Burma Christian Council

Thirteenth Annual Report

1927

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OFFICERS.

Chairman—The Rt. Revd. the Bishop of Rangoon, Bishopscourt, Rangoon.


Honorary Secretary—Rev. C. E. Chaney, 15 Mission Road, Rangoon.

Honorary Treasurer—Thra San Ba, Seminary Hill, Insein.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.


REPRESENTATIVES.


S. P. G. Mission.—The Rt. Revd. the Bishop of Rangoon, Bishopscourt, Rangoon; Rev. W. C. B. Purser, St. Michael's, Kemmendine; Rev. Peter Kin Maung, St. Michael's, Kemmendine; Saya Kenneth Po San, St. John's College, Rangoon.

Wesleyan Mission.—Rev. H. Crawford Walters, Post Box No. 21, Mandalay; Rev. J. Mervyn Young, Pakokku; Rev. Po Tun, Pyawbwe, Yamethin District.

Methodist Episcopal Mission.—Rev. B. M. Jones, 27 Creek Street, Rangoon; Miss G. L. Stockwell, Thongwa, Hanthawaddy District; Saya U Shwe Hla, Pago.

Young Women's Christian Association.—Miss Estelle Amaron, Acting General Secretary, 22 Brookings Street, Rangoon.

Young Men's Christian Association.—W. B. Hilton, Esq., General Secretary, 295 Dalhousie Street, Rangoon.

Christian Literature Society.—Saya U Aung Ba, Seminary Hill, Insein.

Women's Christian Temperance Union.—Miss E. Amburn, 2 Lancaster Road, Rangoon.

Medical Representative.—Dr. Ma Saw Sa, 15 Barr Street, Rangoon.

Co-opted Members.—Saya Po Mya, Baptist Normal School, Rangoon; Dr. Ma Saw Sa; Saya On Kin, M. E. Mission, Thongwa; Mr. S. J. Obed, Y. M. C. A., 295 Dalhousie Street, Rangoon; Miss May T. Mack, 20B, 43rd Street, Rangoon; Rev. C. E. Olmstead, M. E. Mission, Thongwa; Rev. J. Mudge, 1 Signal Pagoda Road, Rangoon; W. F. Grahame, Esq., I.C.S., Rangoon; Saya U Toe Khut, M.L.C., A. B. M., Maubin; Saya U Gho, Inspector of Schools, Circle I, Rangoon; Miss L. H. M. Laughlin, St. Mary's, Kemmendine, Rangoon.
Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting
of the Burma Christian Council

July 29–30, 1927

The Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Burma Christian Council was held at the Central Y. M. C. A., Rangoon, Friday and Saturday, July 29th and 30th, 1927. Because of the funeral service for Dr. Kingsley and because of the Jubilee celebration of the Church of England Mission, it was thought best to cancel the tea which had been planned for the afternoon of the 28th, and which the Rt. Revd. the Lord Bishop of Rangoon had generously offered to provide.

Later in the session the following resolution was adopted by the Council and it was voted that copies of it be sent to the Rangoon press for publication:

RESOLVED: That this Council desires to record its deep appreciation of the service rendered to the Council for many years by the late Dr. Kingsley and to express heartfelt sympathy with her family in their great loss.

The following members of the Council were present during all or some of the meetings:—The Lord Bishop, Dr. J. E. Cummings (in the chair), Rev. B. M. Jones, Rev. W. E. Wiatt, Miss A. O. Ragon, Rev. W. C. B. Purser, Rev. J. M. Young, Miss Estelle Amaron, W. B. Hilton, Esq., Rev. W. Sherratt, Miss E. Amburn, Miss May Mack, Rev. C. E. Olmstead, W. F. Grahame, Esq., Thra San Ba, Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Saya U Shwe Hla, Saya On Kin, Saya U Toe Khut, and Rev. C. E. Chaney, Honorary Secretary. Members of Standing and Ad Hoc Committees present were:—Rev. M. A. Clare, Miss M. E. Phillips, Miss E. Power, Rev. W. St. John, Rev. D. C. Baldwin, Miss Mabel Reid, Rev. J. R. Boyles, Rev. A. C. Hanna, Mrs. C. E. Chaney, and Miss M. G. Hollinshead. There were also a number of visitors present at all the sessions.

FRIDAY MORNING

At 8:00 a.m., following the singing of a hymn, the Reverend J. Mervyn Young of the Wesleyan Mission at Pakokku took charge of the devotional hour, choosing as his scripture lesson a part of the 4th Chapter of the Acts, and brought home to us forcibly the fact that it is our lives, and not our words, which
show forth our Gospel in Burma. Mr. Young concluded his remarks with the earnest question, “Can we say that the witness of our lives has been such that men seeing our good works glorified our Father?” and closed the service with prayer.

Dr. Cummings then brought the meeting to order and it was voted to accept the program as arranged by the Committee of Arrangements. The program provided for one half day session on Devolution, one session on Modern Trends of Thought in Burmese Buddhism, an evening session for the Annual Meeting of the Christian Literature Society, and one session for the regular business of the Council.

Rev. Peter Kin Maung read a thoughtful paper on “Devolution” in relation to the work of the S. P. G. Mission, treating of it in its four aspects, financial, parochial, educational, and evangelical.

Saya U Shwe Hla contributed an interesting paper on “Devolution in the Methodist Mission,” emphasizing the fact that the evangelization of Burma can only be accomplished by Burmans, and by Burmans who have been adequately trained.

Thra San Ba, in his paper on “Devolution in the Baptist Mission,” raised a number of questions with regard to salary, adjustment, training, and transfer of responsibility and property.

Following the reading of these papers there was considerable discussion from the floor. (See Secretary’s Notes.)

RESOLVED: That the three papers on Devolution be presented to the National Christian Council Review for publication, with the understanding that the authors be allowed to edit them in any way they see fit.

RESOLVED: That in view of the importance of the subject of the Devolution of responsibility to the Indigenous Church, a committee consisting of all the indigenous members of this Council be appointed to consider and report at the next Annual Meeting of the Council; and that the Honorary Secretary be asked to convene the first meeting of this committee, which will then proceed to elect its chairman and to deal with the following points:—

I. Problems arising from racial and communal differences, with special reference to the relation between Burmese and Karen Christian Communities;

II. Problems arising from finance, with special reference to:—

1. Maintenance and support of existing institutional and pastoral work on such
a scale as will be within the capacity of a self-supporting Burmese Church;

2. Maintenance of missionary effort amongst the Burmese and other partially and wholly unevangelized races;

III. Problems arising from the perpetuation of existing divisions in the future self-governing church.

The short time remaining was taken up with the regular business of the Council.

Correspondence for Information Only

The Secretary stated for the information of the Council that Miss Estelle Amaron had been appointed as the representative of the Y. W. C. A. to fill the vacancy left by the departure of Miss Ferguson. The Secretary read the following:—

1. A letter dated July 5th to Miss Ferguson, expressing the regret of the Council for her enforced departure from Burma, and their appreciation of her services in the Council and in other lines of work.

2. A letter dated June 17th from His Excellency the Governor of Burma acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Resolution on Gambling adopted by the Executive Committee of the Council at its meeting on June 11th.

3. A letter dated July 12th from the Honourable Sir Benjamin Heald, likewise acknowledging receipt of a copy of the Resolution on Gambling.

4. A letter dated July 12th to the Secretary of Government (Home and Political Department), on the subject of the Establishment of the North-East India General Mission in the Kabaw Valley.

5. A telegram from the Reverend H. Crawford Walters, expressing his regret at being unable to attend the meeting of the Council.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 with prayer by Mr. Wiatt.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

The session opened at 1:00 o'clock with a short devotional service led by the Reverend Walter E. Wiatt of the Burman Baptist Theological Seminary at Insein.

The meeting was then brought to order by Dr. Cummings and the business program was again taken up. The minutes of the last meeting were adopted as printed.
Reports of Standing Committees

I. Education Committee. (See Secretary's Notes.)

Mr. Olmstead, Convener of the Committee, read his report, which consisted of two parts, a section on the Trend of Government Policy along Educational Lines, and a section on Religious Education. After a lengthy discussion (See Secretary's Notes), the report was accepted.

RESOLVED: That we submit a copy of Section I of the report of the Education Committee to the Education Committees of each of the bodies affiliated with this Council, asking them to send in their comments and recommendations to the Education Committee of the Council, the latter to bring in a report at the meeting of the Executive Committee in January, 1928.

RESOLVED: That Section II of the report of the Education Committee, dealing with the proposed topics of discussion on Religious Education, be circulated for their information to the various missions affiliated with this Council.

II. Committee on Training of Missionaries. See Page 11.

Mr. Purser's report was read and accepted.

RESOLVED: That the pamphlet published and circulated by the Madras Council be referred to the Committee on the Training of Missionaries with the request that they consider the possibility of organizing a similar movement in Rangoon.

RESOLVED: That the Mandalay Suggestions be referred to the Committee on the Training of Missionaries for consideration, to report to the Executive Committee of the Council, with the understanding that any further printing of the syllabus will be deferred until these suggestions have been discussed and either accepted or rejected.


Reports of Ad Hoc Committees

I. Committee on Rural Education. See Page 12.

Mrs. Chaney's report was read and accepted.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the suggestion of the Committee on Rural Education, this Council recommends to the various mission bodies affiliated with it that they give adequate recognition to the needs of Vernacular Education on their respective educational committees.

RESOLVED: That the present Committee on Rural Education be asked to continue to function.

II. Committee on Public Questions. See Page 15.

Mr. Hilton's report was read and accepted.
III. *Stanley Jones Continuation Committee.* See Page 16.  
Mr. Hilton's report of progress was read and accepted.

IV. *Committee on Enlarging the Council.*

Mr. Chaney presented a recommendation for this committee which would necessitate an amendment to the Constitution of the Burma Christian Council, namely, that the membership of the Council be doubled, in order to secure more indigenous members. The Chair ruled that action on this recommendation was out of order because notice had not been given a month in advance, as required by Article VIII of the Constitution. It was agreed that the proposed amendment should be taken up at the next Annual Meeting of the Council, and the Secretary announced that the reading of the amendment at the present time constituted the necessary advance notice to the members of the Council and should be so understood.

V. *Committee on Gambling.* No report. (See Secretary’s Notes.)

RESOLVED: That a Committee on Gambling be appointed, consisting of Mr. Walters, Mr. Hilton, Miss Mack, Saya U Shwe Hla, Saya U Ba, and the Honorary Secretary, *ex-officio.*

*Other Reports*

I. *Secretary's Report.* See Page 17.  
Mr. Chaney’s report was read and accepted.

Thra San Ba’s report was read and accepted.

*Unfinished Business*

The Secretary presented the Resolution on Local Option as approved by the Executive Committee of the Council at its meeting on June 11th and the principle and wording of the action were discussed at some length. (See Secretary’s Notes.)

RESOLVED: That the words “the spread of” in the preamble to the Resolution on Local Option be deleted, and the Resolution, so revised, be adopted and a copy sent to the Local Government.

The corrected Resolution reads as follows:—

“Resolved: That this Council is so impressed by the evil results of intemperance in this country, as shown by the repeated opinions of Judges and Magistrates, that it feels bound to call upon all Christian people and all who care for the welfare of
their country, to unite in opposing this evil; and it desires respectfully:—

1. To call the attention of the Local Government to the high principles on this matter demonstrated in the Manual of Excise of the Government of India from which quotations are appended in the schedule attached to this resolution, and particularly to the statement that “the Government of India would be glad to see Local Option consulted more systematically and recorded more definitely than is the case at present.”

2. To request that (a) no new license may in future be issued without full opportunity being given to the locality in which it is applied for (preferably by means of ballot voting) to object to the issue, and that when a definite majority of votes are against the issue, no license shall be granted; (b) the same principle shall govern the renewal of existing licenses.”

(Note:—The passages quoted from the Manual of Excise of the Government of India will be found in the printed minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of June 11th, 1927)

The session adjourned at 4:00 with prayer by Mr. Chaney.

FRIDAY EVENING

The Lord Bishop presided at the evening session, which was a joint meeting of the Christian Literature Society and the Christian Council. Following the singing of a hymn, Mr. Purser led in prayer. Miss Phillips, Secretary of the Society, and Mr. Morrison, Treasurer, read their reports, which were adopted. The report of the Literature Committee of the Council was read by Mr. Jones, Convener of this committee and of the Publication Committee of the Christian Literature Society.

Following this necessary business, a very interesting program was provided by a number of the Rangoon Christian Schools. The recent translations of the Christian Literature Society were presented to a large audience in the form of tableaux. The following books were represented:—

1. “The Teaching of Primary Reading by the Story Method”—St. Mary’s Normal School.


At the end of the program Mr. Jones spoke in warm appreciation of the services of the Lord Bishop as Chairman of the Christian Literature Society, and expressed the regret of all that his work in Burma is soon to come to an end. The Bishop responded briefly and closed the meeting with the pronouncement of the Benediction.

SATURDAY MORNING

The session opened at 8:00 a.m. The Lord Bishop led the devotional service, taking as his text the 101st or "Magistrate's" Psalm, and bringing us an inspirational message of our great responsibilities as ministers of God, and the joy and privilege of our fellowship in the great work which we are all carrying on together.

At 8:30 Dr. Cummings called the meeting to order and introduced U Kin Maung, Burma's representative in the Legislative Assembly at Delhi, who read a very interesting paper on "New Trends of Thought in Burmese Buddhism." Following the reading of this paper the members of the Council discussed the subject at length, plying U Kin Maung with questions which he answered with courtesy and diplomacy. (See Secretary's Notes.)


The Council then proceeded to the elections for the coming year. The Secretary presented the proposals of the Committee of Arrangements for Officers, Conveners of Standing Committees, Members of the Executive Committee, and Co-opted Members. The ticket was accepted with a few minor changes. (See Secretary's Notes.) The names of those elected, together with the full membership of the Council, are printed on the inside of the front and back covers of the minutes.

The Secretary paid tribute to the capable chairmanship of Dr. Cummings. He also spoke of the Council's indebtedness to the Lord Bishop for his many services and of its wish to express its appreciation of these services by asking him to serve as Chairman of the Council until he leaves Burma.
Miscellaneous New Business

I. The Secretary brought up the question of the number of copies of Council minutes which should be printed.

RESOLVED: That the number of copies of Council minutes to be printed be reduced to the number of copies required, the Secretary to determine the exact figure.

II. The Secretary read an extract from Mr. Paton's letter of February 18th, 1927, regarding the Medical Committee of the Council, and it was voted to defer action on his proposition until replies are received from the medical missionaries of the missions represented on this Council.

III. RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be given to the following:—The Bishop of Rangoon for his gracious offer to provide a Tea for the Council and its friends; the Y. M. C. A. for their many courtesies connected with providing an auditorium and also arranging to serve breakfast and other meals during the meetings; the British and Foreign Bible Society for the use of their rooms for the Executive Committee Meetings during the year; U Kin Maung for his splendid paper on “New Trends of Thought in Burmese Buddhism;” Rev. Peter Kin Maung, Saya U Shwe Hla, and Thra San Ba for their thought-ful papers on “Devolution;” The Lord Bishop, the Reverend J. Mervyn Young, and the Reverend W. E. Wiatt for their in-spirational devotional services; and the Honorary Secretary for his careful preparations and efficient handling of the business of the Annual Meeting.

IV. RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Exec-utive Committee be held on November 5, 1927.

A motion to adjourn was made and carried at 10:45.

The Annual Meeting closed with the Benediction pronounced by the Lord Bishop.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Chaney,
Honorary Secretary.

REPORT OF THE LITERATURE COMMITTEE
TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA
CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 29–30, 1927

The plan adopted some years back for the co-operation of the Christian Council and the Burma Branch of the Christian Literature Society in carrying on the work of literature produc-
tion and distribution, is still in operation and is probably the most satisfactory that can be devised at present. The Christian Council appoints as its Committee on Literature the General Committee of the Christian Literature Society. The latter accepts the appointment and carries on.

The year under report is very encouraging in some aspects of it and very discouraging in others; encouraging that so much could be done with so small a force, discouraging that it is not possible, for lack of funds and personnel, to organize a force adequate for this task of unsurpassed importance. For one year we were able to have a full time translator and a half time missionary engaged on literature work. Now for a year and a half we have had only such time as busy men could give in the midst of pressing duties. This year's record is passable only because we had some manuscripts left over from the days of the full time translator.

During the past twelve months the following new publications have come from the press:—

Tales of Heroism (Burmese) .... 5,000 copies.
The Manhood of the Master .... 2,000 ”
The Teaching of Reading by the Story Method .... 1,000 ”
Tales of Heroism (in Sgaw Karen) .... 3,000 ”
A Course of Lessons for Village Sunday Schools and Primary Departments .... 1,000 ”

Two of these, the Tales of Heroism in Karen and the Sunday School Lessons, were translated honorarily by Thra San Ba and Saya U On Kin respectively. The others were from manuscripts left over from the days of our paid translator.

In addition to the foregoing, the Burma Union Press has published an Edition of 1,300 copies of our manuscript of the life of Saddhu Sundar Singh and we have printed a Second Edition of 5,000 copies of Bo So Min and 10,000 copies of one of our old 24 page tracts, Buddhism As It Is.

That it has been possible during the year to add to the stock of our Christian Literature 13,000 volumes of six new books and 15,000 volumes of two old ones, over two and three quarters millions of pages in the aggregate, is gratifying, viewed in the light of past accomplishment, but viewed in the light of the appalling need, it is scarcely a drop in the bucket. I make no apology for repeating what I have said many times before on like occasions, that this essential work cannot be carried on as a mere side issue. It requires an adequate and competent staff of workers on whom its claim is primary.
In the matter of finances, we are much under obligation to the Indian Literature Fund which for two years made us a grant of Rs. 1,800 per year. This is intended primarily for the support of a translator but in view of the fact that no translator has been available, nor a missionary to work with him, they have allowed us to use part of it for publication. The grant for the current year has been reduced to Rs. 1,500.

We have now accumulated a considerable stock and the income from sales has increased proportionately. The wholesale value of the stock on hand of the recent publications alone is just slightly under Rs. 6,000. Nearly all our publications now are being sold at a price to cover the cost of printing and are still cheaper than those offered for sale by Burmese publishers.

This brings us to the subject of circulation, one of the weakest places in our system. It would almost seem as if it should be possible to ignore this subject altogether, that with the need so great it should be sufficient just to make the books available and they would be snatched up and distributed eagerly by those engaged in Christian work. As a matter of fact, in spite of a fair amount of advertising, many missionaries and more Burmese and Karen pastors are to be found who know nothing about the books whatever.

For a year past we have had a colporteur employed, but he was not well qualified for his work, largely because of ignorance of Burma and Burmese. We are giving a new man a trial but it is doubtful whether we shall get satisfactory service until we find a Burman or Karen with a gift for salesmanship and a keen personal interest in the work.

I cannot get accurate figures for the sales covering the past twelve months but it may be worth while to note the progress made since the new system was inaugurated just less than two and a half years ago. In all, twelve new books and two old ones have been published, a total of 49,000 volumes and well over five millions of pages. Two of these books have just come from the press and have not been on sale. Of those that have been on sale, 16,500 volumes, aggregating over a million and a half pages, have been sold, which is almost exactly 40% of the total published. It is to be noted that with new books coming out frequently, the sales show up fairly well, for a few hundred of each new book are sold at once; but I am confident that if all Christian workers whose work would be greatly benefited by the use of this literature would take up with enthusiasm the task of distributing it, our stocks would not last long.

Perhaps I should add a word of apology and explanation as to the character of the work done. I am painfully aware that, so far as my part of it is concerned, much of it is slipshod.
Perhaps I should have been wiser to have done as all the others have whom we have tried to get to take charge of this work and have refused outright to attempt it, but I have been under the impression that something was better than nothing. The make-up and printing of our books has been somewhat criticised. In regard to this I can only say that it is the inevitable result of the policy we definitely adopted of entering into competition against the cheap and mostly worthless, if not actually vicious, literature being produced and distributed in abundance by other agencies. The books are reasonably legible and gotten up in the style to which the people for whom they are intended are most accustomed. To have tried to make them prize samples of the printer's art would have limited our output to a fraction of what it has been. The result of our one effort in that direction is that one of our books has been produced at a loss of nearly 50% though the price is more than 50% above that of any of our other books. I hope the time may come when, with a greatly stimulated appetite for reading, the people will be willing to pay the cost of well printed books.

As to prospects for the coming year, I should much like to be more optimistic. We have, however, no more manuscripts ready. We have some promises of a couple of books of a more or less technical and non-religious story literature. We have many things in mind but no hope whatever of opportunity to bring any of them into being. I most earnestly hope and pray that it may be possible to find someone with a little more time and energy to give to this work.

B. M. Jones, Convener,
Literature Committee of the Burma
Christian Council and Publication Committee
of the Christian Literature Society.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF MISSIONARIES TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 29–30, 1927

There is little to report with regard to the work of the Committee during the year. The two regular examinations were held. There appears to be a falling off in the number of candidates for the Burman language examination and if this is due to neglect on the part of junior missionaries of the study of the language, it is a matter which should receive the very serious consideration of the Boards concerned. I understand that my colleagues on the Committee have already taken up the matter.
If the falling off of the candidates is due to some defect in the examining body, perhaps the Committee should be improved by the addition of new members.

The attempts to provide improved methods of language study and in particular to establish a language school have hitherto proved abortive. It was suggested last year that a hand-book might be prepared to assist those newly arriving in the country in the study of the Burmese language and of the Buddhist religion. Perhaps the apathy of the examination board in the matter may be due in some measure to the lack of interest on the part of the Council and the missionary societies as a whole in the subject.

W. C. B. Purser, Convener, Committee on Training of Missionaries.

REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON RURAL EDUCATION TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 29–30, 1927

The Sub-Committee on Rural Education has had five meetings through the year and a considerable amount of correspondence. One report has been given at the February meeting. The task given to the Sub-Committee was very definite and clear. The Committee was asked to take "under consideration Miss Gordon's letter of suggestion" and see to what extent these suggestions could be carried out. There were nine of these made by Miss Gordon.

Certain ones, as No. 3 (supervision of jungle schools), No. 4 (courses of study), No. 6 (building up village vernacular boarding schools), and No. 8 (providing suitable vernacular literature), we have not acted upon because we felt that either such efforts are already being carried on in some other department (as, for instance, the work in vernacular literature which is being done by the Christian Literature Society) or that the local situation here in Burma does not make such lines of effort advisable or necessary (as, for instance, the building up of village boarding schools).

Other suggestions we have acted upon. You will remember that one of the things which Miss Gordon stressed most was the need for a full time man or woman for supervision of village vernacular education in the missions. The Council discussed this and asked the Sub-Committee to find out if such a person could be found. At our second meeting we drafted a
letter of inquiry, a copy of which was sent to each of the four mission bodies. We had replies from two of the missions saying they had no one they could release for this work, and we assume that this is the case with all. It seems impossible at the present time to do anything in a centralized effort to put rural education on a better basis, but the Committee feels that the 4th Standard Vernacular village school has been the most neglected in our mission policies and is in great need of special consideration. We suggest that the Council will recommend to the various mission bodies that they give adequate recognition to the needs of vernacular education on their educational committees.

The Sub-Committee easily came to an agreement concerning the suggestion that a suitable course of Bible study be made available for all rural schools. Some on the Committee had already tried out the excellent little book of Mrs. Annett’s, called “A Course for Use in Vernacular Schools and Primary Departments.” This was strongly recommended by the Committee as suitable for teachers of Christian and non-Christian children alike, and with special lessons on church teaching to supplement the book, one that would be very useable by all our missions. Therefore, at the February meeting of the Council, the Sub-Committee recommended that the book be put into Burmese. The Council very kindly accepted this and asked the Committee on Literature to print it as soon as possible. That has been done and the book will be ready for sale within the month of August.

The Committee has also been very sympathetic toward Miss Gordon’s suggestion that each mission in the Council should have the benefit of whatever experimental work in rural education is being carried on. The Council, in answer to a recommendation of the Sub-Committee, asked that we begin such help through the existing church papers. Accordingly the Committee addressed a letter to each of the editors asking if a page a month could be given to such secular material and not only did the answers show a willingness to print it, but, on the part of most, an eagerness to do so. The members of the Committee have agreed among themselves to be responsible for certain months and this work was begun with the June issues.

Another matter which Miss Gordon did not touch but which the Sub-Committee brought to the attention of the Council, has to do with the uncertain salaries of the jungle teachers. The Council asked us to investigate these grievances and, if necessary, the Committee on Education could carry the matter to the Legislative Council. We find that while there has been a very serious situation concerning salaries of jungle teachers in the
Kyaukse district, yet it is not a case of salaries being withdrawn or cut off without warning as was the case in many schools a few years ago. While there have been cases during the past year of teachers having failed to receive a salary (in the Baptist Mission), yet the teacher had been told at the beginning of the year that he would receive none, which had not been the method formerly.

Since the beginning of this new year, however, a new situation has arisen in a certain district where a few mission schools have suddenly been notified that they would be disregistered and salaries withdrawn. This is done after the school year has opened with a good attendance of children, and in every case referred to, they are schools of long standing with teachers fully certificated, and are schools to which a salary has been granted continuously for many years. It seems to be a bit of high handedness by minor officials and is being looked into and reported by the mission concerned; but if this treatment of jungle schools continues or spreads to other districts, it may become a matter for the Council to act upon.

The little that has been planned and done during this last year has made the members of the Committee increasingly realize the need of the rural schools. When we consider what a large proportion of our Christians live in small rural communities and when we consider how open and receptive to Christian teaching is the average "jungle wallah," we cannot fail to appreciate our responsibility to the former and our opportunity with the latter. The village school becomes the natural point of contact with both communities.

If we now recognize that perhaps our mission policies have been planned altogether too much for the rich few who can afford the luxury of an Anglo-vernacular education, is it not time that we take this task and responsibility of vernacular education a little more seriously?

It is not enough to establish a number of village schools—we owe it to the communities which they serve that they should be as efficient as possible and that they should in every possible way touch the full life of these communities.

We therefore bring to the Council this suggestion for action at this meeting:—That the Council will recommend to the various mission bodies that they give adequate recognition to the needs of Vernacular Education on their respective educational committees.

Mrs. C. E. Chaney, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Rural Education.
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 29–30, 1927

At the last annual meeting I drew the Council's attention to the Police report on the number of Waifs and Strays in Rangoon and of dens where these children were trained in ways of crime. The urgent need of a full time worker in connection with the Vigilance Society was also mentioned. In the first case Government has appointed a committee to go into the question and I understand that proposals for dealing with these children in Borstal Institutions are under consideration. In the second case we are pleased to say that Miss S. E. Nicoll Jones has been appointed as a full time officer of the Vigilance Society.

During the year the question of pernicious literature sent to school boys has been brought to my notice and I took the matter up with the Minister for Education. I have been given to understand that a bill is being introduced that aims at making it illegal to publish literature of this kind in India.

Heads of two Christian Schools have complained of lottery tickets having been sent to pupils. A number of these were sent to me recently and I have sent them on to the Post Master General with the request that he help us in the matter of preventing this nuisance. Another matter brought to my notice was the prevalence of advertisements (also sent to schools) for talismans which are guaranteed to cure all ills the flesh is heir to. While people are so superstitious and gullible I suppose there will ever be those ready to turn this into hard cash. The best way to combat the evil is to expose it in our own Christian magazines and publications.

Social Service League

The Social Service League's report on Housing was published after the last annual meeting and this helped to stir up public opinion which led to the establishment of the Rangoon Health Inquiry Committee, the findings of which body are now being considered.

After the disastrous fire at Ahlone in March last the Rangoon Social Service League was able to render service by erecting forty huts for the use of the homeless sufferers. The Indigenous Christian Community, consisting of Burmans, Karens, and Indians, raised over Rs. 1,300 and erected forty huts for
the sufferers. This, I believe, is the first time that such action has been taken jointly by indigenous brothers of various races and Churches and augurs well for co-operation in the future. The consciousness that when a need arises Christians should be amongst the first to seek to meet it is undoubtedly growing in Burma.

In conclusion, I would draw the attention of the Council to the growth of Societies during the past few years which are interested in the public good. There is the Burma Red Cross, with its many activities, such as Health Work, Baby Week, Health Education, etc.; The National Council of Women, an influential body also interested in Social Problems; The Monday Afternoon Club, another influential company, chiefly composed of indigenous ladies; The Social Service League; the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. All this work has had a considerable influence on conditions in Rangoon.

W. B. Hilton, Convener,
Sub-Committee on Public Questions.

REPORT OF THE STANLEY JONES CONTINUATION COMMITTEE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BURMA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

July 29–30, 1927

Minutes of a meeting of the Stanley Jones' Committee held at Bishopscourt on Wednesday morning, July 13th, at 8:00 a.m.

Present:—The Lord Bishop in the Chair, and Messrs. C. E. Chaney, F. T. Edwards, D. C. Baldwin, and W. B. Hilton.

The Meeting was opened with prayer by the Lord Bishop.

The question of inviting Dr. Stanley Jones to Burma next year was carefully considered. Doubt was expressed as to whether it would be wise to attempt to arrange a similar programme as that carried out this year so soon after the last visit. It was the opinion of some members that it might be better to ask Dr. Jones to meet selected groups of people in various places. It was finally decided to write to Dr. Jones extending an invitation to visit Burma early next year, if possible, and if so, to suggest ways in which he would prefer his time to be spent.

Matters Arising out of the Last Meeting

1. Bible Classes—

It was reported that these ran well for a time but had now lapsed owing to lack of interest.
2. Continuation Lectures—

It was the opinion of the committee that it was too late to begin continuation lectures now. It was recommended that the matter be considered in good time before the next visit of Dr. Jones and that the lectures be planned to begin after Dr. Jones' next visit.

This being all the business, the meeting was closed with the benediction.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

To the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Burma Christian Council

July 28-30, 1927

In this brief report of the past year your Secretary will not infringe on the territory of any of the regular committees reporting. Their quarterly reports have appeared in the minutes, and each Committee at this time will doubtless briefly review the year's work of its own province. But there have been items of interest which do not fall within their province, concerning which I would remind you in this brief statement:

Annual Meeting of 1926

The last Annual Meeting was the first one to provide a two days' session, including, on Friday evening, the Annual Meeting of the Christian Literature Society, in place of its own Committee on Christian Literature, which committee co-operates with the Christian Literature Society. The two days' program was a decided improvement upon the former method of Annual Meetings which were given up almost entirely to mere business routine. We hope the present Meeting will prove as well worth while. This longer session allows time for papers, addresses, and discussion of subjects of vital interest to all who are in the extension work of the Kingdom of God. One of these topics which came to the front last year and resulted in an animated discussion was the subject of Local Option. The Resolution was referred back to a Committee to present a resolution to the Executive Committee for approval and submission to this Annual Meeting. A resolution drafted by this Committee and approved by the Executive Committee with almost no alteration will be dealt with by this meeting.
Executive Committee Meeting, November 27, 1926

The Executive Committee Meeting of November 27th was largely given up to the preliminaries connected with the coming of Dr. Stanley Jones. It might well be characterized as a "Stanley Jones Rally Meeting." But there were also three other items of especial interest which came to a head at that time. First, the Committee on Christian Survey of Burma completed its work and presented the printed copies of its stirring and graphic report. In such a work it is practically impossible to get down to complete accuracy in detail. But a very close approximation can be and has been reached. No missionary or Christian leader is as up-to-date as he ought to be in a knowledge of the Christian work in this Province, who has not secured and familiarized himself with the findings of that report, which represents a prodigious amount of work and has brought much information to light. One thousand copies were printed and have been placed on sale at the A. B. M. Press and at Smart and Mookerdum's. Various Mission Bodies took supplies of the survey for their own use. Second, the Committee putting out a tourist guide, combining items of religious and secular interest, completed their work and presented the printed copies of the "Book of Handy Information." There were 10,000 copies printed and large consignments were sent to Singapore, Colombo, Madras, and Calcutta to Thomas Cook and Son for free distribution to travellers coming to Burma. Tourist boats arriving in Burma have been met and tourists supplied with the guide. This little booklet has already won a place for itself by its service to travellers and to the various Missions at work in Burma. Third, our delegates to the National Christian Council in Calcutta gave their reports of that important meeting to our Council here.

Stanley Jones Meetings

Between this and the following Executive Council Meeting, Dr. Stanley Jones arrived and delivered his lectures on five successive nights in each of the following cities: Rangoon, Mandalay, and Moulmein. The lectures were thoroughly Christian and of the highest order and of such a character that all Christian bodies co-operated in them with the greatest harmony. Fine reports came to us from Mandalay and Moulmein concerning the lectures, but I can speak only of the work here in Rangoon. The lectures were a great spiritual uplift and inspiration to the Christian forces in Rangoon. Jubilee Hall was crowded to capacity night after night. Many non-Christians were present except from the educated Burmese Community, who through
the influence of the Buddhist Association were persuaded to absent themselves. It is hoped that we may again secure the services of Dr. Stanley Jones for another period. If he comes he will find a most cordial and warm welcome from all communities.

**Executive Committee Meeting, February 26, 1927**

The Executive Committee Meeting of February 26th was largely occupied with routine business. I would call your attention to one item only. A year ago Miss Gordon came over from India to study our rural education problems. She studied them first hand by visiting schools in the rains. Her contribution to the last Annual Meeting was almost entirely on this one subject. Out of that grew our Rural Education Committee following up lines of suggestions made by Miss Gordon. In its work this committee has provided material which the Literature Committee has put out for them. One item I would call especial attention to is the book, "A Course for Village Schools," which is now available. There ought to be a large demand for this book from wide-awake missionaries seeking to improve the conditions of vernacular schools in their respective fields.

**Executive Committee Meeting, June 11, 1927**

The Executive Committee Meeting of June 11th was of more than ordinary interest. It was this meeting which approved the Local Option Resolution being presented to this Council Meeting. Furthermore, this was the time when public feeling was most in evidence against the practice of some of the District Officers in using Gambling Waings as a means to raise funds for the University Endowment. The Council firmly voiced its disapproval of the method used in its resolution to the Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor of the University. Replies have been received from His Excellency the Governor and from the Honourable Sir Benjamin Heald, which replies have been read to this Council. Another piece of service rendered at this time was the work of Mission Comity carried out with our assistance between the North-East India General Mission and some Missions at work in Upper Burma. This Mission had entered into certain sections of Upper Burma from Assam. A statement of the settlement reached will be found in the minutes of the meeting. And the last item to be mentioned is the Council Representative to the International Missionary Council to be held in Jerusalem next April. Thra San Ba, B. A., lecturer at the Seminary in Insein and also at Judson College, was
chosen; Saya U Tun Pe, M.A., of Judson College was chosen as alternate. Large plans are being laid for the Jerusalem Council Meetings and it is most likely that those meetings will prove to be epochal in their importance. This is a subject which should be made the topic of frequent prayer by all interested in the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the Orient. The results of that Council are bound to be far reaching. Pray that God by his Holy Spirit may direct them in all of their plans and purposes.

In Conclusion

Matters of routine business and minor importance have not been mentioned in this report. And yet the work of the Council or its importance cannot be gauged apart from taking such matters into consideration. If such items should cease to be carried on, very soon their importance would become evident by reason that they had ceased. There are spheres of work in which we as Christian Bodies prefer to make our own contributions in our own way and according to our own convictions. But in the Council by our united forces we can make contributions to the advancement of human welfare, which we cannot make as separate bodies. Some of those contributions will be along welcome and non-controversial lines. Other contributions which are needed will meet with determined and strong opposition from some quarters. But spiritual reform and progress is bound to run up against the world, the flesh, and the devil in various forms and under many garbs. Religion is the conscience of Society and woe unto it when it fails to function in no uncertain terms.

Respectfully submitted,

C. E. Chaney,
Honorary Secretary.
TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's accounts to the end of May 1927, have been reported in the Minutes of the meetings held on November 27, 1926, February 26, 1927, and June 11, 1927.

Receipts

<table>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>P.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Balance at the end of May 1927</td>
<td>803</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1, W. B. Hilton (Jones' Meeting)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
<td>828</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Expenditures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rs.</th>
<th>A.</th>
<th>P.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 2, Rev. Sydney Gordon, T. A.</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot; Rev. N. McNicol (National Council)</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost of 50 cheques</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance in hand</td>
<td>582</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Rs.</strong></td>
<td>828</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

San Ba,

29th July, 1927.

Honorary Treasurer,
Burma Christian Council.
STANDING COMMITTEES.

(The name of the Convener is given first in each case.)

I. Christian Education.—Rev. C. E. Olmstead and the following elected representatives of the constituent bodies engaged in educational work:


II. Christian Literature.—Rev. B. M. Jones, and the members of the Christian Literature Society General Committee as follows: Miss L. H. M. Laughlin; Mrs. V. N. Kemp; Miss E. Power, 2 Lancaster Road, Rangoon; Rev. C. E. Chaney; Rev. B. M. Jones; Rev. W. St. John, Ph.D., Judson College, Rangoon; Rev. G. S. Jury, Judson College, Rangoon; Miss V. R. Peterson, 15 Mission Road, Rangoon; Rev. D. C. Baldwin, 34 Creek Street, Rangoon; Rev. T. Fisher, Insein; Thra San Ba: Rev. W. C. B. Purser; Rev. W. Delahay, 6 Budd Road, Rangoon; Saya U Aung Ba, Seminary Hill, Insein.

III. Training of Missionaries.—Rev. W. C. B. Purser; Rev. J. Boyles, M. E. Mission, Pegu; Rev. A. C. Hanna, Seminary Hill, Insein; Miss H. Phinney, 1, Beale Road, Insein; Wesleyan representative for Upper Burma, Rev. H. Crawford Walters.


REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL.

For four years.. .. .. .. .. .. .. .. Dr. J. E. Cummings.
" " .. .. .. .. .. .. Saya On Kin.
" two years .. .. .. .. .. .. Rev. W. C. B. Purser.
" " .. .. .. .. .. Saya U Tun Pe.