American Baptist Foreign Mission Society

Assam Baptist Missionary Conference Report—II

FIFTEENTH SESSION 1917

Station Reports—Statistics.
ASSAM

BAPTIST MISSIONARY CONFERENCE

OF THE

AMERICAN BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION

SOCIETY

REPORTS

OF THE

MISSIONARIES

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AMERICAN
BAPTIST FOREIGN MISSION SOCIETY

ASSAM MISSION.

LIST OF MISSIONARIES.

MISSIONARIES PRESENT—35.

S. A. D. Boggs.
Mrs. Boggs.
A. C. Bowers.
Mrs. Bowers.
J. M. Carvell.
Miss Edith E. Crisenberry.
Miss Florence H. Doe.
W. E. Dowd.
Mrs. Dowd.
U. M. Fox.
Mrs. Fox.
F. W. Harding.
G. R. Kamper.
H. W. Kirby.
Mrs. Kirby.
R. B. Longwell.
Mrs. Longwell.
A. K. Mather.
M. C. Mason.
Mrs. Mason.
P. E. Moore.
Mrs. Moore.
William Pettigrew.
Mrs. Pettigrew.
Joseph Paul.
A. E. Stephen.
Mrs. Stephen.
O. L. Swanson.
J. E. Tanquist.
Mrs. Tanquist.
A. J. Tuttle.
Miss E. E. Vickland.
Miss Isabella Wilson.
W. E. Witter.
Mrs. Witter.

MISSIONARIES ABSENT (ON FIELD)—10.

Miss Omie Carter.
William Dring.
Mrs. Dring.
John Firth.
Mrs. Firth.
Mrs. Harding.
Miss Elizabeth Hay.
Miss Linnie M. Holbrook.
Miss Augusta M. Geisenhener.
Mrs. Mather.

MISSIONARIES ABSENT (ON FURLO)—23.

J. R. Bailey.
Mrs. Bailey.
Miss E. C. Bond.
Mrs. Carvell.
G. G. Crozier.
Mrs. Crozier.
Miss E. M. Holmes.
L. W. B. Jackman.
Mrs. Jackman.
Mrs. Kampfer.
Miss Anna E. Long.
W. C. Mason.
Mrs. Mason.
Mrs. P. H. Moore.
Mrs. Paul.
E. G. Phillips.
Mrs. Phillips.
S. W. Rivenberg.
Mrs. Rivenberg.
C. H. Tilden.
Mrs. Tilden.
Conference Hymn.

Our Call — Our Prize.

"God's Heavenward Call"! Oh matchless Prize!
Thou Life of Life, before our eyes!
Thou Goal of goals, unreached as yet,
May we the "course behind" forget;

And in Thy might keep pressing on,
On, on to summits still unwon,
To grasp Thy hand, who gave the call,
And—spent, before our Master fall;

Behold His face, and list His voice—
His gladsome word, "All hail, rejoice!"
You tried, you trusted, that was all
I meant by My exacting call.

You've triumphed, lo, the Prize is yours,
For you are Mine, and I am yours;
And look, Assam, Assam is ours
Glad fruitage of those strain-filled hours.

Forget, forget the cloud-dimmed past,
No more regretful glances cast.
Poor as it was, your love I won,
And for our sake Assam enthrone—

Enthrone, enrapture, to His praise—
Our Father—watching all the days,
And saying, 'Son, impart Thy fire
Their weary hearts to re-inspire

Long since You won, help them to win,
And thus rejoicing enter in,
Scarred with Thy scars, henceforth to be
Assam's crowned priests eternally."

WILLIAM ELSWORTH WITTER.

(Tune—"Ye Christian Heralds Go Proclaim.")
SURVEY OF THE FIELD.

GAUHATI.

South Bank—Kamrup.

A. E. STEPHEN.

His field with a population of 135,072 is still un-evangelized and many thousands have not yet heard the Good News. To reach these thousands it is necessary to have a larger number of evangelists than is at present employed. Plans made for a wider diffusion of the truth, and a more thorough occupation of the field, have been set aside so often, and this year, with the necessary appropriations cut down twenty per cent, we are further from their realization than ever.

Station Work.—The services in "Ward Memorial" have been conducted regularly. Rev. Levi Farwell has acted as pastor and upon him has been laid the responsibility of conducting these services. He is also Superintendent of the Sunday School.

In the month of October we held a week of special meetings and used the magic lantern to illustrate the subject. A few attended and we hope the truth spoken found a place in the hearts of some. Levi Farwell was ordained in October 1916 during the Bible Class session. It can be said of him, "he is a good man," although not an energetic man.

The missionary has conducted two services every Lord's Day when in the station, one at Satri Bari part of the year, and the other 3½ miles from Gauhati. The Beltola market, which is held on Sunday and Wednesday, has been visited several times on Sunday morning and many have heard the Gospel and have had tracts placed in their hands.

The Bible Class was held during October and attendance was much larger than was expected. A new departure was made this year from the ordinary class sessions. We met in the church prayer-room for one hour in the evening and any one was allowed to ask questions about the Bible. Many found the answers very helpful indeed. We had a profitable time. Many of the questions asked revealed how little they knew of comparing scripture with scripture.
The Churches.—Every church, and every Christian village except one, has been visited once and several twice during the year. In the churches are many who need more scriptural teaching on the rudiments of the Gospel before they can realize what their responsibilities are to their heathen neighbour. The magic lantern was in use on one tour and great interest was manifested in Joseph, who was presented typically and as a child of God whose path was thorny—whose life was a practical demonstration of the saying; "No cross, no crown." In several villages a week of special meetings was conducted, and several confessed to have received help.

This year more Christian men have come to me for a quiet spiritual talk than in previous years, and I have been much encouraged to learn something of their struggles with unseen powers of darkness, and their aspirations heavenward. Several told me of answers to prayer they have had. If such men increase, the churches will not lack spiritual leaders.

The Gauhati Church has supported one evangelist since October in a very needy corner 24 miles from the station. This man has been raised up in answer to prayer. He is one who has been through the fire and been cleansed. He has had a wonderful experience. The Lord had to cut deep before he would respond. His monthly reports tell that he is visiting many villages within a radius of 7 miles or more from his village. He knows how barren and unhappy a backslider's life is, now he is learning how fruitful and happy a life is when yielded to the Lord. This church has assumed the support of an orphan girl at "Satri Bari."

One church has chosen a pastor and he seems to be taking hold of the work in earnest and the people are responding. He understands that he has to live near the Lord in order to be a successful pastor. These village pastors require to have their hands upheld for their difficulties are innumerable and their task is oftentimes very hard.

The Association has supported one evangelist. He has visited every Garo village on this field. He is a very energetic man and is not afraid to leave his home for long tours.

The Schools.—The pundits with few exceptions are doing good work. This year there has been no Inspector to visit the schools, and the Government Sub-Inspector, owing to sickness, has not been able to do his yearly inspection, so promotions are held in abeyance.

Five schools have been supplied with benches and a table, thus making the empty unattractive school-house look more like a school. Although schools have been on this field over 30 years it is only this year that a few carpenter-made benches
have been supplied, and these have been given by the Government. Any one reading this report will gladden the heart of the writer and villagers if he or she, a servant of the Lord, is led to send us $100 or $200 for school furniture.

The great need is an Upper Primary School, and this need cannot be supplied unless the Mission can give some support. Government help can be had if the Mission will bear a part of the expense. Many boys who have finished the Lower Primary have no means to go to Jorhat, and Jorhat is not able to give all of them support, so the lads have to give up studies. There are about 20 boys from this field reading in the Mission School in Jorhat. Five of these get help from the Association, a few support themselves, and others work for their support. It is impossible to tell how many of the 92 persons baptized during the year are from among the pupils of the Village Schools.

*Sunday Schools.*—The people have yet to learn the value of Sunday Schools. It is a great disappointment to us that so many Sunday Schools live but a few months.

The few that are have a very meagre attendance.

May the Lord of the Harvest, who knows all about this work, give His blessing to every effort put forth during the year, and may He encourage us to do greater things, in His name, in the future. The Lord be praised for what He has done through us and for us.

**North Bank—Kamrup.**

G. R. KAMPFER.

The year 1916 was a very unsettled one for the work on the North Bank. The missionary spent 296 days outside of Gauhati. He can hardly consider himself a Gauhati missionary. On January 4th. Mrs. Kampfer left Gauhati for America. During the course of the year the bungalow was turned over to Mr. Stephen, also the care of property. The old school building was made over into a store-house and office rooms. A considerable amount of literature is stored here in a safe and convenient place.

A very considerable amount of time was given to the care of literature, and not only of Assamese. Also the publication of "Dipti" occupied much of the attention and time of the missionary. A book depot was opened on the compound with a colporteur in charge, and, while the sales in the book stall have not been significant, the experiment was sufficient to prove that a long-felt need has been met. People will come into a shop on the street corner and see what is offered for sale when they
will hesitate to come into the missionary's office for literature. The colporteur is supported by the British and Foreign Bible Society. Hundreds of gospels have been sold at the stations and steamer ghats and market places.

It has not been possible for the missionary to take more than one effective trip on the North Bank. This trip was made up northward of the railroad in the Barpeta Subdivision. The population there is chiefly Kachari, a people which at present seems peculiarly susceptible to the Gospel where they have not been influenced by Hinduism. We went from village to village and preached as we went along. The people would often hold us back by the arm and say, "Tell us more about this." But there was no time left for us to stay more than a brief period each day owing to the distance from camp. The work done was so unsatisfactory that I decided to send an experienced Kachari evangelist, whom I borrowed later on from the Nowgong District, into this country. This man after working here for a month, brought in a report which substantiated my impression, namely that we have a great and promising future among these people if we would but enter into the work and take the time. This evangelist together with the worker of this field stationed at Sorbhog said they spent night after night talking for hours and hours on the Christian religion. They talked and preached and changed off until their mouths were tired. A number are waiting for the missionary to come and baptize them.

Our work in this field is centered at three points where we have mission property, and three evangelists are continually in Mission service. The district is one of the most densely populated in the province. There were two baptisms during the year. Unless the work of the evangelists can be followed up by the missionary there can be no reasonable hope of marked progress. The result is more apt to be a waste of Mission money.

**Student Work—Gauhati.**

W. E. Witter, D.D.

The work is for students in the whole of Assam and Bengal, in a way, for the students come to the schools and college here from many different places in both of these provinces, and when their school days are over, return to their houses carrying with them the thought and influences which they have received during their student days in Gauhati.

When we left for our vacation in June, there were the names of 584 different boys and young men who had visited our home from one time to two hundred or more times during the year.
Since our return in the middle of July, we have added to that list the names of 240 new College, Law, Postal, Telegraph, and High School students.

Day after day, with scarcely a day excepted, we have most earnest talks with young men who have lost faith in their own religion and are seeking something better, or who have never given the matter a thought but must have their hearts aroused to their own need. A wonderful privilege indeed! The Gospel is an entirely new story to all of these young men and it takes many a talk to make it plain to them, coming as the majority of them do, with their minds full of prejudice at first and very often against the most earnest advice and warnings of parents and guardians, some of whom do all they can to keep their boys from placing themselves under our dangerous (!) influence.

We are put to our wits' ends to furnish the right kind of reading for these young men who draw books by the score. We are limited both in the number and quality of books most suitable for them. Now is the time to sow the right kind of seed in their hearts. Many of them are being pointed to books of theosophy and of atheistic and agnostic teachings as furnishing the mental and moral food best suited to give them "the up to date thought of the world on matters religious."

The students in our Sunday afternoon vesper services, held in the large drawing room of our bungalow, have this year had the privilege of listening to heart-searching messages from our fellow missionaries Longwell, Mason, Bond, Mather, Pettigrew, Tuttle, our son Theodore Witter from South India, and our friends Dr. and Mrs. Strong and Rev. I. A. Gould who honoured Assam by a visit. And we wish to acknowledge the great helpfulness, in interest and prayer, of our fellow missionaries in Gauhati.

Our American friends and our son all expressed their conviction of the immediate need of a hostel. In this respect the prayers of years have received a first answer through our old-time friend Judge E. E. Lewis, LL.D., of Sioux City, Iowa, and Boston (winters) in a Gertrude Lewis Memorial Hostel, soon to be erected, in order that Christian students in Assam may not be debarred the splendid educational advantages of our famous Cotton College, the hostel accommodations of which are only for Hindu and Mohammedan students.

Now that our furlough is ordered we are experiencing more than ever our deep attachment to these splendid young fellows who are as dear to us as any of our own race, and whom to leave even for furlough is most distressing. Yet we are praying and asking you to pray that just as soon as possible a man and woman may be found eminently fitted to take up this delicate and far-
reaching work, who will have the privilege of giving many years to the service with ever-increasing efficiency. We hope to return to Assam after our furlough but wish the work to be taken up by those who can give their long lives to it. We can find work elsewhere in this needy province if God permits us to return as we most sincerely hope that He may. This land and its people won my heart as a young man. It has won my wife's heart as well, now that she has for the past four years been honoured by being the "mother-friend" and, with me, the daily counsellor of these young men in the most vital problems of their lives. This is not "her" work, nor "mine," but "ours" in Him.
GOALPARA.

A. C. BOWERS.

It is a great pleasure to me to submit this report for the year past, because it has been possible that my wife could return to me and that we have the prospect of a blessed and busy year before us. My furlough was authorized early in the year; but, on account of the desperate condition of our forces on the field, my wife and I made it a matter of special prayer that if possible she might return and thus make it possible for me to remain. It has pleased Our Father to do this, and we rejoice in His leading.

During 1916 a very small part of the time was spent at Goalpara. In fact, almost eight months were spent away. The reason of this was that, as I have noted formerly, there is no part of my field located on the Goalpara side of the Brahmaputra. As my people cannot be reached from Goalpara, I spent as much time as possible in Dhubri, which is the natural centre for my field. In addition to giving me opportunities to reach my people, I had many services with the Europeans in the station and was enabled to do much in this way.

The work in the district has been done using motor-cycle and sidecar. Though the roads are rough and dusty yet the cycle has been ideal. It is much less expensive than any other means of touring. There will be a saving of at least a hundred rupees each year over the pony and trap. In addition to this it is possible, with this expense, to reach almost double the number of villages and to do at least twice the mileage that the pony could possibly accomplish.

On account of the rise in the price of petrol it has not been wise to use the "Grace" much during the year. Now that my wife has returned it may be of greater use again, but the war is sending the price of petrol still higher. I have run her about 400 miles during the year and, on account of it being cheaper to have her towed up stream, she has been towed almost 200 miles that I would have run ordinarily. The Sadiya Launch has been in my care during the year, and I have kept her machinery in order in addition to the work on the "Grace."

It will not be out of place to mention that the water system has been all that was hoped for it. With a little care we have had all the water we desired to use and also the comfort of better fire protection. The new roof on the bungalow has proved firm and not a shingle has been loosened by the wind storms of the year past.
Twice during the year the workers and some of the people have been in the station, once in Dhubri, for Bible Classes. As with the other fields in our Mission, we have found that these are of great benefit to the work. I will hope to have such during each year, if possible.

There were thirty baptisms during the year. The people have advanced in knowledge of truth as much as could be expected from long-range missionary work. As I have reiterated, it is and will be impossible to develop the church on the other side of the river if we are located in Goalpara. While this has been true in the past it is all the more evident now that the appropriations have been cut. I received 23% less the past appropriation than ever before; on account of this the station school has been closed. One village school has been discontinued and the evangelists put on half time. It is very probable that the coming year will show less results, for, if we sow sparingly, we will certainly not expect a bumper crop.

In addition to the retrenchment, the Reference Committee has asked me to take charge of Mr. Kampfer’s work on the North Bank in Kamrup. It will be a blessed opportunity to get acquainted with the Kachari Christians there, but will give less time than ever in my own field. For these, and other reasons, we are recommending that, unless we can be located in Dhubri on our own field, which implies that the bungalow recommended under the Five Year Programme for Dhubri for this current year be granted, the Mission abandon the Goalpara North Bank field and transfer us to another of the very needy fields where we can at least have the opportunity to use our time in the service of the Lord, rather than wasting days of it, as well as hundreds of rupees, in merely getting to the place we are supposed to work.

The one thing that has most impressed me during the year is the fact that the Gospel is heard gladly. At almost any time and in any place and with any class of people, from the very rich to the very poor, it is possible to preach the Word of God. There is no persecution, no scorn, but a very evident spirit of enquiry to know what we preach. In fact, the only limit to the amount of preaching that will be heard is the physical limit of lack of strength and voice on the part of the missionary.
GOLAGHAT
District.

The year 1916 has been a year of great activity and effort on the part of the missionary and his staff of native workers on this field and God has been pleased to bless their work to the salvation of many souls. One hundred and ninety new converts have been added to the churches, which is a greater number than in any previous one year.

The statistics are not to hand at the time of my writing this report but I feel confident that the membership in the thirty-two churches now exceeds an aggregate of one thousand six hundred.

Three new church buildings have been erected. Two of these are on tea gardens where the material and much of the work was given willingly by the proprietors of the gardens. And the managers with their assistants showed their interest and good-will by being present personally at the dedication services. The third church building was erected in the new settlement at Naojan by the Christians themselves, receiving no outside financial aid. At Bebejia the people are in the process of erecting a new church building, for which purpose the Christians of that place have raised many hundreds of rupees. This building promises to become one of the best among all the village churches in all Assam.

At one tea estate there was, a short time ago, such an opposition manifested that the missionary and his helpers were not only requested not to trouble the tea-garden coolies with Christianity, but were actually forbidden to preach in the lines. This disadvantage has now in the providence of God entirely given place to happier conditions. The persecuter has been discharged from his post and in his place has come a manager of that great tea estate which is now friendly to our cause. They now put themselves to help us in every way, inviting the missionary and his workers to evangelize the coolies and to carry on their Gospel work unhindered. At the present the company is putting up a fine new church building at its own expense.

We have been called by other missions, lately, "The Cooly Mission," which name we would not be ashamed to carry: but in case the same idea may be about among other missions and missionaries, I want to make a statement that from Golaghat, the Gospel is being preached to all people. The so-called higher castes of Assam have never been neglected by the missionary nor his workers. During the appointed time for
the Evangelistic Campaign many bands of Christian workers have entered the Assamese Hindu villages with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And last but not least, great multitudes of these people have been reached in this last campaign in towns and large centres. Here we have witnessed how the preaching of the Cross of Jesus Christ which may be foolishness to some, yet is the Power of God unto salvation.

Spontaneous contribution for the Lord’s work by the native Christian community was never before so exemplified as now. In addition to supporting their own pastors the Associational Committee has kept seven evangelists preaching the Gospel to the heathen, also contributing rupees one hundred and fifty for the Jorhat Christian Schools.

The village schools are the same in number as reported last year, namely eleven including the station school. The work in these schools by the teachers as well as regular attendance is not what could be desired; but on the whole improvements are seen here. The station school although small continues under the leadership of Minaram, as Head Master, and his fine Christian influence is felt near and far.

As last year, one of the outstanding features of the work in Golaghat was the holding of the All-Assam Baptist Bible Conference for Christian workers. The attendance at this Conference reached nearly one hundred and twenty workers coming from nine districts in the Province. That this Conference has proven to be a success in every way is much due to the efficient help given by fellow missionaries such as brethren Kampfer, Paul, Stephen, and Dr. Kirby. I thank God for the reports given by our native brethren of the good they received at this Conference, the influence of which will be surely felt throughout the Province for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

As in former years, much time and attention has been given by the missionary and his helpers to dispensing medicine to the sick and needy, the sales of medicine amounting to four or five hundred rupees. When we think that all of this has been given out in small quantities, of one pice, one anna, four annas, etc., we well realize how much of the time of the missionary and his workers was thus used.

Mikir Work—Golaghat.

J. M. CARVELL.

The work for Mikirs from Golaghat has given me great encouragement during the last year. On account of being in charge of the building operations at Gauhati and Jorhat during
the year, I was able to spend but twenty-four days among the people. The very evident development of the churches as well as of the individual Christians, proves that the Lord can prosper His work out of all proportion to the amount of time that men give to it.

The tendency of this development, as well as the enthusiasm and keenness of the people, is shown so well by work they did during the Association which has just closed, that the story of that meeting is in itself almost sufficient for my report. For years it has been the practice of the churches to hold Associations in heathen villages, if possible. Usually there are one or two Christian families, one of which will be that of the teacher, as was the case this year. The Christians, from miles around, gather to build the houses and do the other work necessary for entertaining the visitors. Even the heathen do their share. The headmen, none of whom were Christians, gave eight rupees this year toward the expenses of the meeting. Some of the villagers worked hard with the Christians for they were glad to entertain the Association. Huge piles of logs and firewood were collected, and each night we had large fires in front of each house. The purpose was twofold, for, in addition to the warmth which was greatly appreciated, there are large numbers of tigers this year, and to keep them away it seemed necessary to have the fire.

In addition to the long, low buildings for the native visitors, they had built three nice little bungalows for sahibs as they were hoping that several missionaries would come with me this year. They had even been so thoughtful as to buy a tin of biscuits for us. As it happened, they had bought the kind that I most dislike, and I had to eat them. They collected rice sufficient to feed the three hundred and fifty people who attended, in addition to the other work involved.

The business of the Association was well conducted. The intelligent discussion of the subjects before them pleased me because it was an evidence of growth in their mental and scriptural lives. The question, "Which is the more important, the Sunday School or the preaching service?" gave rise to an interesting discussion. They came to the conclusion that a good Sunday School is more helpful than the ordinary preaching service, alone.

The heathen chiefs also held a meeting to consider what a chief gains or loses if he becomes a Christian. They freely admitted that there was no loss but they would not admit that there was much gain. Their attitude is very friendly and there is much hope that many will, in time, come to Christ. One of the preachers, who is licensed to baptize, has done very good work. There have been over fifty baptized during the year; of
these quite a number were husbands and wives. Formerly the men and school-boys came alone and, though we knew that the home is the only foundation of stable work, we could not but accept them until this stage of development had been reached. There are now one hundred and forty-seven live Christians on this field.

The schools, of which there are seventeen, are doing good work. Each is a centre for evangelistic work. The teacher is the preacher, and in addition to teaching the school he preaches in the surrounding villages. In fact the one and only purpose of schools and educational work with us is that there may be centres of Christian influence. The prospects for the coming year are bright, so far as the promise of spiritual growth is concerned. The heavy cut in the appropriation will compel me to close the work of both evangelists and teachers for a part of the year.

I can only hope that this will stir up the zeal of the people. Last year they went out in bands of from twenty to forty with me during the Evangelistic Campaign, and they are planning the same this coming season.

The result in definite turning to Christ has been seen, and I hope that there will be even greater success this coming year.

IMPUR.

W. F. Dowd.

In accordance with the plan for division of work made on the Impur field at the beginning of the year, I have been responsible for the station schools and religious services, but a variety of other work has fallen to my hands. Included in this were the drawing of money from Government and the Mission Treasurer for the village schools, and keeping the accounts and records, and making reports for these schools as well as for the station schools.

Touring.—During the year also, about 50 days have been spent on the field not including two trips to the Plains for the Conference and Committee work. More than half the village schools were inspected, the majority of the Ao churches visited and over a hundred candidates baptized.

Classes for Village Teachers.—Regular time was also given in the classes for the village teachers, which were held for about four or five days each quarter with a three weeks term in July. These classes consisted of reviews of subjects taught in the
villages, talks on teaching methods, and study of the Sunday School Lessons for the next quarter.

_Sunday School Lessons._—It fell to me, also, to prepare most of the Sunday School Lessons, translating those that were not already in Ao and giving questions on all, with occasional suggestions or outlines.

_Translation._—During the summer a considerable time was given to translating stories and other material for an Ao Reader. This work is unfinished but it is hoped that at least one book may be made ready for the press before the next summer is ended.

_Village Schools._—The work in the schools has been on about the same lines as in the preceding year.

There are 18 village schools supported with a Mission Appropriation of Rs. 600 and a Government Grant of Rs. 300—an average of Rs. 4-2-8 per month for each school. Most of the schools have continued regularly through the year. The enrollment in December was 240, 161 boys and 79 girls. This is an average of Rs. 13-1-3 per school and an expenditure of Rs. 3-12 per pupil.

The work accomplished has been far from ideal but many have learned to read and quite a number of fairly well prepared boys have come in to study at Impur. To stimulate better work by both teachers and pupils a plan has been proposed for giving to both teachers and pupils a graduated scale of rewards with prescribed examinations for pupils at central places.

_Station School._—_The Impur Training School_ has not yet grown up to its name as the bulk of the work is still primary and aside from Bible Study and Practice in Teaching, little real training is given. But the past year has brought the highest mark in enrollment and perhaps also in real work accomplished.

_Enrollment._—The enrollment was 181, consisting of 149 boys and 33 girls. Of these, 19 boys were Lhotas, 23 boys and 1 girl were reading in the two upper classes, which might properly be called "The Training School." But the Primary work is necessary for the majority of our villages have no schools, and the few that there are cannot prepare their pupils to enter above the 3rd class.

The majority of the pupils are from the Christian communities though not a few come from heathen villages.

_Attendance._—The attendance has been irregular and a good many dropped out during the year. A large number of the latter were day pupils whose parents had not sufficient interest to send them regularly. Many others left for illness. But in
the upper classes, especially among the boarders, the attendance was very satisfactory and the great majority passed their grades.

*Teachers.*—Too much of our work of teaching hitherto has had to be done by pupil-teachers. We have had a somewhat better staff the past two years but even yet a great deal of the work in the lower classes is done by the more advanced pupils. It is the aim to provide a regular teacher for each of the Primary classes and have all pupil-teaching done under his supervision. This would have been impossible for financial reasons, but at the last Association the churches agreed to contribute Rs. 300 for the general work and Rs. 100 for the girls. With this, for almost the first time in our history we hope to have a fairly competent and adequate staff for the school.

*Boys in Jorhat.*—There have been seven Ao boys in Jorhat during the past year and six more have entered for the present year. We anticipate a great impulse to our educational and religious work as these boys finish their studies and return to the Hills.

*Girls’ Boarding Department.*—Again after a break of about two years there has been a Girls’ Boarding Department. A Christian Naga woman was in direct charge under the supervision of Mrs. Dowd. The girls were more contented than at any time in my experience and did a great deal of sewing and other work in addition to school work. All who left at the close desired to return, but the responsibility and work have been too heavy for Mrs. Dowd and if they return this year it will have to be under other’s supervision.

It was hoped that by this time ladies of the Woman’s Board would be on the field preparing for the work. It has been conclusively proved that there can be no steady adequate work for women on this field until there are women sent especially to do this work.

*Religious Spirit.*—The religious spirit in the school has been good. There has been a marked interest in the Sunday School and Christian Endeavour meetings and fair attendance at other services. All this has been voluntary, but for the Christian boarders it may become advisable to enforce attendance as a matter of discipline.

There is no separate record of baptisms of pupils during the year though some have been baptized in their villages. In Impur there is a large number of boys who, though not baptized have taken an active part in the meetings and most of whom will undoubtedly be ready for baptism in the near future.
Some week-end evangelistic work has been done by the older pupils especially in visiting week pastorless churches near Impur.

The Nagas are far more interested in education than they were ten years ago, and it seems a very favourable time to push energetically this department of our work. A few years of good thorough work now will mean much for the future of the Nagas.

J. Riley Bailey, M.D.

The evangelistic work has been of increasing interest. This is the first time that we have been able to get workers in sufficient numbers to do evangelistic work. Some of these are not as well fitted as we would like them to be, but, considering the training they have had, they do very well and each has been kept at work. The Quarterly Conference and Bible Training Course which I have given the teachers during the last three years, has been of great value in bringing about a closer union between the missionary and the churches. The teachers and preachers receive an inspiration for work and are given all the training and teaching that can be crowded into the time allowed for this work.

I have had great reason to rejoice in seeing some fruits of my preaching by their means to help others. They responded very well to my appeal to them for aid for the starving women and children in Belgium. I was exceedingly well pleased to see the Rs. 752 which they brought in to be sent to these suffering people. I had grave fears some years ago that the money in the churches would be a source of their downfall, but I am rejoicing that they are coming out into the great work of giving to others.

I deplore the fact that there has been no money given to support the work which has taken so long and so much effort to build up; the work can not be done without evangelists, and if they are turned away from their work at this time I fear that the work will suffer greatly.

The Association was very well attended this year and the work was systematically taken up and finished with dispatch.

The village schools have been up to the average; two or three schools have been opened, one in a new village.

I was not able to again visit all of the villages in the Ao tribe, however I had visited most of them this year.

The Sunday School is a most pleasing aspect of the work. Most of the teachers are spending some time each Sunday with the lessons. Rev. W F. Dowd has prepared the lessons in Ao
and Rev. R. B. Longwell turned them out on the duplicator. In this way each teacher had a lesson sheet and had the lesson explained to him while in the class. I did not feel that they were prepared to take the examination this year, but from now on I think you may hear from the Ao Naga Sunday School Examination.

The Medical work has been taking more of my time than usual. More patients are coming in and I am receiving more calls to go out into the villages. Cases that formerly would not call for assistance until every hope had fled are now coming in for treatment and good results follow.

Operations have all been confined to the minor scale excepting one cataract operation which turned out good even though the patient removed the dressings the same night and I had to remove a piece of rice hull from the eye. Of course this is to be expected while there is no one to look after the patients. This is where a trained nurse would be a most welcome addition to the medical department at Impur. I am sorry that there was no way to get a dispensary and operating-room for my work at Impur. If there is to be medical work done in my station there should be ample provision made for this and the necessary buildings and assistants assured.

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JORHAT

MRS. S. A. D. BOGGS.

To write a report is a dry task, and to hear one read is dryer, so "they say" yet actually to have lived through the year under review, to have coped with each duty and problem as it arose, made one's blood tingle, and now as our minds run back from one event to the other, we stop and wonder if we did right, in this case and that, and then to be perfectly sure that all is well, we must leave it with the Author and Finisher in whom is our faith, love, honour, joy and comfort.

We have faced alone the routine work of the Jorhat Station, as we had to do last year. We had a month's vacation in June which gave us renewed momentum, a very necessary quality especially when one hasn't some other things, such as Grant-in-Aid from Government with a school that has to go on, and where it has reached the stage that it must also prosper. The attendance has doubled, making 250 enrolled, 92 Christian boarders. The rest are day pupils from as far as Dibrugarh. These from a distance board in homes near us or build little houses for themselves. We have attained the standard of a full High School equipped with a staff of teachers of the grade
required by Government, and we have just received word that our recognition by the Calcutta University has been sanctioned. All of the boys who have been in our school three or four years have passed the test examination which entitles them to appear in the Matriculation Examination of the Calcutta University. The Bible School department has had two students taking full work while 40 hours' Bible study have been given weekly to those taking the regular High School course. We need our building for this department badly, for a proper assembly room is not one of our least needs.

Mr. Carvell has been here for building work three months of the year 1916. You will remember that he built our large permanent dormitory last year; but the price of material had raised so much, because of the war prices, after the estimates were made and appropriations given, that it stands unfinished. Doors and windows, cement floor, and beds are needed for the lower story.

In June the dining hall was built, and for the above reasons it also stands unfinished, and the cook-house is only a bamboo shanty. The boys take most kindly to the commons idea, for they get better food for the same money, and get it on time. The work of buying, cooking, and carrying water they do in companies, taking turns at each task. We are glad that the infirmary is to be a reality at last. The material is being assembled and building will be done as soon as possible; but just now Mr. Carvell is busy with the second bungalow on the new site. It may be occupied this year. Mr. Boggs has rebuilt the little boys' dormitory which I reported as just ready to collapse last year. The new one has steel posts and wooden frame. It has housed 37 lads during the year. Mr. Boggs has also built one teachers' house; but we need four or five more if we would furnish quarters for our staff.

The boys who work in the shop have made doors and windows both for the upper story of our dormitory and for the whole of the new plant in Cauhati besides odd pieces of furniture as orders come in. We live in hopes that some day we may be out of this unfinished unequipped state and have workers enough here to do things in a much better way than we can possibly do now.

KOHIMA.

J. E. TANQUIST.

Dr. and Mrs. Rivenburg proceeded on furlough in the month of January, and the school work was made over to my care, making it necessary also for me to dispense a good deal more medicine than before. The evangelistic work had been made
over to me a few months earlier, and now, new and untried as I was in this kind of work, I found myself in charge of all the work in this entire field. More than one difficulty had to be faced, and problems confronting a new missionary on an old field called for solution. "If any one lack wisdom, let him pray" was to us most precious and acceptable advice. By the grace of God we have, we confidently trust, been mercifully kept from making any glaring blunders in the conduct of the work. We also dare to hope and believe that our sincere though feeble efforts to organize the forces available for greater efficiency if possible have been attended by a certain degree of visible success. I wish to speak of the work under two or three heads as follows:

**Evangelistic.**—The need for more aggressive evangelistic efforts on this field has been recognized for years. My problem is: How shall I best encourage and lead the native evangelists who have come under my care so as to increase their efficiency as successful preachers of the Gospel? These native evangelists are older in years, most of them, than I am, and have been in the work for many years. It would be only human of them not to take very kindly to direct interference in their accustomed way of working from a new missionary. But they have done good work and have apparently welcomed the preliminary direction that I have been able to give them. I have held Bible classes with them on two occasions, one week at a time, have spent some days with them in the district, and have had frequent smaller meetings or private interviews with a view to encourage them and help them. One promising young man with a theological training has been ordained to the Gospel ministry. This young man together with two others attended the Bible Conference at Golaghat, and later this same man attended the Ao Association. The work in our field cannot help deriving much good from the added inspiration and insight thus gained. Several visiting missionaries have given valuable help in the work and the year has been one of growth and increase. Seventy-six have been baptized. This is by far the greatest number in any one year in the history of this mission. Five evangelists have been employed regularly. One of these has given a good deal of his time to a village school. Three others have been employed only part of the time and one of the latter was sent to Jorhat where he improved himself by a six months' study course. In addition hereto one evangelist is supported regularly by the Kohima Church.

**Educational.**—The Mission Training School together with the Primary School has had a good year. I was fortunate in securing for a Head Master a Christian Anglo-Indian gentleman, who has been brought up among the Angamis, educated at our Mission school and later at the Shillong High School. This
man exercises a wholesome influence over the boys in the school and he works in hearty accord with the missionary. There has been no decline in the attendance: the standard of teaching has never been higher or more efficient on the whole. A system of weekly examinations supervised by the missionary has benefited both teacher and pupil, and the general order and moral tone of the school has been excellent. The teachers have worked hard and faithfully, and their influence for good has gone out to boys of many different tribes. Several girls from homes at Kohima have attended the school, but we have had to refuse admission to the girls from other villages who wanted to come. The pupils who live in the hostels and all stipend holders are required to attend Sunday School the same as classes in school. Pupils from the Kohima village also avail themselves of the opportunity to attend Sunday School. Christian Endeavour meetings on Sunday evenings have been made interesting and helpful and a marked increase in attendance has taken place.

A new Primer and a small hymn-book have been put into circulation and both are used to good advantage. Some work on translation of New Testament Scriptures has been done. I hope to do some more along this line, for the need is great and the British and Foreign Bible Society stands ready to do the printing. The call for unskilled medical attention, whether expressed or not, is imperative and gives us much concern. In this, as well as in the work as a whole, Mrs. Tanquist assists in every way. We pray for courage, strength and wisdom to do the best work and the most work possible during the year which is before us.

MANGALDAI. G. R. KAMPFER.

Work in this field is three years old. The evangelistic work that falls to the lot of our Society is among the Assamese. No workers were permanently engaged in work among Assamese. Only a few months were given to these people by an evangelist. Our work among the Kacharies, however, continues to grow steadily. The six churches reported last year have grown in strength, two of them having more than 100 members. The total membership is 448. During the year the missionary visited the field four times giving ten weeks of his time to it. Now that I am about to go on furlough, looking back over the three years, I am glad to see so much improvement and progress on every hand. Much time had necessarily to be given the work in its early stages, there being no one else to take the
place of the missionary in examining candidates for baptism, baptizing, administering the Lord’s Supper, solemnizing marriages, establishing schools, organizing churches and keeping a watchful eye over discipline, encouraging offerings and self-support, and above all in preaching the Word and instructing the young flocks. Many changes have come about during this period. Congregational singing needs no further help from the missionary. Pastors and teachers of whom there were none in the beginning have been trained and now supplant those brought from the other fields so that only three outside workers remain, two of whom do not occupy important positions. Four workers visited the Golaghat Bible Conference this year and greatly profited by it. Three of the churches have splendid Sunday Schools which old and young attend in great numbers. Four village schools are in a running condition, but only one maintains the full number of four classes which turned out the first boy this year to be graduated from the school established three years ago. This boy went to Jorhat this year together with two other boys there from this field. The women, strange to say, are ahead of the men. They seem to have a better grasp of the meaning of Christianity. They are usually the first to profess Christ in new villages. At the meeting of the Annual Association during the first week in January they came with 127 rupees and laid it before the meeting saying they wanted the Association to appoint an evangelist to give his whole time to preaching to the heathen and to be their evangelist. It came as a surprise to the missionary. And needless to say the evangelist was chosen immediately. The Mission does not support or engage evangelists. It gives ten rupees a month aid for schools (recurring grant) and ten rupees per month aid to pastors in newly organized churches (non-recurring) besides a compounder in Mission employ. The country is an exceedingly unhealthy one. Ten deaths among about 350 adults occurred in 1915 and 12 deaths among 448 in 1916 besides a great number of children of whom no record was kept. This unusual mortality led the missionary in 1915 to locate a compounder among our churches. He reports for the year 1916 medicines sold Rs. 391 and treatments 1,257. He is an unusually good preacher and made himself almost indispensable to the people.

During the course of the year the missionary paid several visits to the flock at Tezpur who sent repeated requests to be visited and cared for. With no help from the Mission except the personal presence of the missionary they erected a chapel, organized into a church and gather regularly for worship. There are nineteen members in the church besides a number who have not brought their church letters and formally joined. While I report the church under the statistics for the Mangaldai
field it no doubt should be included under the work for Darrang to which it geographically belongs.

MANIPUR.  
Wm. Pettigrew.

For the first time in the history of the Mission in this Native State we have headed this report under the more general name of Manipur rather than that of the old headquarters, Ukhrul. The work has extended to the capital of the State, Imphal, and to the western hills. The appeal to the Chief Commissioner of Assam to remove from Ukhrul to a more central spot in the valley was rejected by him, and permission to tour in the western hills was refused by the Vice-President of the Darbar. Under these circumstances in accordance with the action of the Conference at Nowgong the headquarters of the Mission have been transferred to Kohima. The missionaries are occupying the Rivenburg bungalow for the present, and during the year under review two visits of two months’ duration each have been made to Manipur, the remaining eight months being spent in Kohima, Nowgong and Gauhati.

Ukhrul.  
Responsibility for the educational work has been put in the hands of the Headmaster of the school, Porom Singh, and reports in connection therewith have been sent in to the missionaries regularly every month. The work has gone on during the year without any hitch, and nothing has been dropped on account of absence of the missionary. The annual examination gave an opportunity to get rid of students who entered the school in 1913 and 1914 and who were apparently useless, and also to introduce a new rule of the Vice-President’s whereby all boys entering the school enter a bond for three years’ study, failing they return the whole of the stipend paid to them from the State, and from the Mission. The number on the roll is now 66, and there is every prospect of the present students turning out well. In connection with this school the Political Agent has started a fruit garden at Ukhrul. Those earning stipends work in this garden. Thirty apple and other fruit trees will be planted out this month, and as the project is under the direction of the Political Agent of the State, and the Manager of the Shillong Fruit Garden, it is hoped this may lead to a profitable undertaking for the State. Those students receiving Mission pay, of which there are about 20, have the care of the Mission compound. The missionary’s last visit found everything going well in this department.
Responsibility for the religious side of the work has been put in the hands of Miksha, in accordance with the unanimous vote of the Christian community. The Church and Sunday School services, and the monthly church meetings, are under his care and supervision. The missionaries were pleased with the progress made, and the evident desires of all concerned to keep faithful to the teachings they have learned in years past. Twenty-one baptisms this year has made the membership 78, and the Christian village has grown in size and in numbers. The two Sunday Schools have increased their number to 130, and of this number 104 entered the Sunday School Union Examination. The missionaries are glad to notice an appreciation of the responsibilities now placed upon them, the Christians, and hope this new and unforeseen obligation will turn out for the best interests of the work in this old station of the Mission. The church here is entirely self-supporting. They have nearly Rs. 1,000 in hand for the erection of a permanent chapel building, and the work of erection is now proceeding. Their contributions during the year amounted to Rs. 406.

Imphal.

The capital of Manipur has seen for the first time, an organized Christian Church. It is made up of Kabui Nagas, Sema Nagas, Kukis, Manipuris, and Goorkhas. They are small in number, but aggressive in spirit. The church membership is 18. It is entirely self-supporting and has contributed over Rs. 50 during the year, most of which has gone into the erection of a small but very neat little meeting place which they have built in a section of the capital apart from the Manipuri population. It is possible that in the near future the Political Agency will give them a plot of land for a cemetery, and large enough to erect a more permanent building for worship. Up to the end of the year they have had to depend on the leading Christians of other centres to lead them in worship, but the religious work has not suffered, rather the reverse, for the community is blessed with a good man in their midst, and by his faithful living the others are living good lives. Last month two Manipuri women were baptized and joined this church. One is an educated girl from the Welsh Mission, and is a strong Christian. She has, during the year, been in constant touch with the women of the community, and has helped in the formation of Christian character. The missionaries look forward to her work among these Christian women as an asset for good. The other Manipuri woman is the wife of the late Telegraph Master, now retired, and living in his own house in Imphal. She has also joined this church, and we have hopes that her influence will help forward the work in Manipur. In spite of the absence of the missionaries, the community at this place have made good progress, and try in the strength of the Spirit to lead clean
lives among the heathen and idolatrous people around them. God grant their influence may extend far and wide in this important town, and thus extend the Kingdom of God in Manipur.

Western Hills. (Kukis). The centres of Christian work are at present situated in three places in these hills. The most northern is at Tui-yang-wai-jung, a wholly Christian village of 24 houses with a community of about 100. The church was organized during the year, and the present membership is 86. Ngulhao, the evangelist, has looked after the interests of this community during the year, and it has been a source of pleasure to the missionaries in noticing how he has, under great difficulty, kept them together, taught them the truths of God regularly, and in many ways built them up in the fear of the Lord, and helped them to be bearers of the message of peace to the villagers around them. At Christmas time 33 of them travelled from their village to meet the missionaries at the rest-house at Karong on the cart road. For three days there was happy fellowship with them, and their cleanliness of person, so foreign to the Kuki, their deportment at the various services held, and their memorizing of hymns sung in hearty unison and to tune, made the missionaries glad. Owing to restrictions all these western Kukis have to meet the missionary far from their villages, and the absence of accommodation for them, and the necessity for worship to be held in the open air, makes it difficult for all. It shows, however, a faithful spirit born from above, that is willing to suffer all the inconvenience and trials of travel, so that they can have some opportunity during the year to meet the missionary, to receive at his hands baptism and the Lord's Supper, and last but not least, to be married according the rule of the Christian church.

The next centre is at Langkhong situated about 50 miles due west of Imphal. Longkhobel, our other evangelist, has the care of this community. It is not a Christian village, and those becoming Christians are settling round the evangelist at a place situated a little away from the main heathen village. The number is small and the members young in age. It has not yet been organized into a church, and for the present is classed as a branch of the Imphal Church. At the time of writing there is a movement among a large number of the heathen villagers in the main village, and Longkhobel looks forward in the near future to having a large adult community there. He has kept a small primary school going during the year, and there is cause for encouragement in this section also. Present membership 32. In the case of these believers they must travel over 50 miles to the capital to see the missionary and hear his message.
The other centre is at Shenbang-yang, a village south-west of the capital, about 30 miles. This village is wholly Christian, and up to the present 21 adults have been baptized. There are others of the village still to come forward, but owing to the difficulty of meeting the missionary, have not yet been able to come in so far, nor at a time when he is ready to see and talk with them. Like the previous centre this community has also been made into a branch church of the Imphal Church, until it is possible to get together and organize. Last month, in spite of no funds in the treasury of the Mission, it was found necessary to put another evangelist to look after these people and to answer the call of other villages eager to listen to the Gospel message. Teba, one of our old Kuki students of Ukhrul, has taken on the work for the present, and we hope for great things in this centre also, as the months go by. Enquiries from numbers of other villages in these hills keep coming in and the one cry is for the missionary "to come over and help us." When the time comes for permission to visit those hills, there surely will be a great ingathering among these Kuki people. In the meantime we must carry on the work under difficulty and trial and trust the Lord to bring glory to His Name in spite of hindrances. To make the Gospel message sound among these hills in song as well as by the mouth, a hymn-book in the Thado Kuki language has been composed, and is now in the hands of the printers.

**Manipur Christian Association.**

Thirteen delegates from the five churches of Manipur gathered together at Ukhrul last November, and in the goodness of God were led to form the first Association of Manipur. Arrangements were made to hold the first Association meeting in 1917 at Ukhrul, and a programme committee was elected to carry out the work of that important meeting.

And so the Lord works in His own mysterious way. What to us at the beginning of the year seemed to spell disaster, has turned out to the furtherance of the Gospel, and may the Lord forgive us for our want of faith in His wisdom to carry out His purposes how and when He will.

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**NORTH LAKHIMPUR—DARANG.**

**John Firth.**

The year has been a good one, also a sad one; good in the steady advancement made by the churches, sad in the large number of deaths from cholera. One evangelist, in the employ of North Lakhimpur Association, saw 25 people baptized as a
result of his labours and at the same time buried his wife, daughter, brother and mother, from cholera. One village school teacher saw the people build him a good school-house in which gathered 28 boys for daily lessons, when suddenly the whole village was overthrown by a flood and the desolation complete. One church saw a goodly number of people baptized and at the same time six families coaxed from them by the German Lutherans.

During the year there were 90 baptisms, two new churches organized, one pastor ordained, five new meeting-houses built, a little over Rs. 2,000 raised by the churches for all purposes; a slight gain in membership, there being now 674 church members.

There are 19 churches, all of them self-supporting. My own health is excellent, prospects exhilarating; and if I could be allowed to stay on at the work, instead of taking furlough, something could be done.

The annual Bible Study Class for workers, conducted in the station each September, is a fine thing. The Holy Spirit has done good work in this class. When the Mundas take hold of the work and begin to pull, the work moves along. Through the teaching received in this class year after year they are doing very differently than formerly. Some of the churches are now capable and spiritual bodies carrying on the various departments of church life.

A number of men have quit the use of opium and have been restored to the churches, some men have left off trading on the Lord's day, and a beginning has been made in tithing. Some are already bringing in the \( \frac{1}{10} \) part of this season's harvest. When all the Mundari Baptists in Assam get to the point of doing this there will be great power come to the cause.

\[\text{NOWGONG.} \quad \text{G. R. KAMPFER.}\]

Three outstanding events made the year 1916 a memorable one in the Nowgong District. The first of these in time, was the meeting of the "All-Assam Baptist Convention" in the station. While the attendance was not as great as might have been expected, the enthusiasm and eagerness of the Christians of the district, and especially of the town, was most commendable. The second event was the death of the station missionary, Rev. P H. Moore, on March 3rd, in Calcutta, to which place he was taken during his illness while the Missionary Conference was in session. For 36 years he was attached to this
one station and gave his life and love freely for those whom he had come out to serve. The third event was the ordination of Sri Prohbu Dayal, a faithful, devoted and able servant of Christ. With his efficient help and native wisdom the missionary has a helper for whom he might well praise God.

The station church with a membership of 130, and second largest in the district, lived through a year of trials. Being without a pastor for the greater part of the year and owing to dissensions between the larger families who live much too close to one other, all has not been sunshine. A new pastor was recently chosen and other significant changes have come about which may and may not prove to be for the better.

The little flock at Misa has taken on new life and grown strong to the extent that they contemplate organizing into a separate church body and enlarging their chapel.

Unfortunately in most of all the churches there is much to deplore. Litigation on account of land is a constant disturbing element in the minds of the people. The largest church, that in Udmari, is slowly disintegrating owing partly to the incursion of Romanism and partly to the drifting away to unknown localities of many of the members. The lack of high ideals for the Christian ministry is largely responsible for this condition.

There are at present only two village schools in a running condition in the district. Several ceased to exist. Indifference to education among the cultivating classes requires constant urging and admonition. Boys can scarcely be gotten through the first standard. The people are all too satisfied to remain illiterate. The Christian communities are sadly in need of influential leaders. The total membership for the field this year is 512, a decrease of 158 from last year.

Still a ray of hope beams out of this aspect in view of the evangelistic campaign inaugurated by the ordained pastor in the tea-garden country round about the churches. With the help of a number of men from the various churches he is travelling about with a cart this cold season, preaching and conducting services with the help of a magic lantern. On the whole, the campaign is a continuation of the larger one conducted in Lumdin by the missionaries, and is the fruit of inspiration gathered at the Golaghat Bible Conference which was attended by twelve workers from this field.

The missionary made two extended tours in the district of three weeks each, one in May and the other in November, besides three shorter trips during the year on which only a limited number of places were visited. Every church and flock was visited. A new future is promised for this field, for with the
completion of the Chaparmukh-Silghat Railway, communication with the churches in the eastern end of the district will be greatly improved, and relief from ox-cart travel will be given the missionaries in reaching the main line from the station by rail.

SADIYA. H. W. KIRBY, M.D.

In December 1915 we returned from furlough. It has been a hard year. There was no missionary on the station. All the work—Medical, Evangelical, and Educational—was in need of reorganization. The Medical work had almost ceased to be; the compounder in charge was not leading a Christian life. Over one half of the open stock left in the dispensary had been used up. In the church there were many quarrels and much sin. The school at Siakoa Ghat had been closed and the station school was very poor.

We returned to Assam bringing about Rs. 3,000 of medical supplies for the Sadiya Hospital, only to learn that we had been transferred to Tura. This was an impossible situation for many reasons, and God so guided that the Sadiya work came under our care; but along with this came much other work in distant parts of Assam. During the year three medical trips were made to Tura, two trips to Nowgong, one to Calcutta, three to Golaghat, one to Jorhat, one to Shillong. Several other very urgent calls for medical aid to other stations had to be refused. In the first nine months of our return to Assam, over 4,000 miles was covered in medical travel.

For months all the station work was in Mrs. Kirby's charge. The reorganization and conduct of the school work has all been hers. In place of a very poor station school of one department, there is now a station school of three departments, kindergarten, and boys' and girls' Lower Primary. In place of one dilapidated school building there are now three school buildings, one of which was erected by the Christians who gave about three-fourths of the material and labour used. In place of one teacher there are three. For the first time in ten years our school has been visited by a Government Inspector who, in his report, wrote: "The (Sadiya) Mission School are run in conformity with the curriculum of the Educational Department. I am very much pleased with the progress of work done. Mrs. Kirby has placed us in an advanced position by introducing the American method of teaching infants. The schools are well housed and well equipped with kindergarten gifts, books, maps, and other necessities". I hope their usefulness will be
appreciated.” For the first time in ten years one of our boys has passed through the Mission School into the Government Middle English School. We have two Abor boys in the Station School and are looking forward to the time when the Station School will contain both boys and girls from all the surrounding Hill Tribes. Eight of our school children are awaiting baptism. Several babus are asking if arrangements cannot be made for their daughters to enter the Mission School. In addition to the Station School, the school at Saikoa Ghat has been reopened, and one in an Abor village been maintained.

Owing to the pressure of Medical and outside work, the church has been much neglected. There have been no baptisms in the Sadiya Church; several names need to be taken from the roll and several are awaiting baptism. In the work at Saikoa Ghat there is more to encourage. The Christians there have built a good new church at their own expense; fifteen have been baptized and twelve more are awaiting baptism. The little church at Kurigaon has almost died out for lack of anyone to look after the work.

In the Hospital the work has had many difficulties to overcome. Most of the year I have had to be away in order to give medical aid to other Mission stations. The head compounder resigned, leaving no trained or capable assistant. Government withdrew the duty-free concession on Spirits and Tinctures, thus adding to the Hospital expenses nearly Rs. 500 a year. The war has caused a great advance in the cost of all medical supplies. Quinine alone has cost the Hospital about Rs. 500 this year. While we were Home on furlough over Rs. 1,000 of medical supplies were used up and not a pice supplied to replenish the stock. Difficulties were made to be overcome. We closed the year with all medical bills paid, with four compounders at work, and the Medical work re-established at Saikoa Ghat.

SIBSAGAR.

U. M. Fox.

We lived at Sibsagar during the whole of the past year. We had charge of the station, but no touring work. There were fifteen baptized in the early summer. There has been preaching by workers sent out to various Hindu villages, and occasional meetings among the fishermen of the place. All call for more work to be done for them. Several from outside have come to the missionary for religious instruction and many for medicines. Sunday Services have been conducted at the church and weekly prayer-meetings on different days in various
sections of the town. The missionary has regularly attended religious meetings held on Sundays, in one of the schools, and has found it a good opportunity to present Christianity to the leading classes of the non-Christian communities.

The church, bungalow and many out-buildings have undergone repairs. Preparations for the Conference of the A.B. Missionaries of Assam, in the way of building bashas, has taken some care and time.

Four boys were sent to the Jorhat Schools and one girl to Nowgong, mostly on special funds from friends in America.

Mr. Paul received a glad welcome as he returned to his old work of the Sibsagar-Dibrugarh Field in the autumn. May God bless him with good health and strength for His Service.

SIBSAGAR-DIBRUGARH.

JOSEPH PAUL.

During the first nine months of the year just closed, Mr. Swanson continued in charge of this district. With all the other work which he has had in hand it is marvellous how he could make three long tours reaching from one end to other of this vast territory. Yet he managed it; and in every place he visited the effects of his help are plainly seen. Many times in his letters to me and in conversation with me since my return he has exclaimed “Oh what vast opportunity for evangelistic work the Sibsagar-Dibrugarh field presents!”

There can be no question as to the results if three missionaries with a much better staff of native workers than we at present have, could get to work in this one mission field. But one poor workman, with our insufficient band of workers, must go on and do his best till this Mission wakes up to the need of pushing back the enemies of the Lord, and bringing them into submission to His authority. If we do not continue evangelistic work and put it on a larger and more penetrating footing, our educational schemes will have insufficient material to work upon.

I can report only for the work in the district from the 15th October to the 31st of December 1916.

During this time I spent forty days among the churches and found the need of a missionary’s presence everywhere. All along the line new converts in small numbers were coming along; and between the 18th October and the 15th December, 57 of these were baptized. The pushing need in the churches
is a clear permanent recognition of the purity of the family life, and dignifying of the marriage bond; the taking in a larger share of the evangelistic work; the training of the workers to an extent to which they have not been trained as yet; and the great need of two more ordained Indian workers.

As not a third of the statistics have come in from the churches, I will here give only the number of baptisms during 1916. They are, so far as reported, 168, which is one of the best years in the history of the district.

There is nothing in the school work of the district which is praiseworthy. We hope to see better schools in the near future.

The native contributions have increased this year; and bid fair to reach, by Association time, the largest in the history of the Association. Yet there is much more money here than in the Golaghat district, if only the people would give it.

—

TIKA.

P. E. Moore.

I am glad “we stand on the threshold of great achievements.” Yesterday, Lindokso, a man of small stature, weighing under 100 lbs., came to me bringing some nice venison and a story. Sorry I can’t send you some venison,—but here is the story:

“Yesterday two of my heathen neighbours and I were talking of our losses in rice crops and mustard, and how hard it is to kill the destroyers,—large deer and wild pigs.” Lindokso, now a Christian, was formerly a great sacrificer, and the father of the two neighbours was and is considered among the most successful sacrificers. All agreed that sacrificing would not keep the deer out of the mustard and that they must try to kill them. But as the deer are very shy and keen in ear and nostril it is hard to bag them, and so sacrificing was suggested as the best means of help. After a long discussion, Lindokso getting in considerable preaching, it was decided that the neighbours give their promise and oath to the god of their field, giving him a goat in sacrifice, if he would let their two guns kill a deer. Lindokso would ask all his little village people to join him in prayer to God that his gun might get a deer that very night. After supper, it being the Week of Prayer, the little chapel school-house heard the petition of some eleven Christians for riddance of the deer that was most destructive of their crops of mustard. Then Lindokso and his companions went to their field. They were scarcely ready for their all-night watch when the fine buck came up within about thirty yards of them and was killed instantly by the well-aimed bullet. Four others were bagged by
Christians within the Week of Prayer, causing not a little talk. Possibly this Week of Prayer will be considered the week of the year for deer shooting after this. All night long the two heathen watched without getting a single shot, and now after four days, we have not heard of their making a score. In fact, though many heathen guns are constantly out, we have heard of but one that has shot a deer. We hope this matter, though in itself of little importance, may develop talking and thinking on the merits of demon worship, versus worship of the Eternal God.

A matter of some interest to us was the burning of our goods, or most of them, with the old house, by a bolt from the sky on the evening of October 15th, 1916. We are sorry for the loss of medicines, Mission records and accounts, and books, some Government books, 500 half plate films that we had hoped would be of use in the matter of interesting some of the homeland people, two organs, our library, etc., etc. But we are not suffering in the school-house, somewhat out of repair, though only mats are between us and the soil. It's great, you know, to have everything in one room, so that if anything is lost you don't have to look over five or six rooms.

The work is going on as well as could be expected with the amount of discord there is in the church, in fact, better. If quarrelling were a new thing in the country it might be different and perhaps fatal to the work. But the heathen who see it know it is an old bad habit, not quite dead, and they scarcely take note of it, and are not much deterred from considering the real merits of Christianity.

Before baptizing we examine the candidates and read carefully the church covenant, explaining its meaning. To the covenant used at home are added pledges against the use of opium and gambling. For 1916, 44 were baptized, so equalling our highest previous record. We know of others who have given up faith in demon worship. We hope for better things in the near future. The material for a new camp house is nearly all on the ground now. We may be able to move into it in March. We enjoyed the week's work in Lumding, in November, in connection with the evangelistic campaign.

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TURA.

Mrs. M. C. Mason.

The public reading the annual report of our Society can hardly get a fair estimate of the situation at Tura. That report says ten missionaries at Tura during 1916. Two never were and never intended to be, five others have been absent a total
of two years and four months out of the year. Two of the five are now invalided home, but two others, re-enlisting, have just arrived bringing cheer and fresh courage.

The Middle English School has held on its way in spite of an outbreak of small-pox which necessitated vaccinating about 300 people on our compound. There was but one death. There were an unusual number of cases of discipline taking much time and strength of missionaries and teachers. One of the former was Head Master and another gave most of the school hours to teaching.

There have been 251 Garo students, and 37 in the Bengali department. A class of 70, nineteen of them girls, has just gone out to begin other work. The girls took a good share of the prizes given, among them the Scripture prize. The village schools number 84 under Mission and there are about the same number under Government, and 12 independent schools. That property by virtue of which a man cannot be in two places at once, has made touring on our field an impossibility, so these schools have not been visited by the missionaries, nor have the 19 churches, and the lack of such visits is keenly felt. One missionary attended an association 23 miles out from Tura.

Girls' Boarding Department with 32 inmates, the Women's meetings, the Book and Sales Room work have all been carried on with commendable energy; but the Bible School, planned and hoped and prayed for, has not been realized. The building for it has been well used for a good Kindergarten under a Garo young woman who studied at Nowgong.

Building already begun has been carried on under difficulties of lack of proper planning and material to finish. But new work and repairs have kept eight carpenters busy.

The church services in Tura have been managed entirely by the native brethren instead of by the missionaries, as for so many years. Meetings have been well attended and a roll-call meeting in October took a broad outlook and made plans which will add efficiency and insure success. The office records of the church books had not been kept up since January 1913, and much time has been given to bringing these up to date.

There has been continual effort to have the natives take responsibility, to bear burdens, to feel that the work is theirs, and to relieve the missionary.

The Sunday Schools in Tura numbered 200 in the Senior, 40 in the Primary, and 15 in the Women's Department. In the district there are 91 Sunday Schools with 3,509 pupils and 184 teachers.

The Garos pay their pastors Rs. 1,377, for church expenses Rs. 1,716-2-6, for other religious work Rs. 878-14-6. Total
religious work Rs. 3,972-1-0. They pay for their schools Rs. 3,147-14-6. Total contributions Rs. 7,119-15-6. Eleven evangelists have been at work, eight supported by the people, two by Mission, and one by specific. Printing at three presses has gone forward. The "A'chikni Ripeng" has been published completing its 36th year. A book on the Training of Children, translated by a Garo, has been worked over and is now in press. Three school books have been reprinted: 1st Primer, 2nd Reader and 2nd Arithmetic, all delivered at Tura. Two primers and four readers prepared, have been accepted by Government and we hope to have them in press soon.

Scripture references have been prepared for Genesis and Exodus and the former has been reprinted with the references; we are reading the last chapter of proof now, and Exodus will follow right along.

Five of our Garo young men are "at the Front," and we recently had a letter from an English soldier in Mesopotamia speaking highly of their Christian character and influence upon others. He discovered them by their singing of sacred songs.

Over forty Garo boys and girls, graduates of our M.E. School, are now in other places for further education. We keep in touch with them by correspondence.

THE MEDICAL WORK IN THE GARO HILLS.

OMIE. E. CARTER.

The Medical Mission work in the Garo Hills during the year 1916 has been attended to, mostly, by three Garo young men, who were trained by Dr. Crozier. Two of these young men were stationed in the Tura Mission Hospital, one of them having charge of the dispensary, and the other caring for the sick students. The third man has full charge of the Baghmara Branch Dispensary.

As Tura has been without a physician since Dr. Crozier went on furlough in October 1915, excepting for three visits from Dr. Kirby, two of which were brief, and one from Dr. Baily, we have made no advancement in the medical work, but have simply kept things running.

Of the total number of 4,666 patients treated in Tura and Baghmara, 2,557 of these were charity patients, and 2,109 paid for the medicine or treatment which they received. We treated 773 malaria cases, 104 dysentery, 26 cholera, 30 pneumonia, 140 rheumatism, 3 small-pox, 271 cases of the respiratory system,
158 cases of dyspepsia, 292 cases of diarrhoea, 74 cases of diseases of the liver, 312 ulcers, 393 local injuries, 569 cases of skin diseases, and many other diseases not mentioned.

One hundred and forty-eight minor operations were performed by our Garo assistants, and one by Dr. Kirby, all the rest of our cases being medical rather than surgical.

There was only one death among the students during the year, and that was from small-pox, the boy having contracted the disease in his own village before coming to Tura.
SURVEY OF WOMAN’S WORK IN
ASSAM DURING 1916.

MISS E. ELIZABETH VICKLAND.

In getting together the material for this survey, I have had
glimpses of bright silver linings peeping through the darkness
that seemed to settle upon us, as a Mission, when conditions,
financial and as regards our working force, were made known.
Despite the handicaps, real work has been done, and will be
done, as is proven abundantly by the new opportunities that
are constantly opening before us, and the increasing willingness
on the part of the native women to co-operate. Let me show
you some sunny tracts to-day. It pays to count our blessings;
let us make mention of our God-given progresses and victories.

Impur.

Here is cheery news from Impur, of
work done by the missionaries’ wives,
for as yet no lady workers have been sent there. They tell us
of women’s classes, and prayer meetings, and how the school
has come into close touch with the lives of thirty-two girls.

Girls’ work presents a big opportunity in Impur. The native
women at the last Association meeting voted to give Rs. 100 to
the girls’ work, and from the weekly meeting, that has an aver-
age attendance of seventeen, has been given Rs. 5 for the same
purpose. In twenty-six villages the women meet for their
weekly meetings, though the attendants upon eleven of them
cannot read enough to spell out the words of their Bibles. From
at least three other villages the women have gone out in Volun-
teer Bands to tell the Gospel story, and this without the incen-
tive or financial aid of the missionaries. The fine young men
that have been sent to the Jorhat Christian Schools, from the
Naga Hills, are but proofs of the good work done in the past,
for the women. Surely this report is a cause for rejoicing, both
because of the spirit manifested by the Naga Christians, and
because of the bright promise for the future.

Tura.

“The women and girls of Tura, al-
though not organized into a society,
have done good work for the Master. Through their six com-
mitees and the weekly prayer meeting all have had an oppor-
tunity to do something. They have more than doubled their
offering for evangelistic work. The women in the district have
conducted their weekly prayer meetings, helped in the Sunday
School, and given their “handful-of-rice” offering. Some of
the wives have helped their husbands in their school work and
many have helped in the *soba* that is held yearly in their association.

The 32 girls in the Boarding Department in Tura, besides doing regular Middle English work, have all attended the singing class and the sewing class outside of school hours, worked for Mission one hour a day, been present at the four religious services and Sunday School, each week, cut their own firewood, brought their own water, cleaned their rice and rice for the boys, done their own cooking and laundry, and kept their house tidy. From early morning until late at night they are busy bees, and no drone is kept in the hive. Fifty-four girls have studied in the Middle English School this year—nineteen of them in the Sixth Class. Three of our girls are in Calcutta and two in Shillong, and two in the Medical School in Dibrugar.

For help in the Kindergarten, women’s meetings and socials, and in one hundred and one other ways, we are grateful to Mrs. M. C. Mason. The Mothers’ Class have studied the Lives of the Women of the Bible, The Book of Acts, Life of Christ, and Genesis have been taught in regular classes in school. The privilege of teaching God’s Word to these is the crown of the year’s work.”

**Nowgong.**

Take a peep into the flourishing work that goes on for girls at Nowgong. Over two hundred girls have received and have been absorbing the sweet Christian influence, and have been touched for Jesus Christ. The most inspiring feature of the Convention last year was the baptism of fifteen of their school girls. The new training class is now giving both Junior and Senior work, eleven girls entering the class this year. It has been a hard year, full of anxieties and problems, and the cholera epidemic was a terrible strain. But God has again proven himself sufficient for the needs of each day.

**Ukhrul and Kohima.**

From far-away Ukhrul and Kohima come word of great opportunities for women’s work. The school for girls has gone on in Ukhrul in spite of the fact that the missionary family has moved away. In three of the districts of Manipur fifty-eight women and girls have been baptized, making a total of sixty-seven in all in Manipur State. Women’s meetings and women’s evangelistic work, by the women themselves, have been features of the work in this far-away part of our field.

**Sadiya.**

In Sadiya a brave memsahib has taken charge of a school in addition to the cares of her own active family.

There was an opportunity here too big to be slighted. There are 30 boys and 25 girls in this school, and a flourishing Junior Endeavour. Mrs. Kirby writes, “I am expecting much from
these boys and girls, and I have counted it a great privilege to teach the Bible. It is a great joy to see these children learn to pray, lead meetings, and recite the Scripture."

Upper Assam is another way to spell "OPPORTUNITY." The girls are clamouring for an education, and the large Christian community there warrants us to start a big work.

**Gauhati.**

In Gauhati the joybells were set ringing wildly on Christmas Eve by the coming of a cable from Boston, to the effect that we can expect Miss Holmes back to Gauhati in the fall, and that she is going to bring her sister with her. This means that she will again take up the work that God so richly blessed her in organizing, and releases one of us to the work in the Upper Assam field.

This has been a good year for "Satri Bari" despite the inconvenience of living in cramped quarters, moving several times, working in an unfinished plant, shorthanded as to teachers, and the work being in charge of two missahebs who did not know the language. It has proven that next to faith in God we must have faith in men, for our teachers have outdone themselves in their anxiety to keep up the work of the school. We had the largest attendance this year. Just before promotions, when we sent the boy away, we had an enrollment of 136, 70 of which were in the kindergarten. We had only two failures in the school, and those were due to irregular attendance. In the Boarding Department we have had 44 girls, and it has been such a joy to see the growth in character and spiritual life.

**Tika.**

From Tika top we see another torch blazing. Women's meetings have been held, a Sunday School class of 30 or 40 women and girls, and opening educational opportunities, are some of the good things to report. Among the 47 baptized on the Mikir field 27 were women. Seven girls are at school in Nowgong and Gauhati, and are doing well, promising future leadership in school and village work.

The Lord has done great things for us, whereof we are glad. "Ask of me, and I will give the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

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**NOWGONG.**  
**Florence H. Doe.**

At the close of the year there are 80 girls in the Boarding School aside from the Hindu and the Teachers' hostels. There are 237 names on the school roll. At the beginning of the new year, there will be one boarding school child in the kindergar-
ten, she being one of our orphan babies, graduated from the nursery.

The most noteworthy step of progress is the graduation of the first Senior Normal Training Class. This has been the goal of effort for the past five years, and everything has contributed directly or indirectly to this result. The four Junior Normal Class graduates of the last year were the first-fruits of this effort, but the Senior Class marks another big advance as the requirements are much higher for this class, while the final establishment of this department marks the beginning of a new era in the progress of female education in this part of the Province, the era of the trained teacher. From now on, we should be able to send out a steady supply of trained teachers for Assamese-speaking girls' schools, and such of the tribal schools as are able to furnish candidates capable of taking the training in the Assamese language. Already, it has become possible to fill up our own staff for the first time, with the help of three of these newly trained teachers, while the other member of the class, a Hindu girl who has shown herself exceptionally capable and ambitious, has been called to the position of head-mistress in one of the head-quarters Government middle girls' schools on a tempting salary. The new year opens with a training department of eleven girls—six seniors, and five juniors. The department calls loudly for capable assistance, in order that the bulk of the teaching should not have to be done by the missionaries, as at present. There is no one available at any price, that we know of, capable and ready to undertake this work, though we have a girl in training at a higher institution who should be ready to fill such a position in two years more. The work of carving out a curriculum for the training classes without the aid of textbooks or material prepared in the vernacular, has proceeded, and is nearly completed, though two important courses still remain to be completed. The publication of a course in music, worked out for this class, and another in games and practical pedagogical material, will greatly facilitate the future. A small primer of physiology has also been prepared for the press, and Government has been requested to undertake the printing.

In the middle and primary school there has been a teaching staff of six trained teachers, and one assistant, with an additional teacher and three assistants in the kindergarten as usual. There was one change in the staff during the year, one teacher being substituted for another who was dismissed. The boarding school staff has remained as before and is considered satisfactory. Seven girls were sent up for the Middle Vernacular leaving certificate examination though we failed to send up any girls for the Middle English examination, as was done the previous year, because it was found impossible to keep up the English depart-
ment through the year sufficiently to prepare any girls for the examination.

The missionary staff has consisted of three ladies, of whom one was excepted to spend her entire time on the language in preparation for the work which she has now assumed at the beginning of the present year.

The evangelistic work has been carried on to the extent of keeping up the staff of three Bible-women for the town zenana work. Aside from this no evangelistic work has been done for women on this field, and the Bible School is as far from being opened as anyone to carry on this department is from the scene of action. We lose out greatly in the results which might be obtained through our large kindergarten of Mohammedan and caste-Hindu children, because there is nobody to follow up the work in the homes of the children.

Special mention should however be made of an evangelistic campaign carried on by some of the boarding school girls during a number of weeks following the All-Assam Convention last spring. The girls went out Saturdays and Sundays in singing bands over the country roads into the villages, accompanied by the matron who talked to individuals or crowds while the girls distributed tracts. They reached several hundred people each week, and were preparing with considerable enthusiasm for further excursions when the work was cut short by the outbreak of an epidemic in the school.

This period of serious illness together with other facts and experiences of longer standing brought us to the conviction that it will be necessary for the Mission to make some more adequate provision for medical work if they expect to safeguard the interests of the educational work, and continue to carry on this school at the prescribed standard of efficiency.

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SATRI BARI, GAUHATI.

Miss Geisenhener.

Miss Holmes had the work well outlined for the year, and a very efficient corps of teachers, and to these, and to God's goodness, is due the success of the year's work.

When I took over the work April first we had on our roll eighty-five, including nineteen boys in the kindergarten. Forty-one girls of this number were divided among the six upper classes under two teachers, our headmaster and head-mistress, both Hindus, but both intensely devoted to their work.
The Bible teaching was all in the hands of Miss Wilson's evangelist.

Our numbers were as many as we could then accommodate, as we were using the girls' cookhouses for a schoolroom. The sun beat down mercilessly, as only an Indian sun can, on the galvanized roofing. But with a glad hope of something better in the future the girls and teachers plodded on. After the summer vacation, the cookhouses having come into their own while the girls were away, the kindergarten room was used in the mornings from seven to twelve by the upper department, and by the kindergarteners in the afternoons, while the big girls prepared their lessons for the following day in their cottages. This plan worked splendidly except for the trip to the "land of Nod" which the big girls wanted to indulge in while conning their lessons. Nor is this to be wondered at since their day began at four-thirty with a trip to the river for bathing and washing clothes, and cooking and other household duties had to be done before the school gong sounded. It was a glad day laden with general rejoicing when one morning, early in August, our builder announced the good news that on the morrow two rooms in the new site would be completed enough for occupancy. Our hopes were fast being realized.

The tornado which visited us in May was one of the deep shadows of the year. It unroofed one of the girls' cottages, tore up the tin shingles on the kindergarten, allowing the rain to fall in torrents on the ceiling, and drenched our new rug and kindergarten furnishings. Miss Wilson and I were alone in one of the girls' cottages which had been fitted up for our use. We heard the crash which told us that our bungalow was gone, and the din of flying timbers and galvanized roofing, and the terrible anxiety for the girls in their lines were beyond endurance. When the storm abated so that we could get out we hurried out not knowing what sight would greet us. The door opened, and through eyes dimmed with tears of joy, we saw them huddled together with the babies cuddled up closely, terribly frightened, but unhurt. He who careth for His own had kept them in safety.

Another shadow was the marriage of one of our Hindu day-scholars. She was a bright, gentle thing. Miss Holmes had worked hard with her and she was doing nicely. Her name had been sent up with four others to Government for the Primary Scholarship Examination, and there was every hope of doing well. I returned from my vacation to find that her name had been taken from the roll. A few days later the girls brought word that I might attend her wedding. For two days the ceremony, the din, and heathenish celebration continued, the days and nights were made wretched to me because another child had
been robbed of her girlhood. Her world has narrowed to the bamboo fence encircling her backyard. She has joined the countless multitude of India’s child wives. Yet I am thankful we taught her to sew and to keep her clothes clean and nicely mended.

Some of the perceptible results of the year’s work are the successes at the Government examinations. We sent up five girls. One of the Middle Vernacular received distinctions, having done especially well in sewing and arithmetic. The Inspector of Schools for Assam has promised a special scholarship if she continues in her work. The four girls who sat for the Lower Primary examination all passed well. One who came in from the jungle in March received special distinctions, being the only girl in the province who received 100 per cent in Arithmetic. All of the girls in the upper department, except two day scholars whose attendance was poor, were promoted, the Deputy Inspector superintending these examinations. This is due, in a large measure, to the remarkable health of the girls. Because of Miss Wilson’s care and painstaking efforts, nothing has been left undone in the way of perfect cleanliness and sanitation.

We have had two visits from the Assistant Inspector, one from the Deputy Inspector, and only day before yesterday the Inspector for the Province made her annual visit. Her report is not out yet. The others have given many helpful suggestions, pointed out many imperfections, giving methods for improvement, thus making their visits most helpful and welcome.

The esprit de corps of the school is especially good. A spirit of helpfulness and co-operation is very manifest. It is good to see the bigoted Hindu girls seeking help from the Christians, and vice versa, but it is even better to see the way in which the help is given.

We have on the upper class roll, since promotions, fifty-eight, with an average attendance of fifty-three. Fourteen girls are preparing for the Government examinations in the autumn. This necessitates the taking on of a new teacher, for which provision has already been made.

The crowning event of the year was the Christmas season made glad by a Christmas box and a cable from America telling of Miss Holmes and her sister’s plan of coming to Satri Bari in the fall. Only those who understand the place Miss Holmes has made in the hearts of the girls and of the people, can appreciate our feelings.
TURA.

Miss L. M. Holbrook.

Of the sixty-nine pupils in the graduating class this year nineteen are girls. This is the largest and most promising class of girls we have ever had. While only one received a Government scholarship for High School next year, several, as soon as school closed, married Christian men and have gone with their husbands to establish Christian homes in these needy hills. They, as well as their husbands, will be leaders in the work. Villages are bound to be cleaner and happier because of them and their influence. One girl told me that her village did not approve of her coming to Tura for another year. "You will come back to your own village and marry a Garo man and he will raise cotton and rice and you will be like the rest of us. What is the need of spending another year and so much money?" they said. "Yes," she answered, "I will return to my own village and marry a Garo man and he will raise cotton and rice, but I never will be like you. My children and my home will be different, for I shall have something in my head and heart that you have not got, and it will be something you cannot take from me, but I will give it to my children and to my home and, although you cannot understand it now, I shall be different, and you too will be helped by it." Anyone taking a trip through the hills would readily understand why such women are what this tribe need.

School days in Tura are busy days and it is not an easy task for these untrained hill girls to get an education through a foreign language. To study at all is hard enough but to study in English is the limit. If English lessons were all that our girls learned while in Tura, if they possess nothing more valuable than a Middle English Leaving Certificate when their school days are over, their education would be a failure. But to send nineteen Middle English Garo girls, Christian girls, who can prepare and cook their own food properly, keep themselves and their houses tidy, make and mend their clothes, nineteen girls who can sing all the Gospel songs there are printed in Garo, and who have not only had regular teaching in Scripture but practice in conducting services for women, leading sobas, teaching the heathen, etc., to send nineteen such girls out into the district does not mean failure.

The Mothers’ Bible Class each Sunday, the Women's Prayer Meeting each week and the Soba or Mission Meeting once each month have helped to make the women realize that to live means more than a good supply of rice and fish on hand, and to bring joy into the lives of others makes one's own heart glad.
We are glad to report a Kindergarten that has, in a small way, begun to bring the truth to the hearts of the little folks. We began with boys and girls but the Government Training School soon took our biggest little boys. The year had been a happy one for the children and I wish we had a hundred Christian girls like Kumodini to send out into the villages in Garoland to do the same kind of work among the heathen. Thus far we have not a High School graduate among our women but we have two girls in Shillong High School and three girls in Calcutta in High School. We also have two girls in Dibraghar taking midwifery. These all have Government scholarships and we hope that they may come back to the Garos to be strong leaders and thus a blessing to their own.

As I review the year’s work, while there is much that is imperfect and so much left undone, I feel like saying, “This one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before I press onward to the goal,” for only as we attain do those under our charge reach the fullness of Christ.
## American Baptist Foreign Mission Society—Statistical Report for Year Ending December 31, 1916

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### Native Contributions

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### Medical Summary

<table>
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Note: The table details the statistical report for various categories including missionaries, native workers, chosen statistics, educational statistics, and native contributions for the year ending December 31, 1916. The report includes data on field statistics, missionary and native work statistics, educational statistics, and native contributions, highlighting the significant contributions of the American Baptist Foreign Mission Society.