Even the men in the homes read them. Many of these Khoja women read English, so that many good wholesome story books in English can be used in this work. Perhaps someone reading this report can help supply this great need. Even if direct Bible teaching isn’t welcomed, a story with religious teaching is never rejected.

During the past year there have been many examples of persons who have been deeply moved by the Christian teaching. Mrs. David feels certain that one old gentleman who often listened when she taught the women, found Christ shortly before he died. One woman listened to the glib talk of an atheist and became much disturbed. She was so relieved after Mrs. David’s next visit, because the Bible lesson had again reassured her that there was a God who was a loving Father and she felt certain that the atheist was a liar. Another woman, who has been reading the Bible for two years, said recently, “You pray for me, that if your religion is right that I may believe in it, and I will pray for you that if my religion is right you may believe in it, because I want to be in Heaven with you.” That day she said, “I will open the Bible and see what it says.” The workers prayed and the Bible opened to the Parable of the Sheepfold and the Good Shepherd, in John 10. Jesus said, “I am the door of the sheep.”

She was so impressed that she was speechless and continued to sit there in silent amazement. Mrs. David writes of
MRS. SHANTABAI DAVID

Hindustani zenana worker and lay delegate to
General Conference
A BLOCK OF NEW TENEMENTS, BOMBAY

THE GUJARATI BIBLE WOMEN, BOMBAY
another home, "The women all gather around us hungry to hear
the Word of God, and when we leave them they say, 'How happy
you make us by telling us of God's Love and care for us. Come
again soon.'"

Another great encouragement in the work this year has been
the large and increased number of requests for New Testaments
and Bibles.

Mrs. David writes in her annual report, "God is always with
us when we go to work. We have more than eighty houses. We
visit ten to fifteen houses each day and sometimes more. Mrs.
Johnson and I work together. We are both old, yet God gives us
the strength to climb daily two, three and four storey houses, and
we return home as happy as two children, because His presence
goes with us. He never fails us." Including the homes which
are visited less frequently than once a week, the number visited
reaches a hundred.

Imagine my great joy at annual conference time to learn that
Mrs. David was elected as the lay delegate from the Bombay Con-
fERENCE to General Conference. It came as a complete surprise
to Mrs. David. She is the first Indian woman to go as a delegate
to General Conference. Everyone is very happy over the
election, and all agree that she deserves this honour. For many
years she was a voluntary worker in our Church and she only
became a paid worker when it became absolutely necessary. I
can only wish many of the readers of this report the joy of know-
ing a faithful worker, who has given many evidences of a Christ-
like spirit, and who finds great joy in serving her Master wherever
she goes. We ask your prayers for these workers and this
zenana work. In due season we shall reap if we faint not.

Gujarati Schools, Hostel and Evangelistic Work

Missionary

LAURA F. AUSTIN

Were the tasks of the year to be closely classified under the
heading of my appointment I fear that some which have come my
way might find difficulty in retaining a place in the lists, yet I am
persuaded that very few could not rightly be considered a legiti-
mate part of the Christian service which we are trying to perform
in Bombay. The city is growing, and so is the impression upon
me, of the great need of a strong Christian service within it. What
is being accomplished seems so meagre beside what should be
done!

Our Gujarati Schools number two, one among the lower class,
and one among Christians and pupils of a bit better class, socially
speaking. Both teaching staffs have been strengthened during the
year. This already has had its effect upon the character of the work done and will still have more effect as time goes on. The roll in the two schools is now about seventy-five. The four teachers are earnest Christians, and their influence upon the pupils is good. The Sunday School held in connection with the DeLisle Road School has about forty-five in attendance. Several big boys who were formerly pupils in the school still attend Sunday School. Arrangements have been made to give pictures illustrating the lessons, to the pupils this coming year. This will help in keeping up the interest.

In the evangelistic work we have tried to visit the Christian women in their homes in the tenements, or wherever they reside, and to work out from these centers to their non-Christian neighbours. This work is slow, and demands much time to care for it properly, but out of its faithful performance many of our poorer Christian women in Bombay obtain all the inspiration and help they get from the preaching of the Word, for many of them never, or scarcely ever, get to the Church services.

A new phase of the Evangelistic work this year has been the opening up of Salsette Circuit on the island north of Bombay Island. Three Bible women have been working there and the new Christian community has a goodly number of women and girls in it. I visited a group one evening at sunset, and the responsive eager faces of the listeners was an invitation to come again and again. A number of girls and boys are ready for school from this side. They are asking us to open schools in two places, but we have no funds to hire more teachers. The time of the present workers is full. We need to supply Christian education for these children, which will be within easy reach of their parents as to location, and available within their financial ability. One little girl has promised to attend our little boarding school at Club Back Road.

The little Girls' Boarding School has not grown in numbers as yet, but the few we have are doing nicely. I hope others may send their children next year, though the parents do not feel that they can afford the fees we ask, even though the cost per child is much more. The education of their girls is not valuable enough in their eyes to warrant sacrifice. If I had a few scholarships for this school I might be able to make a beginning worth while.

Our Bombay home has been made livable, and we have felt settled again for six months or more. It has also done good service in affording temporary shelter to our missionary friends passing through Bombay. They all seem thankful to have such a beautiful, comfortable place in which to stop. Their coming and going has been a blessing to us who live here, too.

The purchase of a "Chevrolet" car in August has helped greatly in the general work of the station, and in the other specific work as well. We very much need its upkeep now.
The hostel is doing good service, although it is a temporary one, for it must be rebuilt before we can put it into proper use. Meantime a dozen people are living in it and working in their various ways, for the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in Bombay.

The last year has been a year of advance in Bombay's Methodism, with the re-modelling and re-dedication of the oldest Methodist Church as a Gujarati and Hindustani center, and the laying of the corner stone of the new Marathi Kanarese community center at Sankli Street. Bombay development in secular lines is pushing forward rapidly. New blocks of tenements are being finished and opened for use. We need to be awake and doing that our work for the Master need not lag behind.

We pray that the Father's guidance may be upon the work of the W.F.M.S. in Bombay and that He will provide the ways and means for the advancement of His Kingdom here, and that He may use us, His workers, to the enrichment of many lives.


Taylor Church

Missionary

Ruth Collier

Being away from Taylor Church for some months in language study, I do not have a great deal of work to report.

Shortly after the first of the year I became social leader for the young people. In connection with this we had a social at the parsonage and later in the Church Tower rooms every two weeks. During the month of February we had one every Thursday night in order to reach the young people who must do night work every other week. The socials were of various kinds and provided good as well as clean fun for young people who are tempted by the allurements of city life. We closed each social with short devotions, thus impressing upon them that we are a religious body. Besides the socials, we went on several picnics to the beach both in the early morning and on moonlight nights for swimming. Our young people were not only active in a social and recreational way, but also spiritually. Each of them took his turn in leading the Sunday evening devotional meeting and was just as interested in this as in the socials and picnics, and we had very fine inspirational meetings.

As we had no special music for our evening church service, we started a choir with the Epworth Leaguers. Most of the young people went from the League service into the church and occupied the choir seats. Because of the illness of our music leader, we were unable to give special numbers all the time, but the choir helped the music in the services very much and gave the young people a vital interest in the service.
About the first of February I organized an Intermediate and Junior League. I myself taught the Intermediate class and helped a substitute with the Juniors. Our League attendance was quite good until May and then, because of so much fever, it decreased considerably. At the end of May we closed Intermediate and Junior Leagues and prizes were given to the children who had made the best records in League attendance, coming on time, Church attendance, Bible and Catechism drill. I was impressed with the very keen interest shown in the Bible drill and really felt that the children were helped much by it.

I also did pastoral calling with Mr. Collier and did some by myself.

Although I was unable to do much of the work I had hoped to carry out, nevertheless I believe God was with us and blessed our work.

NAGPUR DISTRICT

Kamptee Circuit

Missionary

Mrs. Elsa M. Borgman

"As thy day, so shall thy strength be."

How quickly the year has passed and we are called upon to give an account of the work that has been accomplished during the year.

The work in Kamptee has been carried on in spite of many hindrances. However we thank God who has given us encouragement in seeing some one come out on the Lord's side.

My chief work has been in connection with the Boys' Boarding School, helping superintend the making of the boys' garments, watching their food and looking after the sick ones.

The school work has gone on regularly each day during the year. We are most grateful that the work of the year has not been hindered by epidemics of any kind. The Girls' School at Nuva Gudam (in the center of the city) started the year with an enrolment of 60 girls. We are glad to have secured a good Call woman, who goes to the homes and brings the girls to the school. We hope some day, to have a strong girls' school in the center of the city.

The Bible women have done good work with the guidance and help of Raminabai Aleker. One new Bible woman and one teacher have been taken on during the year. I have gone with the Bible women to visit the zenana and have enjoyed seeing the eagerness with which the women listen to the Gospel. They are always glad to see us in their homes.
Sunday schools are being held by the women in the city. Dirty, ragged, hungry children they are, but how willing to listen to the Gospel stories. It is such as these for whom Christ died. The seed is being sown, but God alone watereth and bringeth forth the harvest.

Each Saturday the women meet at the Mission bungalow for the centenary working class.

One of our most earnest and faithful Bible women, Thanabai, who has been in the Mission work for 30 years, was taken from us last May. The angel of death has also visited the home of our Indian worker, Vishwas Pawer, and has taken their little David, who last year received the first prize in the Baby Show held in Nagpur, C.P., during Health Week in November. Our hearts go out in loving sympathy to these bereaved families.

Need. Our present need is trained Bible women.

We enjoy the work very much and wish that we could do more for this land. It is almost 'Xmas time and we want to give our boys, girls, and workers a good time. We will not be able to do much for each one, there are so many. We are sure that you will pray and work for these people who have so many temptations and so little to brighten their lives.

We wish to thank the ladies of the Des Moines and Pacific Branches for their interest and help. We enter the new year with great hope and faith knowing that "His yoke is easy and His burden is light." And because His strength "is sufficient for the day."

Nagpur Girls' School

Missionaries MILDRED DRESCHER, EDNA HOLDER

At Conference last year Miss Holder and I were appointed to the Nagpur Girls' School and we were so glad to welcome her into our family a few days before Christmas. During January and February she studied with a pandit in Nagpur but we all thought it would be best for her to go to Language School until after her first examination in October. We are very happy to report that she passed the examination very well and is now studying for her second.

We had no servants in the school and a matron was not easily found at that time of year but we had a trained teacher, Tarabai, who had had experience in that capacity and she accepted the position. She is a Christian high caste widow whose husband died during the influenza epidemic a few years ago and although she belongs to the Church of England she devotes her whole heart and energy to our school.
In Tarabai’s place on the teaching staff we secured Mrs. Gadre, who is a niece of Pandita Ramabai and she has been a great help to our work.

Just at the close of school in April we had an influenza epidemic and about half the children had it before they were sent home, but there were no serious cases for which we were very thankful.

When school opened in June we had over seventy girls but more have been coming until now there are eighty, one matron and one teacher living in the bungalow with us. Can you imagine living in a family of eighty in such crowded quarters? But I must add that they are exceptionally good and we have some very happy times together.

We were able to get two trained Methodist teachers for the lower primary classes and Mrs. Gadre and Ratnamalabai of last year’s force remained with us for the Upper Primary and Vernacular Middle classes.

So far our school has been a Primary and Vernacular Middle school which means that the English is an elective subject and all the work is done in Marathi. If a girl goes through High school, as the rules now stand, she must study English in an Anglo-Vernacular Middle school and prepare to take most of the High school course in English. Government is trying to change it so that the whole course will be in Marathi, but as yet they have not text books and it may be some years before they do have. We have never had a girl from our school go through High school but one of our girls is finishing this year in the Hindi High School of our Mission in Jubbulpur. She had to learn the Hindi plus the English and has done very well. Now that we are near the splendid U.F.C. High School we felt that we should make a beginning and we chose five who had the highest standings in their classes and are sending them as day scholars to the High school. They are so happy and it has been an inspiration to all the others in the school. The Basim School also sent two girls from there for High school and they live in our hostel. In order to have hostel space for our older girls we had to give up one of our bed rooms and condense our worldly goods a bit.

Bombay Conference made a rule that all parents should furnish clothing, plates, cups, etc., for their children and we put it into effect this school year. Miss Goodall already had them furnishing Sunday frocks and plates so it was not so difficult to insist upon the rest. A very few came without the required articles but most of them brought their supplies and seemed to have a new sense of pride and respectability which never existed in the old order of things. We are very pleased with the results and the general effect upon the school. For those who are too poor to furnish the full quota we are buying damaged cloth from the cotton mills and selling it to them cheaper than they can get
it in the shops. This may seem a big item taken out of our expenses but when they passed this they also reduced the fees per child so we do not receive as much money from the parents.

From the proceeds of a fancy bazaar which was held last fall we received one hundred and eighteen rupees as our share and it was decided that it should be used for our orphan children. Our funds have always been so limited that we have had to do things the cheapest way. Our orphan children have never really felt that they owned anything or had much say about what they wanted. This money made it possible to allow them to choose some cloth and the way they wished it made. They had always worn frocks but when they had their choice they asked for jackets and skirts like the Indian children wear. When school opened and all the others had their clothing in their own tin boxes we took some more of the money and bought boxes for them and from the parcels sent from home we took for each a little bag containing soap, comb, and mirror. Three children were allotted to each box and after we had all their clothing packed in its proper place we called them and presented them with the keys. You should have seen their joy, but what was best of all it made them like the other children and they really owned something.

During the summer two of our family, Radha and Rashmi, were married and both of them are teaching in day schools. Radha was married in the Nagpur church but Rashmi was married in her home about twenty-five miles from Nagpur. Her parents used to work in the manganese mines and lived in a tiny hut. The children ran naked and when I went there after my arrival in India over three years ago they seemed to me a most pitiable sight. Through the efforts of Rev. Warner fourteen of those families have moved into government farming land and have built for themselves as nice homes as any Indian Christian. Rashmi’s wedding took place in front of her home in this new settlement and it was an inspiration to look back three years and realize what a great change had been wrought in so short a time. Our hearts swelled with praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father who had made it possible.

We are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the money for our new property and have been busy making plans for the buildings. We have quite outgrown our present quarters and had so hoped that we could move into our own home next year. However a way always opens for us when the time comes, so we shall not be discouraged.

It has been a blessed, happy year for all of us and we ask you to continue to pray for our work here. It is such a comfort to know that all over the United States there are hundreds of loyal hearts lifted in prayer for us in India every day.
Girls' Normal School

Missionary

Mildred Drescher

Last year there were four girls in the Normal Class but when school closed in April, Radha was married and went to her own home. Mrs. Gaikwad who was in charge last year returned to us for another year and became a member of our Church. This year we began with three in the class, but two more came to us from the Free Methodist Mission in Yeotmal, and the five have had a profitable time under Mrs. Gaikwad's splendid instruction.

They are in the midst of their practical teaching and so eager for help and suggestions. The inspectress formerly had charge of training classes for teachers both in England and India and when she paid us an official visit she asked if she might come to us on her holidays and help the girls with their teaching. This she has done and it has meant so much to us all to have the benefit of her experience.

According to Government rules our girls cannot sit for the Government examination for teachers because the school has not been recognized by them and it has not been in existence long enough to make application, but the inspectress has offered to grant us a temporary recognition for two years to give our girls a chance and we are preparing for the examination.

It is a bit difficult to judge their ability to discipline as they have to live all day with the children they teach and it is very much like a big sister trying to teach the little sisters in a large family so we have to make allowances. In our new plant the Normal school is to be quite separate from the Primary school.

We have had to depend upon other Missions so much for our trained teachers that it is a great joy to feel that we are beginning to get results from our school although it is so new. We appreciate your co-operation in our task and trust you will continue your prayers and help.

Later

Since this report has been written we have had the news that Government will sell us the land for our plant and the money for it has been received. Words fail to express the joy which we feel and they are far from adequate when we try to say "Thank You."

District Evangelistic Work

Missionary

May E. Sutherland

My first glimpse of the work of Nagpur District was early in January when I went with Mr. and Mrs. Warner to the various places where we have day schools to hear the Christmas prog-
rammes the children had prepared. It was a very pleasant and
inspiring way in which to begin the work for it was impossible to
look into the happy, eager faces of so many little ones without
having hope for the future of the work. In all of the schools
the programme consisted entirely of hymns, Bible readings, and
stories which were sometimes dramatized. Nearly every part of
the Bible which tells anything about the birth of Christ was
memorized and repeated. Surely they cannot know so much of the
Word without its bearing fruit sometime.

Our day school work is one of the most hopeful phases of the
work. When the need for Bible women is so great, we are some-
times inclined to feel a little disappointed that the day schools claim
so many of our workers, and necessarily the best prepared workers;
but the teachers in the schools have a wonderful opportunity every
day to teach the children about the One who loves little children and
who can help them to be strong and noble men and women. So
we will not begrudge our schools the very best. This year in
some places the teachers have worked part time in the schools and
have spent some time visiting in the homes of the children, thus
reaching the entire family. Not as much has been accomplished
in this line as we hoped for, as after the day’s duties are over in
the school, the teachers have little time or energy left for other
work. However I have been gratified to see how well some of
them have taken this work in hand. The Bible women, too, have
been giving special attention to the homes of our school children.
We feel that by thus concentrating on a certain group we will
accomplish more than by the schools reaching one group and the
Bible women another. Likewise we have been giving some special
attention to follow-up work. If we can, through the Bible women
keep some hold on the school girls after they have left school and
continue to give instruction in their homes, we will not lose what
ground we have gained with them.

A few new women have been added to our staff of workers.
Three have come from our Bible Training School, equipped and
eager for service. One came from the Girls’ Normal School. She
has had only one year of normal work but even that much
makes her better prepared for work. We are grateful indeed
that the Bible Training School is helping to supply our great need
for more trained workers and we hope that the day is not far
distant, when every worker will be especially trained for her work
and thoroughly consecrated to the task of bringing India to
Christ.

One of the most pleasant experiences of the year was a trip
to Amori on the Brahmapuri Circuit. In February, the Mahars
(one of the depressed classes) held a convention there and
degregates from over a large part of the country met to discuss and
plan for better educational and social advantages for the Mahar
community. Religion was also one of the topics for discussion and
we were in hopes from what some of their leaders had told us that they would make a decision in favour of Christianity. Mr. Warner with some of his workers went there to do what they could to help them come to a right decision and I also, with two of my Bible women, spent several days there. A sect of the Muhammadans prevented the people from coming to a decision in regard to Christianity so we were much disappointed in regard to that. However we spent several happy, profitable days among them. Very few of the women had heard of Christ and it was such a joy to have the privilege of telling them of Him. For several days they followed us around eagerly and hungrily drinking in every word. Their faces would brighten up when they heard the message of a Saviour's love but a look of almost despair would soon take the place of hope and they would say "What you say sounds very good, but in these few days we will only learn a little and then you will go and we will have no one to teach and help us. Send some one to live among us and teach us every day." I am very glad to say that we are sending some one there. One of our very best, most consecrated women will be there as soon as living accommodation can be made for her and her husband.

Such an experience as this at Amori brings both joy and sorrow. There is no joy so deep as telling the story to those who have never heard it, but the thought always comes of the many thousands whom we are not reaching at all, who are heart hungry for the peace and joy which Christ alone can give. There are hundreds and hundreds of villages in this great district where the women have never heard of Christ and where they would listen just as eagerly and gladly as the women in Amori did, but the workers are so few and without any conveyance, itinerating equipment, and practically no itinerating allowance, it is impossible to reach any but the main stations which can be reached by train.

We have just finished our annual Summer School session and District Conference and the women have gone back for another year's work and we do pray that it may be a year of great blessing.

Marathi Bible Training School and District Work

Missionary

GERTRUDE L. WARNER

Charles Kingsley speaks for us when he says, "But after all, what is speculation to practice? What does God require of us, but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with Him?" The longer I live, the more important this seems to me, and all other questions seem less, so—if we can but live the simple, right life—
Do the work that's nearest,
Though it's dull at times;
Helping, when we meet them
Lame dogs over stiles.

The year that is just passed has in many respects been the happiest of our lives. It has been such a blessed experience to go over the District whenever opportunities have come, and they have been more or less frequent. We have been in some of the circuits many times, and have been in all at one time or another during the year, except Gondia. Until this year, when Miss Sutherland took over the direct supervision of the work, these visits were always so filled with business, discussions of examinations, increase of pay, new maps, registers, and supplies to be gotten for the schools, that I must confess I often dreaded going and was glad to get away! But this year it has all been so different, while Mr. Warner and Miss Sutherland have been busy with knotty problems and details I have often sat and chatted with the people, loved their babies, and been just a friend and big sister; I truly like this so much better! That doesn't mean I'm not as interested as ever in the problems, for I truly am, but it is glorious to feel I do not have to carry the heavy weights alone any more, and that the little time that I do get free for outside work from my home and family duties, can be given to the kind of work I love, and not all have to go into the work of supervision.

The things that have impressed me most during the year have been, the steady advance in our Christian Girls' Boarding School here in Nagpur. It has had a splendid healthy growth in every department throughout the year. The Day schools in Mangalwari, Manser and Umrer are certainly stronger than a year ago. In Manser there has been such a marked improvement that it is really difficult to recognize the school as being the same one!

Some of the brightest spots of a year ago at this time, are now places that are giving us great concern. It is just now, a year ago, that we fully expected within a very short time, a great in-gathering of at least a thousand souls, on the Brahmawati Circuit. Yet in February the Muhammedans came in with a much stronger force than ours, and with much more money to work with, and absolutely upset everything. The people have not become Muhammedans, probably never will, but they have had so much teaching against Christianity one wonders if they will ever become Christians, either. So the year has had its dark spots as well as the bright ones.

District Conference and Summer School was as usual a busy time. We were able to rent better houses than we have ever had before, so the people from the out-stations were very comfortable and happy. In addition to the busy sessions of Conference and Committees, a great deal of time was given to sick folk and in
trying to get them in touch with good medical aid while they were here, as many of them are from places where it is impossible to get medical attention. Another thing that we did, which was really greatly appreciated, was a cloth bazaar we ran for a part of two days. We secured from the Empress mills Rs. 1,100 of cloth, most of it at a reduction of 25 per cent. besides the per cent. one gets off from buying a large quantity. So we were able to sell the cloth ever so much cheaper than the bazaar rate. That was attractive, but an even greater attraction was we didn’t demand cash payment as the bazaar shops do, but devised a plan where it could be paid for within three months, one third of their bill to be cut from their salaries before it left the office, for the next three months. We were most happy while trying this job, because we felt that since we are asking the people to furnish all the clothes for their children while they are in our Boarding schools, it was our part to help them to do it, if possible.

Health week in Nagpur ends to-day. We have tried to take our share in this work also. A baby show was held here on our compound for all the Protestant Christian babies about a month ago. From this number, eight were selected to appear at the big baby show at the Town Hall yesterday. So we were all there in our best bib and tuck! We will know this afternoon, if we have won any prizes or not. At five o’clock this afternoon all the prizes for the entire campaign are to be distributed, and the grand final of the whole week, is planned. Just here, I might tell you, that on the last Sunday during District Conference our little David died. You remember he and Ruth won first prizes as twins last year, at the Town Hall.

**Marathi Bible Training School**

You will see a picture of our graduating class, with the faculty on the opposite page. Our graduating exercises were held in May when we were having a daily temperature of 114 degrees in the shade, so needless to say we gave all our guests and visitors a warm reception!

Five women graduated from the school in May, and went immediately to their appointments. This year we have had three new women enter the school. The number would have been much larger, had all the men been married, but at present we have five bachelors in the school.

Our Dorcas class meets each Saturday. This year we’ve been re-inforced by fifteen older girls from the school, so we’ve gotten lots of work done. Some of it is very pretty too. We will have our bazaar which we’ve had for three years now, on November 30. Miss Sly, daughter of Sir Frank Sly, our Governor, has consented to open it again for us. This we will appreciate as it will be her last opportunity as she will marry three days later, and leave us, for England.
FACULTY AND GRADUATING CLASS MARATHI BIBLE TRAINING SCHOOL
THE TEMPLE GHATT ON THE MUTHA-MULLA RIVER AT POONA

Some fine old temples are here and it is a favourite gathering spot for Hindoo worshippers.

A HINDOO WORSHIPPER

He is at a Tirtha, which means where two rivers unite. Hindoos believe that where two holy rivers unite they are met by a third invisible stream from Heaven. Such spots are very holy, such as the union of the Ganges and Jumna at Allahabad. This man is evidently on that spot. Sometimes many thousands gather there.
We sometimes feel discouraged about the women and the school as we watch it in the daily grind, but as we go out into the district and see the graduates at their daily work, we do see that their training has not been in vain. In May a couple from the school were sent to Manser, hence the new school there! These things do encourage us to press forward.

Many times during the year our thoughts, our desires, and our longings have been just such as are so beautifully expressed in these words of S. A. Brooke's, that I should like in closing this report to quote them; they are these:

"Pour forth all the odour, colour, charm, and happiness you have to all your friends, to your home, to your daily society, to the poor and the sorrowful, the joyous and the prosperous. Brighten darkened lives, soften the rude, make a sunshine of peace in stony places, cover the faults and follies of men with the flowers of love. Love others, and you will spread the delight of youth over all whom you meet, and in doing so you will live intensely; for you will have within not only your own life, but also the lives of all whom you bless by love, That is the best religion, the life of Christ, the very life of God. That is to be at one with Him whose smile kindles the Universe. Whose love, moving in the spring, in the beauty that enchants our senses and heart, and inspires our soul."

PS. Since writing the above we have heard that Rewa Prasad, a Basim District boy, who is attending High School here in Nagpur, won the first prize of Rs. 50, for writing the best essay presented during health week! Is not that doing well for a Methodist boy, out of a city of 157,000 population?

POONA DISTRICT

Poona Evangelistic School and Medical Work

Missionary

Mrs. W. H. Stephens

We seem to be living in a great rush this year, everything seems to come quickly. We have just finished our District Conference which is early this year. In three weeks we hold our Conference in Bombay, and this is held several weeks earlier than other years. Then the Centenary Conference comes which is also early.

The past year has been the best that we have had in our District work, I mean on the whole, both in Poona and circuits. Our city schools for all classes have been examined and the Government inspector was very pleased with them, and while we expected less grant than last year we received more. We have a new school for bazaar children on the compound, and some of the children are in the High school, so are able to attend daily with
the boys in the Boarding school. This is a great help as it gives a larger number in the High school.

Our Boarding school is full, we cannot take in all who want to come, but we aim to have only those who can study and go on to the higher standards. We have some bright boys, and some who are fairly good. I would not have you think that these boys are perfect and never make any trouble, for they do make quite a lot. I know each boy, so am able to deal with each one in a different way. All of the larger boys and many of the middle ones have joined Church, and are trying to do right.

We have several pundits, one woman teacher, and the master, so we have a good staff. We have gotten the equipment for the High school right through, we are happy about this, for it does cost quite a bit to get everything that we need. The drill master has been a great help to the boys, and he has also had a young men's meeting with the boys every Saturday afternoon.

The parents of the lads had a fine afternoon with the boys during the District Conference and the house master, woman teacher and lads gave a social and tea, and the boys showed off their games and drills. The parents were pleased to see how fast their boys could run and jump. If you want to reach the hearts of the parents the world over, make the children show up. If you want to reach the heart of man, give him a good meal, so we did it up fine, and we feel good.

Our City and Bible woman's work is good, and many have joined the Church, and our Sunday schools are full. Our church building will hardly hold all of the people who come on Sunday, and it is good to see the number of young people that we have. A good number of our Sunday school pupils went up for the yearly examination, but we have not heard the results.

Our zenana workers are reaching many of the caste people, and they are much encouraged for the women receive them gladly, and want them to come often, and nothing is taught but the Bible. I have two good zenana workers.

Our Bible women have brought a good number into the church, and have helped very much in the Sunday schools, as well as League and other services. With the City schools, and Bible women we reach whole families. The visiting of Hindu women is hard, because the work has to be done after the husband has his meal, and during the heat of the day, and then as a rule the women have work to do, and a baby or two to see to, but she works while she listens.

The Indian women are getting more independent every year. I have two good young men who are hunting wives, and the custom will not permit of courting, so we have to help. I cannot get a wife for either of these men, the women say that they can earn their own living and come and go as they like, and not be hit if the food is not as good as the man would like. They want to
know if all of the American women want to marry. I will let you answer that question.

Yes, the women are coming on, and I am glad to see it, for when they come out and are taught, they make better wives and mothers. We have a man and wife, dear friends of ours who go to a village every Sunday and hold services, they are converted Brahmins. We need more such people, and should encourage every person who shows such a spirit. We have many good signs, and as I look back over more than 30 years and see what we had when I began work in India and then look at what we have to-day not only in our Mission, but other Missions, I can truly say, that our Father has been good to us, in allowing us to see some of the fruit of all Christian workers.

Our Poona medical work is small, but we are able to help some of the poorer people, and our Christians, and are very thankful for the money to help in this line of work.

I try to get all of my workers to write reports, but they cannot see the work as we see it, as they have lived among these people so long, and when I ask for reports, they exclaim "Another report," and then go to work and write one just like the last one. I hope that I am not doing the same by you.

Well I can truly say that I am thankful to have some small part in this work. I love it much.

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**Poona, Wagoli and Loni Circuits**

*Missionary*  
*MRS. W. H. STEPHENS*

Our workers in these villages have done their best the past year, and have good results. I always pity the village people, for the village at its best is dull. A few little shops where you can buy a few things, the whole store could be bought out for five dollars. They sometimes have a notice up for a "Grand clearance sale," but I do not think that there is a rush for the stock. Well as I said I always feel depressed in these villages, for when night, or evening comes there is not much lamp light, and it is gloomy. These people live in little huts, and they have little or no furniture. I have visited the caste people in some houses a little better, and they would coax me to come and stay some days with them.

We have a good school in Manjari, and two churches in these villages and we send our pastor out often to them. The school has Christians and all castes in it.

We have done a little medical work among these people, but not as much as we used to, as Government does more for the village people than they used to do, and that makes it easy for them. The people work in the fields, and our workers go out to them, and while they rest during the middle of the day, they teach
these people. During the evenings they go to them, and make the evening more bright by reading to them. They will have a little oil lamp and the one who reads has it near him as he reads. These people like to sing, so our workers always have the hymn book with them, and they have a good sing, and then tell what the hymn means. You see that the worker does brighten their lives. These people are always glad to see our workers, and they listen gladly.

I feel that our village work is the hope of the Marathi country, as the town life gives so many other things, that the people are not as keen to listen.

Our villages near Poona, are all good farming places, so they are more hopeful, and fewer hungry people.

Now I want you to have a little picture of these villages, and the people in their little huts and pray for them. Will you?

Anglo-Indian Home and Taylor High School

Missionaries

MRS. E. H. HUTCHINGS
AGNES C. W. DOVE

The year, now so fast drawing to a close, has held for us much of happy service, and as we look back upon it all, we realize how very much we have to be thankful for. The new dining-hall, pictures of which appeared in last year's Report, has added very materially to the comfort of the boarders and to the efficiency of the work carried on in the hostel. Situated as it is, at the farthest distance possible in the compound from the large dormitory block, we felt it was incomplete without a covered way uniting the two buildings, and we are very glad to be able to report that just about one week before the rains commenced, our covered way was an accomplished fact.

Our family has again been a large one, our number being about one hundred throughout the entire year. The health of the children has been exceedingly good, and we record this fact with much thankfulness, knowing that in many cases this has been a year of sore sickness. We have had only one case of severe illness, and are glad to say that the little girlie has had a complete recovery, and looks so well and bonny again. We have a very good Senior Matron who has a good way in the management of the girls and is very fond of the little ones. Our Junior Matron has left us, after having been here for nearly three years, but her place is being ably filled by two of the senior girls, and they seem very happy in their various duties. Indeed, the senior girls have all proved themselves very helpful in the Home department this year, and have carried on their prefect duties most creditably.

During the rains, gardening has always great attractions for
the girls, and this year the display of flowers was particularly fine. From the forty little plots came most of the flowers which formed the beautiful bouquet presented to Her Excellency Lady Lloyd, who visited our school only a few weeks ago. This visit was the great event of the year, and was anticipated with much excitement. Her Excellency visited all the departments of our institution, and congratulated us on our arrangements and equipment. She paid a special tribute to the smart appearance and bearing of the Girl Guides and little Bluebirds who formed a Guard of Honour.

There has been very little change in the teaching staff during the year, the one important change being the appointment of Mrs. Edmed as Head Mistress, a post which she ably filled in the Taylor High School for several years before her marriage. In her we have much more than a thoroughly capable teacher, for she is so completely one with us in the very many-sided work of the school. The results of the Cambridge Examinations were fairly satisfactory. All four Junior candidates passed, but we were disappointed with our two Seniors. We sent up five candidates for the Trinity College Music Examinations, and all were successful, four gaining honours. Of the six who took the Drawing Examinations in connection with the Bombay School of Art, four passed.

In reporting upon the spiritual side of the work, we do wish we could tell of some definite work and of numbers turning to the Lord, and we long and pray for a time of reviving and refreshing. However, although we can point to no special movement of the kind, we feel comforted to note the quiet steady growth in grace amongst those who do belong to the Lord, and their witness amongst their school friends is very real.

Including both boarders and day scholars, our school has its place in the Children's Guild of Service, with a membership of one hundred and twenty-five. In August we were able to give an entertainment, under the patronage of Lady Lloyd, at which we raised Rs. 420. Of this sum, half was donated to the Guild of Service, and the other portion went towards the expense of the covered way. Just at present the children are very busy preparing for "Poppy Day." They have made over two thousand poppies, which will be sold on Armistice Day for the benefit of the Ex-Soldiers' Association and the Red Cross. All are now looking forward eagerly to the Christmas holidays, and even those who spend the holidays in school feel it is the happiest season in the year. Among the tiny ones, the next best to Christmas Day is their "shopping day," when each little one trots out with eight annas in her possession and with visions of the wonderful purchases she will bring home! They really do make remarkable bargains, much to the amusement of the good-hearted shopkeepers, who are very liberal towards their small customers on this their yearly visit to the shops.
Looking back over the year, we see so many causes for thanksgiving, and looking forward we pray that God may use us further in His happy service.

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English Church

Missionary

Mrs. W. W. BRUERE

The English church work has had much blessing this year. On Sunday evenings the church is well filled and the Gospel services immediately following the regular preaching services have resulted in several conversions, while others have been re-claimed, especially from among the soldiers. Prayer meetings for the strengthening and establishing of the converts have been held each Tuesday and Thursday. The Senior and Junior League meetings and Saturday evening class, the latter conducted by Miss Hall, have all been most profitable. Temperance teaching has been emphasized by several special meetings. Parish and hospital visitation has been carried on. We find that the new parsonage is an ever increasing centre of varied interests. Much blessing came through the Holiness and Bible League Conventions, held in October, which brought thirty or more missionaries from various parts of India. We praise God for the health given to us all this past year, both in the church and community.

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Puntamba-Kopargaon

Missionary

GRACE E. LIGHTFOOT

We arrived in Puntamba two days before Christmas. After the balmy air of Bombay and since we had lost part of our blankets on the train, for the time being we nearly froze (not that the winter is too cold on the Deccan, but it is measurably colder than the seaside winter).

But there was warmth in the people’s hearts and we were entertained royally by our pastor and his wife until our boxes were unpacked. The church was decorated, sweets were bought, and we held a Christmas service with the church packed, after which every child received a tiny gift of something or other. The next day we took the Kopargaon people by surprise and made them happy with some Christmas remembrances. Then in the middle of the night we trimmed Ruth Mae’s and Edward Burton’s little tree. In the morning Ruth waked and after walking around and around the tree, at last clasped her new big doll in her arms and exclaimed, “O, Mamma, O, Daddie, my lovely, lovely Christmas!”
A few days later we welcomed Mrs. Fisher back from the hospital. At the same time people began crowding the front verandah of the bungalow to get medicines from the dispensary, and before we knew it we were swamped with work. Before Mrs. Fisher was strong enough she plunged into the work and did more than she should have tried to do. Then the malaria reappeared to weaken her own strength and the news kept coming of her mother's serious illness, so at the end of August we were left to carry on alone while Mrs. Fisher sailed for home. This great field was therefore temporarily without any W.F.M.S. missionary, where there is real need for two, particularly now that the area has been nearly doubled by an addition last February from the territory of the American Marathi (Congregational) Mission.

Every day while we were wasting precious time poking along the road in the bullock cart often spending a whole day in travel to gain only an hour or two for a visit to one village, we have kept wondering whether others can realize how seriously we need a Ford. The roads are not all good, but many miles of first class Government metalled roads traverse this area, so why allow the slow oxen, just as slow as they were in Abraham's time, to kill our time and effectually prevent our reaching many villages with the Word of Life?

Evangelistic. In an effort to raise the standard of the Bible women, our number has been reduced to six. Besides this, there is one woman who teaches a village school and is paid by the W.F.M.S. So the staff is only seven, but they are all of fair grade. The women, except the very new ones, will all take their examination this month in the new course.

During the months of February and March we had a two weeks' school for all the workers of Puntamba, Kopargaon and the new Chitali Circuit received from the American Mission. Bishop Robinson opened the school. Mrs. Fisher and the chief Bible woman, Anusayabai, conducted the classes and the women's meetings. Among the helpers from outside were Dr. A. A. Parker, Miss Mary MacDonald ofkedgaon, Miss M. Navalkar of Poona, and Dr. Dhanawati, a Hindu from Belapur.

The work of the women in the outlying villages is carried forward with fine courage, the women usually being alone in their stations, and without much encouragement except when the Puntamba staff are able to come and assist them. The husbands are all busy as day school teachers. The lowest castes especially are very ready to hear the Gospel, and it is safe to say that thousands have heard the Word through the Bible women during the past year.

Educational. We are glad for the growing conviction that we are right in continuing to plead for a Girls' Boarding School for this area. A site in Kopargaon has been approved by the Field Property
Board and we are hoping that it will be possible to purchase soon. There are now in the Talegaon School, 160 miles away, only twenty-five girls from the Christian population here of about 1,500. What a small representation! The people are very reluctant to send their children so far away from home. We have eighteen primary schools in the circuits, four of which are without teachers. There are nine other villages, which contain from thirty-five to a hundred Christians each, where we have no schools. Here where there is not any kind of a worker resident, schools are badly needed for the Christians. Can you begin to imagine the need of these who are baptized and who are almost daily requesting help which we cannot supply? When we visit them they follow us far outside the village still asking for teachers or other workers.

The Dispensary Work. An interesting and difficult work here is the dispensary. The lack of any suitable place for medicines compels us to store them in a corner of the bedroom, while the sick with every imaginable disease sit upon the front verandah. A little while ago a leper, with skin burning like fire from head to toe, came almost into the house, and we could only make him go away, having nothing to relieve his intense suffering. A tahsildar's (county magistrate in the Muhammadan kingdom which adjoins us at Puntamba) nephew came with a fly in his ear, and the getting out of the fly made us friends with the Muhammadan chief officer of Vizapur Tahsil. We had a breakfast fit for a king under the bhauub trees on the banks of the Godavery with this finely educated man and his wife and the boys, while they were out on a tour of administration. Hindus of all castes and sizes and descriptions come for treatment. One day a Sadhu, or holy man, received ointment and a bandage for an injured foot. Occasionally a bunch of the dirtiest little urchins troop up, with ears filled with unutterable filth and sores; eyes swollen shut, infected by insects; and other sores everywhere on their bodies. When once treated they often stay away too long before getting a second treatment and the benefit is lessened. If this place had a hospital, then it would be possible to keep many such cases under a doctor's care until cured. The forward plans for Puntamba include a hospital, and we are building up our faith that some day, not too far distant, this hope may be realized. Though the work now done is hindered by my lack of nurse's or doctor's training, yet some good has no doubt been done for the poor sufferers of this region so far from good medical aid. Although this work is as much for women and children as for men, yet it is supported now altogether by the Board of Foreign Missions, while we feel it would be only proper for the W.F.M.S. to share actively in the expenses in future. We owe a real debt of gratitude to the staff, especially Dr. Clark, of the American Mission Hospital at
SOME OF THE MANY TEMPLES ON THE SACRED GODAVERY RIVER
Ahmednagar, where we send all the worst cases and whence they come back with thanksgiving for the help received.

Since Mrs. Fisher left we have visited several villages. We rejoice in the worthwhileness of the work and the great opportunity. At the same time our hearts nearly break with the constant appeals for help which we are powerless to give—schools for baptized children, pastors, teachers, and real medical attention. It is good that we are not working alone, for according to His promise, the Christ manifests His presence with us. The baptisms here and there, and the many inquirers, show that the seed has taken root and the harvest is assured.

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Puntamba-Kopargoan Evangelistic and Educational Work

Missionary

MRS. M. G. FISHER

1. Bible women. There are about 1,500 Christians in this area which means that there are a large number of Christian women and girls to be taught. Our appropriations provide for about ten Bible women. Therefore, it can be seen at a glance that more workers are needed.

The last statistical report shows that 233 non-Christian women, 102 non-Christian girls, 150 Christian women and 160 Christian girls have been under regular instruction. But these figures do not, by any means, represent the number of people who have heard the Gospel during the past year. I, myself, with the help of assistants have had the privilege of teaching many people. I have before me the W.F.M.S. figures of the recent evangelistic campaign. It is as follows: Christian women taught 166, non-Christian women 319, Christian girls 173, non-Christian girls 173. Besides these, quite a number of men and boys attended our meetings. These figures are not a fair sample of the people I reach every time I go on tour, because certain difficulties at this time hindered me from going to all the villages.

But how can there be permanent results when I only meet the people occasionally and in large numbers? There should be Bible women in each station in order that regular instruction may be given, yet there are eighteen important towns where there are none. They should work in pairs, so thirty-six workers are needed now. Near these larger towns are many small villages which need attention, so there is no limit to the work that these women could do. But I’m only asking for $140 for Bible women this year, as we want to be sure to receive enough for a proper assistant.

2. Assistant. From August 1922, until March 1923, a Bible woman went with me on all trips. In March, I hired a man and his wife, but they only stayed in the work about a month on
account of serious illness. Now we are searching for a proper assistant and find that one cannot be found for less than Rs. 100 a month, which means that our appropriation should be doubled.

Now I shall speak of my other assistants, the bullocks. There is no provision for feeding these faithful animals. Up to date it has been a source of worry from day to day as to how they were going to be cared for properly. It would be splendid to have a motor but as we haven't that touring convenience yet, we want to feed the bullocks so that they may be kept in motion. On account of the addition of Chitale Circuit we have an area of 625 square miles to travel.

3. A Typical Trip. Let me describe a typical trip to the villages. We started in the morning at seven, an hour later than planned. It's no use to try to hustle the East. Seven of us were in the tonga, including the small children. Tied on one side of the tonga was my Icmic cooker in which my breakfast cooked while we travelled. The rest of the things that we were likely to need were sent with my cook who went on the train to Kopergaon, in order that all arrangements should be made for us before our arrival in the evening. We moved along at the slow rate that bullocks usually go, but, like the proverbial turtle, really making progress. Suddenly there was excitement; the bullocks turned on a wrong road and running at a higher rate of speed than usual, went quite a distance before the tongawalla could stop them. Being stubborn creatures they did not stop readily and so the man I mentioned above, who helped with the work for awhile, got out and aided the tongawalla to make them go the right way. (This is my work when the extra man is not along.) After getting them headed in the right direction we jogged along peacefully enough, and in the course of an hour or so arrived at Shingua, six miles from home. The women and I immediately had a meeting with the Christian women and children while Mr. Kelkar, the man assistant, preached to the men. Then we went into the village in pairs and visited the Kurnbis, the Bhils and other castes. We had good meetings with all except the Brahmans. Thus far I have found them hard to reach. We sold some Gospel portions, and then returned to the school. After eating our breakfast (the bullocks had theirs too) we started on our way and in two hours and a half reached Kokamthan, which is about ten miles from Shingua. We had a good meeting with the Christians and examined the school children. Then as we wished to go to Samvatser, a village across the river, we decided not to go among the non-Christians. Samvatser is in Methodist Mission territory but in spite of this fact, the Roman Catholics have forced themselves in without ceremony. This fact and also other hindrances had kept me away heretofore. This time I decided to go, not to quarrel with the Catholics, but to teach Jesus Christ. We started across, got into deep mire and thought we were stuck, but finally our faithful
bullocks pulled us out. (It's nice to have them stubborn sometimes.) We got on firm ground but were not yet across, but the water was low so we could walk across on the uneven rocks. The tonga had to be taken a round-about way. It took a long time to get to the village but at last we arrived and were surrounded by a number of friendly people. Just as we were going to begin our meeting it seemed that the devil rose up in new fashion in order to keep us from preaching the Truth in this village. A woman was carrying a smaller woman who had smallpox. I made an exclamation and ran a little way off—then I decided that I should not get worried over such a little thing and went back and sat down. We had a splendid service. Then we went on to Kopargoan and arrived in time for a combined tiffin and dinner. We had travelled about twenty-four miles. Rama, our cook had found the Dak bungalow occupied, but he had made some Indian quarters ready for us, so we were quite comfortable. It was too late to go out again that day so we lost no time getting to bed. I had a good rest even if I did have to sleep on the stone floor of the veranda, instead of the Dak bungalow cot. The next morning, Anusaybai, my Bible woman, and I went to Bhat, a village nearby and taught 121 people and in the afternoon we went out with Tarabai to see her work. In the meantime the rest of our party went in the tonga to Krenja, a village seven miles away, stopping at several sugar cane presses on the way. The result was that a large number heard about Christ that day. The next day was the Sabbath so we attended the regular services conducted by our Indian pastor. Sickness among our number compelled us to go back to Puntamba the following day, but many times I have taken this same trip and then gone on to Poyegaon, Dherda, Rahate, Shirdi, Pimpliwardi, then back home, or skipping Pimpliwardi, have gone to Razangaon, Chitule, then Puntamba. I always take my basket of remedies with me and try to doctor sore eyes, bad ears, etc.

In this report I have emphasized need of workers and money, but I have not forgotten that we need prayer. Pray that the people to whom we preach may believe and believing may become staunch Christians. Pray that they may not only have John's baptism but also that of the Holy Spirit.

Ordelia M. Hillman Memorial School
BOARDING DEPARTMENT

Missionary

Lucile C. Mauer

My first term having been spent in Talegaon, when I was reappointed here a year ago, it seemed more like returning home than going to a new appointment.
At the present time our girls, plus three little boys, number one hundred and three, nearly three-fourths of whom are under twelve years of age. This number includes three girls in the Ahmednagar High School, two in the Scottish Mission Teachers' Training College, Poona, and two in the Zenana Bible Training School, Poona. During the year we lost two little girls—Shewanti, who died very suddenly and Chandrulela. The later contracted whooping cough while in hospital with a sore mouth and being a very frail child succumbed to it. On the whole the health of the girls has been good and although there has been plague and small-pox about us, the Lord has kept them from our midst. The doctor in the Government Dispensary is a Christian man and he and his wife, who has also had some medical training, have been most kind and helpful to us and we have been grateful for their Christian fellowship.

For some months we were without a matron and also a woman for the babies. With almost no older girls who could take responsibility, the missionary began to feel that she herself had turned into a matron and ayah (child’s nurse). However, she gained back all the avoirdupois she had lost during her three years in Bombay and the children, too, seemed to thrive. On the other hand, correspondence, accounts, etc. did not thrive and we were very glad at the beginning of September to welcome a trustworthy and capable matron and, a little later, a woman to care for the little folks.

Besides the regular white-washing we have been having some very necessary repairs done. The store-room where the grain and other school supplies are kept had become a den of rats. One day a stick was poked down through a rat hole in the floor for several feet and I thought, if something were not done soon, somebody might some day find herself below the surface of the earth. We had the floor dug down several feet, filled up with stones gathered off the premises, and then a layer of mortar and flag flooring on top of that. We had flag stone flooring put in the cookroom also and a new fire place. The mud floors in the dormitories were in bad condition so these were dug up and re-made.

The swing, for which some good friend in the homeland donated the money has been erected and we wish again to thank the donor for the many happy play hours that will be enjoyed.

Mrs. Crisp, one of our former workers and her sister spent some time with us during the rainy season and before leaving gave the girls a treat of sweets and fruit. Other friends have come forward. Mrs. David, one of our Bombay workers, gave the girls their Christmas dinner. Miss Lawson remembered her children, young and old, and sent money for a dinner, and Mrs. Kunk, our doctor's wife gave money for another treat.

On the last day of school before the Christmas holidays, the children presented an interesting programme and at the close were
all given bags of sweets. The following day about forty of the girls went home to spend the vacation with their parents. Last year we were not able to give presents to the girls, but kind friends at home had sent us things from time to time, so when Christmas came this year we were able to produce a gift for each of the girls who remained here during the holidays. We abandoned the usual custom of distributing the gifts and allowed the girls to do their own choosing. Beginning with the older girls, we called in one at a time to make her choice. Gifts were from time to time added to keep up a variety and to suit the age of the children. Besides this gift each of the real orphan children was given a coarse and a fine comb.

While our two girls from the Bible Training School were home for Easter week they had special meetings with the girls, one taking little girls and the other the older ones. I have been pleased to see at different times during the year when they have been home, the interest they take in the spiritual welfare of their own school and their efforts to do personal work with some of the girls. We regret that in the rush of the daily routine and the extras which are constantly coming up in a boarding school, more time has not been given to the spiritual side. We trust that this new year will find us all in closer touch with our Master whom we are trying to serve.

EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT

Missionary

A. Goodall

When I knew I was to come to Talegaon last year, I felt that I was not going to a strange place. Truly I came to the same buildings and surroundings, but after an absence of about five and one half years there were less than twelve of the old girls left and only one of the former teachers, so we had to become acquainted just as if I had never been in Talegaon.

At present there are a hundred children in regular attendance on the roll, twelve of whom are day scholars. A very small proportion of these are in the Middle school.

The little Hindu children are generally on time to have a play with the boarders before school opens. They so enjoy entering into Christian games and going on walks and picnics with our Christian girls. They also enjoy the Bible stories. One little Hindu girl asked me to give her a Bible. After I told her I had none to give away she brought the money to buy one.

There have been two new teachers taken on during the year so now we have a full staff of trained teachers except the one Hindu master. How I wish we had a strong trained Christian woman to take his place! We are fortunate in having these trained teachers and, although our Middle school is small at present, it should be
strong later, considering the number of bright little girls there are in the Primary school. This year for the first time we have had a woman to inspect our school. She paid much more attention to sewing and practical things than the men do. We feel that with her the inspection is going to be much more constructive and helpful than before.

There were a number of things that I longed for in the way of equipment when I was here before. The need has not yet been met but I hope we will be able to have them before many more years pass.

We thank those who have made it possible for us to have trained teachers and the many things we do have and will trust for other things to come.

Evangelistic Work

Missionary

Lucile C. May

I am sorry that we cannot report more progress in this department. The staff of workers remains the same, but various things have interfered with the work. At the beginning of the year plague was bad in this and other villages so it was not safe for the women to go out. Beside, the people vacate their homes and go to live in huts out in the fields. The arrival of a little son prevented one of the women from going out for a time, but she asked me to give her some work which she could do at home. In a large family of girls this was not hard to find, so she helped with school sewing. Radhabai continues to go to the outside villages with her husband and has been able to keep more regularly in the work than the other women. In one of the villages she visits, the people are begging for a school. Old Taibai still holds on. While with relatives during the summer vacation, she had a severe illness, sort of a paralytic stroke, and some of us feared her working days were over. However she came back to us much improved, eager to be back on the work. Soon after her return she gave a dinner to a few of us and at the end she said her reason for doing it was to express her gratitude to God for restoring her to health and permitting her to be among us again.

The Day school in the village has increased its numbers and received a good report at the annual inspection. Four boys have passed out of the fourth standard. Up to the present time the school has not taught beyond this standard, and we tried to persuade the boys to take their certificates and go to the Municipal school. This they refused to do and some have brought money with which to buy fifth standard books. Adding an extra stan-
standard would give the two teachers more than they could manage, so I don't known just what we are going to do.

The third land case mentioned in last year's report has after a long silence, just recently been revived. There is very little fear, however, that anything will ever come of it.

Miss Lawson wrote a year ago concerning the new well, "Rehoboth." She and others will rejoice that near beginning of the year it was completed and dedicated and we are most grateful for the added water supply. The people marvelled at our having found water, but finally they said the Lord must have given it to the orphan children. And it is wonderful how the Lord supplies all our needs and is ever mindful of His children.
MRS. PAIDAL DAVID

Bishop Taylor came to India in 1870, and did a great work among all classes of people. The first Hindu to be converted under his preaching was Krishna Chovey, a young man belonging to one of the best families in the community, and he was shortly followed by his two brothers. Krishna had been adopted by a wealthy uncle on the death of his father a short time previously. He was an officer in the excise department of the Government and his associates were the source of much persecution, but his long-suffering, patient, consistent Christian life won the love and respect of his non-Christian associates. He used to preach Christ wherever and whenever opportunity offered and he was stoned and beaten more than once by high caste Hindus. At the time of Krishna's baptism his uncle was away from home but afterwards he tried by every possible means to secure his return to Hinduism. He offered to make him heir to all his wealth and to arrange for his marriage with the little girl to whom he had earlier been betrothed, according to the custom of all orthodox Hindus, on condition that he would renounce Christianity. Krishna, however, was loyal to his Lord and renounced the prospect of wealth for the sake of the Christ, whom he had learned to love as his personal Saviour. The younger brothers were then tried in the same way but they, like Krishna, remained true to the Master. Contrary to Hindu custom they were allowed to continue to live with their uncle, and they so completely disarmed the suspicion in his mind and so won his love that in his last illness he expressed his affection for them, and stated that if he were a younger man he also would become a Christian.

Krishna married a splendid woman, named Venubai, and to them were born seven children. These children were brought up by earnest prayer and careful teaching in the love and fear of God. George Bowen, whose name is a household word in the homes of Christians of all classes in Bombay, used to visit the family when he came to the city and used to call these children, "Brother Krishna's little lambs." Krishna's home was in a bungalow in the midst of a large mango grove on an island near the city, and early one morning, on the occasion of one of these visits, the children with a servant went out for a walk in the grove and there came across George Bowen kneeling in prayer. Accustomed to pray with their godly parents they knelt round him, and as he arose from his prayers he put his arms around them, came home with them and said to the parents, "You have dear little lambs for Jesus whom you are bringing up in the right way." The tender prayerful influence of the
mother was a strong factor in the development of the lives of these children, of whom Shantabai was the oldest.

Shantabai was born in Colaba, Bombay, in 1876 and was educated partly in our Mission school in the city, partly in the Mission school of the Zenana, Bible, and Medical Mission, and partly in the Taylor High School of our own church in Poona.

Of the other children, four are still living. One daughter, Karunabai, married Dr. Harris, a well known Christian physician in Madras. This family did much to help the sick and the poor who always come to any physician in India who is willing to help them. Mrs. Harris supplemented the work of her husband who treated many of them free, by preparing and taking to them the nourishment they were unable to provide and by nursing them when there was need.

Krupabai and Marybai worked for years in Bombay in connection with our mission and finally decided to go to America for Bible study in order that they might be better prepared for their work. They went at their own expense and spent two years studying in Foilts' Institute, Krupabai taking special Bible work and Marybai specializing in kindergarten. They then returned to India to give their lives to the service of the Master whom they loved, wherever He might call them. Krupabai felt that her call was to Bombay, and Marybai that hers was to Lucknow. The latter was engaged as a teacher in the kindergarten connected with the Isabella Thoburn High School. She continued to teach there until she was married to a fine Christian man, the eldest son of the Rev. Ganganath Shukla, of our Methodist Publishing House, Lucknow.

Krupabai came back to the work she had left in Bombay and continued to visit in the homes of the high caste women in the city. She had a very strong Christian character and won the hearts of all with whom she came in contact. She was greatly beloved by Pundita Ramabai, and her daughter Monoramabai, in whose home she was frequently a guest. Her work was done in the power of the Spirit of God. Her sweet voice was an inspiration to many, and during her last illness, while in hospital, she drew many hearts to Jesus by her favourite hymns, such as "My Lord and I," "Face to Face with Christ My Saviour," and she frequently requested to be allowed to speak to the sick ones about her through song. Doctors, nurses, and patients alike were often touched by the message she poured forth in this way.

The two brothers are Paul and Stephen. They are studying in New York, one medicine, the other agriculture.

Shantabai, the subject of this sketch, married Mr. Paidal David in 1896. Mr. David became the chief judicial clerk in the Bombay Presidency magistrates' court, loved and honoured by all his superior officers, by his friends and by the poor and downtrodden. He was called the "guileless Nathanael" by his Christian friends. In the
office he often talked to non-Christian lawyers and barristers concerning Jesus, the Saviour of men. He loved to teach in Sunday school and continued to do so until the very end of his life. When these Sunday school children, non-Christians, heard of his death they wept and said, "Who will teach us about God's love now?" A cobbler who used to come to mend shoes, on hearing of his death said, "Sahib always told me of Jesus and God's love." He was known by his neighbours as "God's man." The Chief Presidency Magistrate, on learning that he had passed away said, "We have lost a most honest and upright man." In a letter of condolence written by the other magistrates who were Hindu, Muhammadan, and Parsi, the statement was made, "he was a true Christian," and added that he was loved and respected for his integrity, honesty, and uprightness.

Mrs. David has spent all her adult life doing work for the Master. As long as possible she did this as a voluntary worker, and only when necessity required it did she begin to receive a salary. During these long years of service she has had varied experiences. For years she helped in teaching in the vernacular and the English of the Colaba schools and did most of the work of supervision. In fact, had it not been for her presence in the immediate neighbourhood the schools could not have continued as long as they did. In addition she was like an elder sister to the young teachers in the school and helped them with their personal difficulties and with their problems, always having a sympathetic interest in them. Her home was one of the very few into which unmarried Christian girls could go as maid servants with the confidence that they would be protected and cared for as daughters would be. In addition she has been a blessing to the other workers resident in the hostel, where she has lived since her husband's death, as well as to the workers who come from outside for their Bible lessons.

Her work at present is largely amongst the Muhammadans and of those chiefly the Khojas, concerning whom Mrs. David herself writes as follows. "They are followers of His Highness, Sir Aga Khan, although they render certain allegiance to Muhammad as well. There are eighty such families whom I visit regularly, and twenty or more additional ones with whom I keep in touch. There is a spiritual unrest among them and they are eagerly reading the New Testament and the Life of Christ. Many are dissatisfied with Aga Khan and are disappointed in him as they read of his spending long seasons at Monte Carlo gambling, and they also know that he drinks. He comes to India but once a year and that to take money from the rich and poor for his own luxurious existence. They are unable to see how he can be so carnally minded. Many of the Khojas try to make the Hindus believe that Aga Khan is the tenth incarnation expected by the Hindus. To the Muhammad-
ans they say that he is the forty-eighth and greatest prophet, who was to come in the last days. To the Christians they say he is the Christ come the second time. The poor women are so devout that they believe him to be everything, the all powerful and mighty one. They will not have their children named until he comes to India when, with great pomp, they present offerings to him, and no matter though there should be three children of the same family to whom he has given one name yet they must all be called by that name.

"One of the women whom I visit, who loves me dearly said to me one day 'Shantabai I have read the Bible which you gave me and I feel that as Christ promised that he would send a Comforter to the disciples, Christ has come into this world' (referring of course to Aga Khan). I told her the Comforter, Christ has promised, is the Holy Spirit. Then she asked for my Bible and said 'I shall select a chapter and see what it says; I do not want you to read your choice but let God direct us.' She took the Bible and I prayed very hard that God would lead her to open to a chapter that would convince her that the Aga Khan is not Christ come again but that Christ is the true Saviour. When she gave me the passage to read, it was the tenth of John with the wonderful description of the true and false shepherds. I explained to her how Jesus is the true Saviour and how deep and true His love for us is and that because of that love He gave His life for us and then I read the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew about the glorious second coming of Christ and how very important it is for each one of us to be ready for Him when He comes, and explained that if we are not ready it will then be too late to prepare. She was touched for her eyes glistened with unshed tears as she put her arms around me and said 'I love you and want you to pray for me and I shall also pray for you that we may meet in heaven.' Pray for this dear woman. There are many interesting things to tell about these lovely women both rich and poor visited daily. It is hard for them to come out but if we work and pray and have faith, God with whom nothing is impossible, will bring these dear people to the joy everlasting through Jesus Christ, the true light. May He guide us to be ever faithful, filled with zeal and the Holy Spirit."

This gives an idea of the kind of work Mrs. David is doing. She goes to rich and poor, high and low, always with the word if possible, if not possible then with books that contain Christian truth. Her work is in Hindi and Gujarati but she has also worked among the Marathi speaking people and has visited many high caste Hindu homes and has a large circle of friends among them. Many of them love her very deeply and believe that the Christ she represents is the true Saviour.

She has done much visiting in the homes of the church members, and is a local preacher, having occasionally preached in the church in the absence of the pastor.
She has one lovely daughter married to the Principal of the Polytechnic Institute in Colombo, the business university of Ceylon. This daughter has two little ones. Mrs. David has two sons, both of whom are attending High school and living with their sister in Colombo, so that so far as relatives are concerned, she is quite alone in Bombay, but her desire to make Christ known keeps her there, whereas family affection would take her elsewhere.

This is a very brief outline of the family of Mrs. David and of the work she is herself doing. The Lay Electoral Conference of the Bombay Annual Conference has chosen her as their representative to General Conference. We, in the Bombay Conference feel highly honoured in that she is the first Indian woman delegate to that great body. Her love for and loyalty to the Church as a whole and to her own local Church makes her worthy. Both she and her husband were loved and honoured members of Bowen Church, for many years the leading English speaking Methodist Church in Western India. We thank God for their lives and pray that many such may be raised up to the honour of His name. A new day is dawning for the womanhood of India when it is possible for such an election to take place, when the great majority of the votes cast for her were by Indian men.
OFFICERS

President:
MRS. H. LESTER SMITH.

Vice-President:
MRS. LE ROY LIGHTFOOT.

Secretary:
MISS ANNA AGNES ABBOTT.

Assistant Secretary:
MISS LEOLA M. GREENE.

Statistical Secretary:
MISS BERNICE E. ELLIOTT.

Field Correspondent:
MISS LEONA E. RUPPEL.

 Correspondent for General Office:
MISS MAY E. SUTHERLAND.

Conference Historian:
MISS ANNA AGNES ABBOTT.

Conference Auxiliary Treasurer:
MRS. W. H. STEPHENS.

Secretary of Literature:
MISS LEONA E. RUPPEL.

Field Reference Committee:
MISS ANNA AGNES ABBOTT, Chairman. MISS MAY E. SUTHERLAND.
MISS LAURA F. AUSTIN, Secretary. MISS MILDRED G. DRESCHER.
MISS LUCILE C. MAYER. MISS B. E. ELLIOTT.

Ex-Officio:—Field Correspondent, General Treasurer.
Alternates:—Miss Agnes C. W. Dove, Mrs. A. N. Warner.

General Treasurer:—MISS PEARL MADDEN, 3 MIDDLETON STREET, CALCUTTA.

Cable and Telegraphic Address: For special service, Bombay.
STANDING COMMITTEES

Board of Examiners for Assistants—Mrs. Aldis, Mrs. Warner, Miss Elliott.

Board of Examiners for Indian Workers—Miss Abbott, Miss Sutherland, Miss Mayer, Miss Elliott, Miss Austin, Mrs. Aldis.

Field Property Board—Miss Abbott, Miss Drescher, Miss Mayer, Miss Elliott, Miss Austin.


Publishing—Miss Abbott, Miss Greene.

Programme—Wife of the Missionary of the entertaining place, who chooses two helpers.


Literature—Miss Greene, Miss Austin, Mrs. Warner, Miss Ruppel.

Furniture—Miss Mayer, Miss Abbott, Miss Drescher, Senior Missionary and New Missionary.

Aggressive Evangelism—Le Roy Lightfoot, Ishwardas Narsingh, David Shezol, Gideon Bisahu, B. N. Wagchauri, G. N. Divekar, S. G. Singh, Mrs. Aldis, Mrs. Borgman, Miss Sutherland.

Tilaunia Sanitarium—Miss Greene, Miss Goodall, Mrs. Lightfoot.

Reimbursement—Miss Sutherland, Miss Abbott, Miss Goodall, Miss Ruppel.

Manuals—Miss Abbott, Miss Elliott.


Religious Education—A. A. Parker, W. B. Collier, Isaac Wahab, Aaron N. Helaw, Henry Shepherd, Miss Austin, Miss Mayer, Mrs. Parker, C. L. Wood, K. B. Dass, G. N. Divekar, Aaron N. Helaw, P. K. Salve.


Co-operation—A. A. Parker, A. N. Warner, S. V. Hivale, Miss Austin, Miss Abbott, Miss Ruppel, Miss Sutherland, Miss Mayer.

REPRESENTATIVES ON BOARDS AND COUNCILS

Muttra Training School—Miss Elliott.

Marathi Inter-denominational Course of Study—Miss Sutherland.

Bombay Representative Council of Missions—Miss Ruppel.

Isabella Thoburn College—Miss Austin.
NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF BRANCH SECRETARIES

New England Branch.—Mrs. Mary Carr Curtis, 10 Deaconess Road, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. L. M. Norris, Assistant, Wesleyan Building, Boston 17, Mass.

New York Branch.—Mrs. Geo. A. Wilson, 805 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N.Y., Miss E. R. Bender, Assistant, Room 715, 150 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y.

Philadelphia Branch.—Miss C. J. Carnahan, 400 Shady Ave., and Walnut Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Baltimore Branch.—Mrs. E. L. Harvey, 1626 Monroe Street, Washington, D.C.

Cincinnati Branch.—Mrs. R. L. Thomas, 792 E. McMillan Street, Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Northwestern Branch.—Miss E. L. Sinclair, 328 S. Douglas Ave., Springfield, Ill.; Mrs. J. M. Avann, Assistant, 4949 Indiana Ave., Chicago.

Des Moines Branch.—Mrs. Randolph Beall, Mt. Ayr, Iowa.

Minneapolis Branch.—Mrs. W. P. Eveland, 315 Northwestern National Life Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

Topeka Branch.—Miss Ella M. Watson, 1701 S. Seventeenth Street, Lincoln, Neb.

Pacific Branch.—Mrs. S. F. Johnson, 681 Locust St., Pasadena, Cal.

Columbia River Branch.—Mrs. Charles W. Huett, 1520 Thompson Street, Portland, Ore.

Secretary of the General Office
Miss Amy Lewis, Room 710, 150 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Official Correspondent
Mrs. R. Beall, Mt., Aye, Iowa
MINUTES

OF THE

Bombay Woman’s Missionary Conference

First Day

Bombay, November 14, 1923.

The thirty-second annual session of the Bombay Woman’s Missionary Conference convened in the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society bungalow, Club Back Road, at 1.0 p.m. with the President, Miss Austin, in the chair.

Devotions were conducted by Rev. C. B. Hill.

The Secretary called the roll and the following members were present: Miss Abbott, Miss Austin, Mrs. Collier, Miss Dove, Miss Drescher, Miss Elliot, Miss Goodall, Miss Greene, Mrs. Hutchings, Mrs. Lightfoot, Miss Manchester, Miss Mayer, Mrs. Parker, Mrs. Richards, Miss Ruppel, Mrs. Stephens, Miss Sutherland, and Mrs. Warner.

Mrs. H. Lester Smith, wife of Bishop Smith, was introduced.

Miss Holder and Mrs. Collier, and Mrs. Warner and Mrs. Richards were appointed tellers and the Conference proceeded to elect the following officers: President, Mrs. H. Lester Smith; Vice-President, Mrs. Lightfoot; Secretary, Miss Abbott; Assistant Secretary, Miss Greene; Statistical Secretary, Miss Elliott; Field Correspondent, Miss Ruppel; Correspondent for General Office, Miss Sutherland; Conference Historian, Miss Abbott; Conference Auxiliary Treasurer, Mrs. Stephens; Secretary of Literature, Miss Ruppel.

Miss Holder was introduced as a new member of the Conference and her name was added to the roll; Miss Elliott was introduced as having returned from furlough; Emilybai Daud, one of the Indian members, and Mrs. P. David, a faithful co-worker, were introduced.

The President appointed the following Temporary Committees: Committee on Resolutions, Mrs. Warner, Miss Dove, Mrs. Lightfoot; Committee on Nominations, Miss Mayer, Miss Drescher, Miss Greene.

On motion it was decided that the Conference sessions should be held from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. daily.

On motion it was decided that the election of delegates to Central Conference take place immediately after the opening on Thursday.
On motion it was decided that the election of Field Reference Committee be made the order of the day for Thursday at 2.00 p.m.

On motion the Secretaries were instructed to send greetings to the North India and the North West India Conferences now in session.

Reports from the following were given and accepted: The Publishing Committee, the Conference Historian, the Committee on Manuals. The last committee was ordered continued to complete the work.

The President appointed the following committee on memorials to Central Conference: Miss Ruppel, Miss Austin, Miss Abbott, Mrs. Lightfoot.

After prayer by the President the Conference adjourned.

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Second Day

*Thursday, November 15, 1923.*

Devotions were conducted by the President, Mrs. Smith.

The minutes of the previous day were read and approved.

Mrs. Stephens and Miss Ruppel were appointed tellers and the Conference proceeded to ballot for delegates to Central Conference, which resulted in the election of Miss Abbott and Miss Ruppel; Mrs. Parker having the next highest number of votes was elected by acclamation as first alternate. The next ballot cast resulted in the election of Miss Sutherland as second alternate.

The Auditing Committee gave a partial report which was accepted.

The Field Reference Committee gave its report and the Chairman and Secretary of that Committee were authorized to edit the report for publication.

The Temperance Committee gave its report which was accepted.

The Conference then proceeded to the order of the day which was the election of Field Reference Committee. The following were elected: Misses Austin, Mayer, Abbott, Drescher, Elliott, Sutherland, and Miss Dove and Mrs. Warner were elected as alternates.

The report of the Editor of *The Marathi Woman's Friend* was read and accepted. Miss Greene gave a report of the Tilauria Sanatarium which was accepted. Miss Dove gave a report of the Muttra Training School which was accepted.

Misses Dove and Drescher were appointed to prepare reports of the work throughout the Conference to be presented to the Annual Conference. Miss Austin was appointed to arrange for a time for the presentation of these reports.
Miss Ruppel gave the report of the Representative Council of Missions, and advised the Conference of the action by which we lose our representation unless we make application as a separate Mission.

After prayer by the President the Conference adjourned.

Third Day

Friday, November 16, 1923.

The devotional exercises were conducted by Miss Elliott.
The Property Board gave its report which was accepted.
The report of the representative on the Inter-denominational Course of Study was given.
The Auditing Committee completed its report. This was also accepted.
Miss Greene, as the representative on the All-India Literature Committee reported. The report was accepted.
The Furniture Committee gave its report which was accepted.
The Field Reference Committee nominated the following as members of the Property Board: Misses Abbott, Drescher, Mayer, Austin, and Elliott.
They also nominated the Auditing Committee as follows: Misses Mayer, Abbott, Sutherland and Ruppel. Both sets of nominations were confirmed and the committees elected.

The report of the Treasurer was read and accepted.
The Board of Examiners gave its report which was accepted. It was ordered that the examinations for Bible women in the Conference, who are studying in languages other than Marathi, be conducted by the missionaries under whom they are working and they are instructed to secure their questions from the Conferences where such language work is being done.

Miss Ruppel was authorized to make a representation to the Representative Council of Missions claiming our right as a separate Mission to representation in that body.

On motion it was decided that, with the consent of Mrs. Smith, the picture of Bishop and Mrs. Smith be inserted in our report.
The Secretaries were instructed to print the reports for distribution among the patrons in a separate lot from the Minutes accompanied by the reports which go to the officers. The number of each required by the various members was secured by a roll call. The Committee on Nominations gave its report. The report was accepted and the Committees were elected.
The Committee on Memorials gave a partial report which was accepted.

After prayer, the Conference adjourned to meet at the call of the Secretary.
Fourth Day

Monday, November 19, 1923

The session opened with Mrs. Lightfoot in the chair. After prayer was offered the minutes of the two previous sessions were read and approved.

Mrs. Clark, formerly of Bombay Conference, was introduced. Telegrams of greetings from North India and North West India Conferences were read. On motion it was voted that we ask the Gujarat Conference to send a fraternal delegate to our Conference at its next session.

On motion it was decided that the printed Minutes become the official record of the Conference.

On motion it was decided that as far as possible we organize auxiliaries and for the coming year send the money to the Isabelle Thoburn College.

The Committee on Memorials to Central Conference presented Memorials on the following:

- Status of Bible women.
- Date of holding Field Reference Committee.
- Membership in Woman’s Conference.

These were accepted.

The Committee on Co-operation was ordered continued.

The Memorials as presented were ordered printed in the minutes.

On motion the following committee was appointed to help in securing the articles necessary for Mrs. David as she goes to General Conference: Miss Ruppel, Miss Drescher and Miss Abbott.

On motion it was ordered that the photograph of Mrs. David together with a brief resume of her life be included in the Annual Report, and that it be printed in leaflet form for distribution in America.

The Statistical Secretary was instructed to send her report to the Secretary. The Committee on Resolutions gave its report which was accepted.

The Minutes were read, and approved, after which prayer was offered and the Conference adjourned to meet in Joint Session with the Annual Conference.

Anna Agnes Abbott
Secretary.

Mrs. H. Lester Smith
President.

Joint Session

Opening: The Bishop called the Conference together in Joint Session at 1:45 p.m., and W. W. Bruere led in prayer.
On motion of A. A. Parker, the Conference adopted a memorial to Central Conference regarding, "Loans to and Reimbursements from Students."

On motion of C. B. Hill a memorial to Central Conference regarding the constitution of Annual Conference Boards of Education was adopted.

Adjournment: On motion of A. N. Warner, Conference adjourned to meet at 4:00 p.m., the Bishop pronouncing the Benediction.

Later Session

Opening: The Bishop called the Conference to order in Joint Session at 2:30 p.m., and led in prayer.

Nominations of Standing Committees: The nominations of Standing Committees and Conference Boards made by the Cabinet were accepted without reading on motion of A. A. Parker.

Nominations of W.F.M.S. Committees: On motion of Miss Abbott the nominations to Conference Committees and Boards by the Woman's Conference were accepted without reading the lists.

Report of Committee on Co-operation: On motion of the Chairman of the Committee on Co-operation between the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Board of Foreign Missions, the following suggestions were adopted, regarding the "Tentative Report" issued by the Executive Board at the session in Baroda, October 3, 1921:

Page 5, Clause 1. Although such a plan as this is in operation in certain parts of India, we disapprove of such an arrangement.

Page 5, Clause 6. We approve having this clause read that "the Bishops of the Church" (instead of the Administrative Officers of the Church") be recognized as members of both the Field Reference Committee and the Finance Committee.

Page 6, Clause 1 (top). We favour separate sessions for women in the District Conference because the Indian women get comparatively little benefit from the joint sessions.

Page 6, Clauses 1 and 2 (bottom). We desire that these clauses be changed to read thus: (1) "Wherever possible local councils be organized. (2) Wherever possible district councils be organized."

Report Temperance and Prohibition: The Committee on Temperance and Prohibition presented its report, and on motion of F. Wood it was accepted.

Report of Board of Religious Education: The Board of Religious Education presented its report which was accepted on motion of W. H. Stephens.
INTRODUCTION: Dr. A. A. Parker, representing the Board of Sunday Schools of India and Burma was introduced, and addressed the Conference on the work of the Sunday Schools.

REPORT OF CENTENARY COMMISSION: The report of the Centenary Commission was presented and on motion of S. A. Bhosle was adopted.

REPORT OF AGGRESSIVE EVANGELISM AND STATE OF THE CHURCH: The Committee on Aggressive Evangelism and State of the Church presented its report, which was adopted on motion of S. Aldis.

W.F.M.S. REPORT FOR NAGPUR AND BASIM DISTRICTS: The Woman's Conference report for the Nagpur and Basim Districts was presented by Miss Drescher.

The report for Bombay and Poona Districts was presented by Miss Dove.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION: The report of the Board of Education was presented by Miss Abbott and adopted on motion of W. H. Stephens.

C. B. Hill, General Director of Education, addressed the Conference.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of S. A. Bhosle, it was ordered that after the reading of the Minutes of this session and the reading of the appointments, the Conference adjourn. The Minutes were read and approved. The Bishop addressed the Conference, read the appointments, led in prayer, and pronounced the Benediction, and the Conference stood adjourned sine die.
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Field Reference Committee

1923

1. It was recommended that the W.F.M.S. set aside a missionary for general work in Bombay.

2. The Nagpur building proposition was recommended to remain the first Conference obligation in building, and the Bombay buildings to be considered an “Extraordinary emergency.” For the former an additional $10,000 was asked in 1924, and an emergency grant for the latter.

4. Eight new missionaries were asked for 1924.

5. “Educational Askings” as follows were forwarded to the May meeting of the Foreign Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basim</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Equipment</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers’ Quarters</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nagpur</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Buildings</td>
<td>5,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers’ Quarters</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Girls’ Dormitory</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregation Ward</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Building</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Equipment and Furniture</td>
<td>1,200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pantamba</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Land</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bungalow</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Girls’ Quarters</td>
<td>8,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teachers’ Quarters</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School House</td>
<td>4,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregation Ward</td>
<td>2,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poona</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repairs on Taylor High School</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talegaon</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>School Furniture and Equipment</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conference</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High School for Girls</td>
<td>30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. Estimates for 1924 were passed for a grand total of $160,237.

7. On motion we continued to urge before the Woman’s Foreign Missionary Society the need of a Girls’ High School in the Bombay Conference.
8. Miss Greene was elected the Conference Representative on the All-India Literature Committee.

9. Mrs. Fisher's request for early furlough on account of her mother's illness was approved.

10. Miss Ruppel was elected the representative of the Woman's Conference on the Executive Board of the Central Conference of Southern Asia.

11. A committee was appointed to investigate possible arrangements for housing our language students in Mahbleshwar while attending the language school.

(Sd.) Anna Agnes Abbott, Chairman,
Laura F. Austin, Secretary, Field Reference Committee.

Tilaunia Sanatorium

There have been no girls or women from the Bombay Conference in the Tilaunia Sanatorium this year. No communications have been received, nor has any report been sent from the Sanatorium, so there is no report to give.

In January I happened to be in the vicinity of Tilaunia, so I stopped off there for a few hours. A great deal of building had been going on, some of the buildings being completed, and others were still in the process of erection. There is a spacious compound and some new dormitories were being used which gave ample space for all. As I went over the compound I felt that anyone we might need to send there would be well taken care of.

Leola M. Greene.

Representative to the All India Literature Committee

In July I was made the representative to the All India Literature Committee, and in August I received a letter from the Secretary of the Committee asking for a list of Marathi literature suitable for the following: School children of different ages, Bible women, village Christians, more highly educated Christians, non-Christians.

It is in regard to this list that I have been working since that time. I have been entirely dependent upon the help of others. The list is not yet complete; when it is complete I shall be glad to loan a copy to each in order that those of you who wish to do so may make a copy for yourself.

If you know of any literature that is specially needed along the various lines let me know what it is and I can pass the
suggestion on to the Committee. If you have found any books really valuable let me know and it will be a great help to all.

I have this suggestion to make, that those of us who have finished our language examinations should read a certain number of Marathi books each year and thus acquaint ourselves with this literature, passing on the information to others. The problem of suitable literature for the Indian Christians is a great problem and if we are to get anything out of it for them we will have to put something into it.

I have been requested also to send in names of those who could write books for children and young people, books suitable for India and with Indian setting, those who could adapt such books as Polyanna, Laddie, etc.

Leola M. Greene.

Furniture Committee

The Furniture Committee ordered the balance of the furniture money held by Mrs. Fisher, Rs 90, to be turned over to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Committee to be held until Mrs. Fisher's return, provided she returns at the end of a regular furlough, but if she be detained beyond that time the Committee will be at liberty to expend that amount at its discretion.

The Committee approved the sale of one of the old iron beds in Basim with the proviso that the money be used in purchasing a new one to take its place.

Board of Examiners

The Board of Examiners arranged for the examinations of the Bible women throughout the Conference adjusting to the best of its ability the new course to the women studying in the old course. Several members of the Conference were co-opted to help the Board and gratitude is extended to all who so assisted.

The Board has decided that two kinds of certificates shall be used, one given as each year is completed and the other when the entire course is finished. Certificates shall be signed by the Board of Examiners.

The following rules relating to Bible women were adopted:

Examinations

1. The women shall sit at the same time and place as the men.
2. If a woman fails in one subject only, she may bring the subject up the following March, otherwise not advance to the next year until she has passed it.

3. Passing grades:
   (a) Sixty per cent. will be required for each subject for the Higher Course and an average of 70 per cent. on the whole.
   (b) Fifty per cent. will be required for each subject of the Lower Course and an average of 60 per cent. on the whole.

4. If for three years a woman fails to pass her examination she shall be reduced in salary to that of the year previous.

The questions shall be in the hands of the Chairman of the Board of Examiners one month before examinations are to be held. Examinations are to be supervised by the districts, and questions with answers shall be sent immediately upon completion of the examination to the respective examiners, said examiners to grade the papers and send the results to the district from which the papers came and to the Chairman of the Board. Questions shall be limited in number to ten on each subject. The Board shall be increased to six members.

Forms for reports have been approved and ordered printed. These will be ready at the beginning of the year.

Below is given a list of the examinations conducted during the past year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Basim District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Year, Old Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Year, New Course, Upper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Year, New Course, Upper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bombay District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year, New Course, Upper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nagpur District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sixth Year, Old Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poona District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Second Year, New Course, Upper</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Marathi Woman's Friend"

The *Marathi Woman's Friend* has been carried on as during the two previous years; 600 copies are printed monthly. Effort is made to make it as helpful and profitable as possible for
women and girls. Biographies, also religious, missionary, hygiene, and temperance articles, and helpful stories, are used. Recommendations are received from time to time as to the usefulness of the paper.

A financial statement is sent to headquarters each mid-year.

MRS. W. W. BRUERE.

Auditing Committee

The following books have been audited:

Basim
Boarding School .. to June 30, 1923
Building Account .. " " " " "
City and Basim Circuit .. " " " " "

Bombay
Gujarati Evangelistic and School .. to June 30, 1923
Marathi Zenana and Evangelistic .. " " " " "
Marathi Day Schools .. " " " " "
Hindustani Evangelistic .. to Sep. 30, 1923

Kampti
Evangelistic .. to June 30, 1923

Nagpur
Girl's Boarding School .. to June 30, 1923
Evangelistic Work .. " " " " "

Poona
Day Schools and Evangelistic Work " Marathi Woman's Friend " to June 30, 1923

Puntumbal
Evangelistic .. to Aug. 13, 1923

Talegaon
Boarding School .. to June 30, 1923
Evangelistic and Day School .. " " " " "
Building Account .. " " " " "

Board of Education

During the year the Board of Education chose S. Aldis and F. Wood as its representatives at a Conference of the Educational Board of the Representative Council of Missions held in Ahmednagar, in June, to consider the question of Village Education, and
the possibility of a United Mission Training School for Village Teachers.

The Board approved the publication of the Village Teachers' Journal in Marathi with the provision that it be reduced in size and the subject matter be adapted to the Marathi teachers.

Approval was given to a scheme to be presented to the Finance Committee and to the Field Reference Committee for the financing of pupils during the years of their higher education in our mission schools.

A protest was sent to the Representative Council of Missions against the continued location of the Language School in Mahabaleshwar.

Action was taken approving the continuance of Methodist education but requesting that in addition to its professional character it be made a medium of exchange in connection with our educational methods and policies on the field.

The Board asks the Annual Conference to memorialize Central Conference to so change the Constitution of the Conference Boards of Education as to allow a larger non-missionary representation, and it also asks the adoption of the educational statistical form used by the Board of Foreign Missions.

The Educational Secretary, C. B. Hill, presented the Educational Policy prepared by the Board of Foreign Missions and a Committee was appointed to consider the form and to report at the July session.

Blackstone Missionary Institute, Muttra, 1922-23

Nearly fifty years ago a little group met to lay the foundations of the first dormitory of the Muttra Training School. Many of the bricks were sun-baked, the tiled roofs were so low that it was necessary to stoop to enter but the foundations were laid with faith and prayer and great rejoicing. Last April, one of the little group, our matron, had the joy of sharing in the dedication service of the fine new hostel that takes the place of the little old line. We have now the accommodations that we have long needed for converts, young widows and teachers. Bishop Warne was with us for the dedication and the closing exercises, and we had an inspiring time.

Fifteen students were graduated from the Hindustani department and three from the English department. These are all in definite Mission work. The English training graduates are in school or zenana work in Muttra, Pakur, and Hyderabad, Deccan. Among the Hindustani graduates were two who are the first fruits of Santali work.

A good class of new students entered both departments last July.
At their last annual meeting the Board of Trustees recommended that a college course should be opened in the English department. We recognize the great importance of this in view of the growing demand for the highest type of mission workers—young women who are equipped for any service and able to carry responsibilities. We ought to be attracting young women of this type who are on the threshold of life. If this is to be done an adequate staff is absolutely necessary.

All the teaching in the English department, with the exception of part of the vernacular, must be done by missionaries. There is also the supervision of, and some teaching in, the Hindustani department. Besides this, practical work takes much time and thought. We should like to have your co-operation in planning for and making possible a larger staff, whether this college course is opened or not. Although the Blackstone Missionary Institute belongs to India, it has a claim on the interest of each Conference.

We need the best material that you can give us to prepare for Christian service.

May we depend upon your loyal support in furnishing students in definite prayer for the work, and in doing what you can to provide an adequate staff.

M. I. F. McKnight, Principal.

Temperance

Before Annual Conference a temperance questionnaire was sent out to a representative person in each District. This report is based upon the information received from this questionnaire.

Throughout the Conference, Temperance work has been done through the Churches, Epworth Leagues, and Sunday schools, also thousands of tracts and other Temperance literature, has been distributed.

Basim District reports active work in all branches of their work and the singing of 276 pledge cards during the year.

Bombay District, realizing that this is becoming more and more a question demanding grave consideration, is planning to put special emphasis on this phase of the work during the coming year in forming new organizations and in trying to create in the Church and in the day schools, a real conscience on this subject.

Nagpur District Report gives the official excise figures for the year of 1921 as compared with the year 1922, which showed a decrease of 33,000 gallons in the consumption of liquor, also a decrease of fifty-five licenses issued to shop-keepers, and that the Central Provinces Legislative Council has declared for total prohibition and has so voted. As they believe this total prohibi-
tion will have to come gradually, it has been decided to increase the excise tax to such an extent that the trade will cease to be profitable. It has recently increased from Rs. 12/13/- per 20 gallons to Rs. 17/8/- per 20 gallons. For 1924 the tax will be raised to Rs. 20 per 20 gallons, and this rate of increase will be kept up until the demand for licenses will cease.

Poona District Report shows a live W.C.T.U. organization having meetings monthly, also medal contests, and all other W.C.T.U. activities in full swing. They also report that a Hygene Primer in Marathi will be out of the press soon, and at the disposal of the entire Marathi area. They are faced with the fact that in many sections of the Christian Church, drink is on the increase, and feel it the duty of every Christian missionary to put forth a very special effort for the cause of temperance.

In closing, we recommend that each missionary, as he or she returns to work, undertake definite responsibility for helping in this great work, and that each one of us subscribe to the Indian Temperance News, and pass it on to some Indian friend each month, asking them to pass it on to some one else; and that in stations where we have no W.C.T.U. organizations that we organize and really do our bit in helping India to free herself from this curse.

Field Property Board

A meeting of the Property Board was called in Nagpur in February, to approve the purchase of a plot for the Girls' school. Fifteen acres of Government land was approved and the following Building Committee was appointed: Rev. Warner, Misses Sutherland and Drescher. They were instructed to draw up general plans for the whole plot and detailed plans for bungalow, teachers' and servants' quarters, and dormitory for the Primary school. It was also recommended that the Nagpur plant remain the first consideration in the matter of building projects and that the Bombay property be considered an extraordinary emergency.

At the meeting of the Field Property Board in Basim, in July, the Nagpur Building Committee presented plans for a two-story dormitory which would temporarily accommodate the school and missionaries. This would enable them to move from the present bungalow and save the Rs. 225 paid for rent each month. These plans and the general plans for the plot were approved.

It was also urged that the full amount for permanently rebuilding the hostel and servants' quarters in Bombay be given at once.

At a meeting of the Board in Puntamba and Kopergaon, in August, the location of our work was considered and, after as care-
fully considering the question as possible, it was decided that the permanent headquarters should be located in Kopergaon on condition that the Board of Foreign Missions also locate a missionary family in that place. A plot of approximately fourteen acres adjacent to the Irrigation Bungalow was approved as the site.

Memorials to Central Conference

Constitution of Annual Conference Boards of Education

Whereas, Article II of the Constitution of Annual Conference Boards of Education does not adequately provide for the representation of non-missionary personnel on the Board, without disturbing the general ratio of the Annual and Woman's Conferences now elected to it;

Resolved, that we memorialize Central Conference to so amend Article II as to incorporate these features in it.

Loans to and Re-imbursements from Students

Whereas the present plan of requiring contracts from students attending institution of higher education for the refunding of money is unsuccessful, and whereas the non-fulfilment of the same is demoralizing to the students themselves, therefore we submit the following plan:

There are three sources from which students may obtain funds:

I. The student's own family or private means.
II. Free scholarships given by the Mission, the amount of the said scholarship to be fixed by the Conference concerned.
III. An Educational Loan Fund from which students may draw what they need up to a certain sum, said sum to be fixed by the Conference concerned, all of which must be refunded by the students when they receive employment at the rate of 10 per cent. of their salary per month. For all sums drawn from this fund the student must give a non-interest bearing promissory note signed by himself and if he is a minor signed by his parent or guardian.

This loan fund shall be a Conference Fund and administered by the Conference Treasurer.

Resolved, that we memorialize Central Conference to adopt this plan of re-imbursement for all the Conference Educational Boards in Southern Asia.

Field Reference Committee

Resolved, that, we memorialize Central Conference to consider the question of the best time of holding the meeting of the Field Reference Committee with a view to preparing estimates.
Status of Bible Women

Resolved, that we memorialize Central Conference to accept the status of Bible women as adopted by our Conference last year as the status for Bible women for Southern Asia.

Resolutions

Resolved:

1. That we send affectionate greetings from our Woman’s Conference to Bishop and Mrs. J. W. Robinson, whose presence with us in past conference sessions has meant much.

2. That we express the great joy it has been to us to have Bishop Smith with us this year in Annual Conference. He has been wonderfully used of God in making this a season of spiritual refreshing and reviving to us all. Also, that we tender our warm thanks to Mrs. Smith for so graciously presiding over our Woman’s Conference sessions. There too we have felt the presence and power of the Holy Spirit amongst us.

3. That we give Miss Holder a cordial welcome into our ranks and affectionately welcome Miss Elliott on her return from furlough.

4. That we record the pleasure it has been to have Rev. C. B. Hill with us again in Annual Conference, and that we thank him for so kindly coming to us in session and leading in our devotional service.

5. That we offer hearty congratulations to those who have passed their Marathi examinations during the year—Miss Holder and Mrs. Borgman, first year; and Miss Greene, second year. Special congratulations are due to Miss Greene who passed with highest honours.

6. That we express regret that, on account of her mother’s illness, Mrs. Fisher has been obliged to go home on furlough before Annual Conference.

7. That we record our unbounded satisfaction in the election of Mrs. David as lay delegate from the Bombay Conference to General Conference. The honour is hers of being the first Indian lady to have such election.

8. That we send our greetings of love to Mrs. Aldis, Mrs. Borgman, Mrs. W. W. Bruere, and Mrs. W. B. Bruere, who have been unable to meet with us this year.

9. Our heartiest thanks and appreciation are extended to the Bombay ladies for the fine hospitality they have accorded us. We have been most comfortably placed, the arrangements for conveyance have been perfect, and everything possible has been done to make everybody comfortable. It has all been greatly appreciated.
## District Statistics for Educational Institutions

**For the year ending July 1st, 1923**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Location of School</th>
<th>Number of Schools</th>
<th>Number of Weeks in Session (Use average for a group)</th>
<th>Sex of Pupils</th>
<th>Number of Teachers</th>
<th>Pupils (Day and Boarding)</th>
<th>Number of Christian Pupils</th>
<th>Boarding and Hostel Residents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>Vernacular Middle</td>
<td>Anglo-Vernacular</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basim Boarding School</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Day Schools</td>
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<td>44</td>
<td>MF</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bombay Marathi Day Schools</td>
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<td>MF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gujarati Day Schools</td>
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<td>MF</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>66</td>
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<td>7</td>
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<td>&quot; Bible Training School</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<td>Poona Day Schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Day School</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**DISTRICT STATISTICS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

*For the year ending July 1st, 1923*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name and Location of School</th>
<th>Property and Endowment (Use local currency)</th>
<th>Income (Use local currency)</th>
<th>Expenditure (Use local currency)</th>
<th>W.P.M.S. Total under Instruction</th>
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<td>Probable Value of Land</td>
<td>Probable Value of Equipment</td>
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<td>Bibie Training School</td>
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### General Statistics for Bombay Conference

For the last complete Conference year preceding October 1st, 1923

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICTS</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
<th>WOMEN IN THE CHURCH</th>
<th>Bible Institutes or Training Classes</th>
<th>WELFARE WORK</th>
<th>ORGANIZATIONS ON THE FIELD</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Missionaries</td>
<td>Wives of Missionaries in Active Work</td>
<td>Other Foreign Workers</td>
<td>Assistants</td>
<td>Native Workers, Christian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poona</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>.146</td>
<td>.157</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total     |         |                     |                       |             |           |                     |                         |              |                |                         |                         |                  |                     |                         |                      |                |                         |                         |                  |                      | Rs.                      | Rs.             | Rs.                      | Rs.                      |
| Basim     | .39     | .42                 | 110                    | 65           | 1060       | 1852                | .27                      | 113           | 65              | 477                      | . . .                     | . . .             | 1275                 | .129                    | . . .               | . . .                     | . . .                     | . . .             | . . .                     | Rs.                      | Rs.             | Rs.                      | Rs.                      |
| Bombay    | .25     | .29                 | 41                     | 49           | 20172       | 1120                | 15                       | 11            | 80              | 340                      | . . .                     | . . .             | 150                  | .3                      | 129                   | 15                      | . . .                     | . . .                     | . . .             | . . .                     | Rs.                      | Rs.             | Rs.                      | Rs.                      |
| Nagpur    | .149    | .55                 | 297                    | 160          | 37170       | 3027                | 34                       | 11749         | 25              | 610                      | . . .                     | . . .             | 20                   | .3                      | 129                   | 2                      | . . .                     | . . .                     | . . .             | . . .                     | Rs.                      | Rs.             | Rs.                      | Rs.                      |
| Poona     | .146    | .157                | 420                    | 156          | 100415      | 3310                | 29                       | . . .         | . . .           | . . .                     | . . .                     | . . .             | 15                   | .5                      | 420                   | 10                     | . . .                     | . . .                     | . . .             | . . .                     | Rs.                      | Rs.             | Rs.                      | Rs.                      |

**Value**

- Rs. 30,100
- Rs. 50,000
- Rs. 1,275