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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

IN PRESENTING our report for the years 1945, 1946 and 1947 we would first express gratitude to God for His tender care over the work and workers, and for His many providences which have inspired and led us. This period of time could well be called the "Rehabilitation Period," for it is during these years that we have been able to restore our work in the Burma Union, and also bring out some workers to take the places of those who, because of the war, were on furlough or had returned to the homeland permanently.

During this time many changes have taken place in the political history of this country. The 15th of August last year marked the turning over of the leadership of India to the leaders of the two Dominions of India and Pakistan. On the occasion of the celebration of this historic event, His Excellency, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, said:

"In view, however, of Great Britain's history as an imperialist power, three-fourths of whose empire consisted of India alone, the credit for allowing one-fifth of the human race—and without the arbitrement of the sword—to resume their birthright of freedom, must be recognized as a great act of far-reaching political wisdom. It is one of those noble gestures which never fail to evoke an equally noble response, and which are capable of cementing lasting friendship between the bitterest of opponents.

"Today British rule in India is a chapter of past history and Free India embarks on her own career of People's Sovereignty. It is true that geographical India presents herself today in the form of two free and equally sovereign states. But it should not be forgotten that these two sister dominions of India are bound together by the closest of ties of vitally common interests.

"India with her vast millions and moral and material resources advances towards all the peoples of this globe in a spirit of the most cordial friendship, and offers to all her fullest co-operation in establishing and maintaining peace and freedom, and promoting the prosperity of mankind."

We have also witnessed the granting of independent government to Burma and early this year the birth of a national dominion government in Ceylon. We earnestly pray that God, who directs in the affairs of men and nations, will guide and prosper these new governments and that their leaders and counsellors may be constrained at all times to protect their citizens in the free exercise of their religious convictions, so that all may live in peace and the work of God prosper. We re-

gret the tragic death of Mr. Gandhi, one who championed the rights of the common people everywhere, and suffered and laboured constantly for the interests of his own countrymen. He was also a friend of our work. All of these events have had their profound influence upon the work of Christian missions and in a special way have they affected our work. There has been a great interest shown in our work on the part of various leaders of the country. Some have invited us to extend the interests of our mission into new places. Even His Excellency, Sir Maharaja Singh, Governor of Bombay, has given us a property in Jullundur to use for mission purposes. We hope to use it as a small hospital. The peoples of these countries in their quest for something better politically and economically are also reaching out their hands and opening their hearts for something better spiritually. This offers to us, as a people, the greatest opportunity we have ever had in the work of God in the Southern Asia Division.

Also during the past year there have been a large number of disturbances due to the change in the government and territorial lines in some parts of the Division field. This has brought our workers in some parts into very great danger and has added to their perplexities in carrying on the work, but the Lord has protected the lives of His servants and also has protected the properties of our mission. We are happy that Pastor Morris, Brother Robbins, Dr. Robbins, and others have been doing all they can to relieve suffering in those areas during this time of need. We wish we could have done more at this special time of need.

God Is Leading

We have been impressed over and over again of the truth of the statement, "Our heavenly Father has a thousand ways to provide for us of which we know nothing. Those who accept the one principle of making the

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service of God supreme, will find perplexities vanish, and a plain path before their feet."—"Ministry of Healing," p. 481.

"In all parts of the world angels of God are opening doors that a little while ago were closed to the message of truth. From India, from Africa, from China, and from many other places is heard the cry, 'Come over and help us.'"—"Gospel Workers," p. 465.

Our Workers

There has been during this period of time some deaths in our worker group, and we remember the faithful, earnest labours of these former associates and believe that while they rest from their labours their works do follow them. ... We extend again to the relatives of these our sympathy and pray that God may comfort them and even through these experiences lead them into closer fellowship with Him.

When the war started we had 96 overseas workers and 529 national workers in this Division. These were distributed in our unions and Division institutions as follows:

National Workers:

	Before War	War Years	Present
Burma Union	65	—	51
Northeast India Union	81	72	100
Northwest India Union	103	105	123
South India Union	170	180	228
Western India Union	40	43	47
Ceylon Mission	—	—	30
Spicer Missionary College	4	4	17
Vincent Hill College	11	8	12
O. W. Publishing House	36	30	46
Division	19	18	44
Total	529	460	698

Overseas Workers:

	Before War	War Yrs.	Present	Wives Employed
Burma Union	11	—	12	1
Northeast India Union	15	8	15	1
Northwest India Union	14	11	10	2
South India Union	19	10	12	1
Western India Union	13	8	8	1
Ceylon Mission	—	—	3	—
Spicer Missionary College	6	5	7	1
Vincent Hill College	9	5	8	1
Division	9	4	9	2
Total	96	51	83	10

This will indicate the difficulties through which we passed in those war years and the years that immediately followed in properly staffing our work. However, we are glad to report that from our two training colleges and union training schools a large number of young men and women have come to enter all lines of missionary endeavour. Also many of our better trained and experienced national workers were invited to accept positions of leadership and responsibility. The programme entered upon a few years ago of training and employing more and more national leaders is steadily going forward now. We have 12 national superintendents of local missions. A large number are carrying responsibilities of leadership in our schools and other institutions, and an increasing number have been added to all our committees

and boards. In most cases the national members of such boards and committees greatly outnumber the overseas members. There is a need at this time, and at the coming union committee meetings, for careful study to be given to this programme, and I trust that in the setting up of our committees and Boards we will provide for even larger representation. ... We wish to express our appreciation for the loyal support and co-operation our workers have found it in their hearts to give in the work of the Lord during these years.

Though there has been unrest and communal trouble in certain sections, and famine or near famine conditions in others, we rejoice to report more baptisms during these three years than for any similar period in the history of our work in Southern Asia. The report for baptisms for these three years is as follows, making a total of 2,431 and bringing our total membership at the end of 1947 to 9,306.

	1945	1946	1947
Burma Union (War year) No report	177	132	—
Northeast India Union	101	171	103
Northwest India Union	114	210	202
South India Union	295	373	409
Western India Union	22	28	34
Ceylon Mission	—	—	60
Total	532	959	940

In addition to these baptized members there are some seven or eight thousand who call themselves Seventh-day Adventists, but have not reached such standards as to be accepted into church fellowship. We would again appeal to our leaders in the sections where these people reside to endeavour to further instruct them with a view to encouraging them to make the preparation needful for regular membership. ...

Greater Public Evangelism

We have carried on a programme of greater evangelism, with special emphasis placed on the holding of public evangelistic efforts. During the past three years we are glad that many large city public efforts have been conducted in the various unions, and during the same time a large number of village public efforts have also been conducted, and in addition to these larger public efforts very many short efforts have been conducted in our churches and villages where we have companies of people, the members of which have worked to bring in some of their neighbours and friends, and these short efforts have served to bind off the work which the church members and local workers have done. These also have resulted in much good and in the building up of our village constituencies.

We believe we can say that the spirit of greater evangelism has taken hold of our leaders in union and local missions in a very encouraging way. It is a demonstrated fact that the more we hold such efforts, strongly conducted, the more we will add to our church membership in existing churches, which greatly need strengthening, and

also establish new churches in new places. Our work, brethren, is to preach the gospel. It is to give this last message and save souls. Let us resolve anew to be about our "Father's business," and also address ourselves more seriously to the Saviour's commission to preach the gospel to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. We have placed much stress on the importance of increasing our percentage of self-support in this Division. We may say right here that carrying on evangelistic efforts, preaching the gospel, and saving souls, and building up our membership is the very best way to promote our self-support programme for the field.

Our Sabbath Schools

We are grateful also to note that Pastor E. D. Thomas, the secretary of our Sabbath School Department, reports that the Sabbath school membership now stands at 17,751 in 420 Sabbath schools. We are happy indeed to note the splendid progress made in increased membership and in adding to our Sabbath schools, as well as in the Sabbath school offerings contributed, which amount to Rs 193,834-14-0 for the three-year period. The last year, 1947, has shown a splendid increase of Rs 7,566-9-0.

Voice of Prophecy

One of the most outstanding achievements of this period which this report covers was the starting of the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School. From 1943 we have had definite plans for opening this work, but because we did not have a qualified person to lead out, we were delayed until Pastor A. E. Rawson returned from South Africa and furlough. However, a Bible School was started for Ceylon by Pastor W. A. Dunn, which reached an enrolment of around 8,000 members. Very good results have come from that school and we may confidently expect more yet to come. At the close of 1947, while the Division Bible Correspondence School had been in operation only about eight months, the enrolment reached 12,049 members, and as we write this report the enrolment has reached 15,378. Before opening this work it was our firm conviction that we would reach through this method many Hindus and others who could not be reached through our public evangelistic efforts. It was often stated that there were doubtless many Nicodemuses throughout our fields, who in this way would, like Nicodemus of old, come to sit at the feet of the Master and learn of Him. We have followed with great interest the many testimonials which have come from Brahmans and Hindus and others in prominent places, who have told us how happy they have been that in this means a way has been found whereby they, too, may learn about Christ and Christianity. Around 20 per cent of the enrollees are men with degrees, and who have positions of responsibility in

many different lines of activity throughout the country. We are told that many Hindus have written to say that they have accepted Christianity through the study of these Bible lessons.

Material Achievements

Our buildings in Burma have had to be repaired and the work in that union field rehabilitated during this period. In doing this we have been successful in securing permanent property in a good location in Rangoon for the re-opening of the hospital there. This institution, which provides for about sixty beds, with the other necessary rooms and equipment, appears to be starting off on a self-supporting basis. Great credit is due the Burma Union and Dr. J. Johannes and his faithful co-workers for their untiring efforts to get this hospital opened. Sabbath school overflow funds have helped materially in re-establishing this medical missionary project. And as we remember this fact, it leads us again to express our appreciation of our Sabbath school members around the world who contributed so generously for this project.

The Lowry Memorial School at Krishnarajapuram was returned to us by the military, and the buildings have been restored so that now it is one of our largest and finest union training schools in this Division field. Besides restoring the buildings and the grounds, it has been necessary also for us to provide for the re-staffing of this institution as a part of our rehabilitation programme.

We have launched a special endeavour to build village churches and village workers' homes, and this again was quite largely financed by another generous Sabbath school overflow fund for the third quarter of 1945. We now have many good monuments to this message and they also serve as monuments of the liberality of our Sabbath school members in all parts of the world. Our people are very grateful for this help.

The re-opening of our medical work in Nuzvid and the establishment of the nurses' training course there, and the construction of several new buildings, have all been accomplished within this period. Dr. Flaiz led out in this work prior to leaving our field and was ably assisted by the other workers there. Dr. Oliver and those assisting him have carried on this good work, so that we now have a very well equipped and staffed institution, which serves a very large section of the territory round about. It has a bed capacity of 125.

We are happy to note here the evangelistic programme which is being carried on by members of the staff in some of the nearby villages. Notably among these we would refer to a caste village where the people earnestly requested our workers to open a small school. Surely the medical missionary programme is breaking down caste prejudice and is the opening wedge for our work in many places.

Somewhat similar work has been carried on at Surat by the hospital staff. We are glad to note the spiritual activities of the staffs of these institutions. We are also happy to report that Surat hospital ended another year of self-support last year, and that Nuzvid did very well financially also. We have also added some new buildings and equipment to the latter institution.

Another very important accomplishment for this period, which we are glad to record, is the establishment of a working plan with the Vellore Medical College whereby our enterprising youth, who aspire to the medical missionary profession, can get a training under very favourable conditions. Just now the prospects for this relationship seem particularly promising. We wish to express our satisfaction for the splendid way in which our one medical student in this institution has stood staunchly for his faith and the principles which we hold dear, and as a result has won the admiration of his teachers and fellow students. We believe that this has contributed to the successful operation of our connection with this college.

Though this has been, as we have stated before, quite largely a rehabilitation period, yet we have been able to secure some fine additional properties in Rawalpindi and Karachi. These have helped very materially in the strengthening and extension of our work in the frontiers of India and Pakistan areas. While work has been going on in Karachi for a number of years, and to some extent in Rawalpindi in recent years, there was a great need for providing permanent headquarters for our work in these sections. It has seemed very providential the way we have been able to secure these buildings. We have been placing emphasis upon our borderlands of this Division field and the unentered territories. These properties, we believe, will establish our workers in such sections where they will be able to reach out into many parts of these unentered territories in proclaiming this last message.

We have also improved our housing facilities for our workers on the Salisbury Park Estate, as well as in some of our other centres. Added buildings have also been constructed at Spicer Missionary College, Vincent Hill College, the Jowai school, the Khunti school, the school at Lasalgaon and in some other places. We are very grateful for these added facilities and trust that by the proper use of them we may train many more young men and women for useful lives and also for eternity.

Financial

While the treasurer will give the financial report of the Division in detail, there are a few matters I should comment upon. We have been keeping before our people a programme of greater self-support for our work. Realizing that in laying the foundation for larger financial support, doubtless the greatest importance should be placed

upon faithful tithe paying, we have all felt the need of finding methods for impressing upon our people the importance of faithful tithe paying. To assist us in doing this we have asked the Ministerial Association to prepare a series of short quotations from the Spirit of prophecy on this subject to be read each Sabbath before the tithes and offerings are received. This has helped. We have also suggested the use of graphs and various devices to indicate the trends. It has also been suggested that monthly reports be brought out by the local mission treasuries, giving the name of each church and showing the tithes and offerings reported as this would stimulate more interest and effort on the part of local workers and church officers. We believe that these suggestions, where employed, have resulted in improvement, but fear that they have not been seriously and energetically used in all places. We fear some mission leaders have not fully realized the need or the usefulness of these suggestions. We have also provided for short accounts of the experiences of those who have been greatly blessed through faithful tithe paying. Our people must be led to see not only the seriousness of the obligation of tithe paying, but the blessings received resulting from faithfulness in so doing.

We are sorry that in several of our English churches there has been a very large decrease in the tithe receipts, as well as that of other offerings. This has been due very largely to the fact that so many of the members who have been faithful tithe payers in the past have now gone to other countries. This will give us a rather unfavourable report at this time, but we trust that our leaders will plan wisely for the rebuilding of the membership of these churches, and that from now on there will be a change in the trends, and that the tithe receipts as well as receipts of other offerings will increase materially.

We have had to absorb a large amount of our increases in appropriations to take care of salary adjustments and operating budgets for rehabilitated institutions, so these increases have not enabled us yet to enter many new sections of our field. We would like at this time to stress the importance of our previous action, asking the local missions to set up 5 per cent of their budget provision for new work after providing increased amounts for evangelistic efforts. Also that the present and future needs for salary adjustments and employment of new workers be cared for by increase in tithe income. We have not reached this objective and would urge that renewed efforts be made along this line, looking to greatly increased self-support throughout the whole Division field. It seems also advisable to keep separate the workers' tithe from members' tithe, so it will be seen just what the increase in the church membership tithe is from time to time. We believe these suggestions are important and trust all will give careful study to them and put them

into operation even more fully than has been the case in the past.

There has also been a consistent effort to keep our organizations fully capitalized in harmony with the General Conference policy. We would caution all our leaders and treasurers to be sure every organization makes the necessary adjustments each year to preserve this financial standing. May we most earnestly urge great care in this respect. There may come a time when we shall see the wisdom of this provision, as has been the case in the past in other sections of the world.

From all the financial reports I have seen it seems most of the fields, union and local, and our institutions have ended 1947 in a sound financial way. May this good record be maintained in the future. As we have stated, the departure of many of our English church members has brought about a great loss in the income of these churches, and this has placed an added burden upon the fields where these churches are located. May we express our hope that this situation may be corrected soon, and we believe that the very best way to do so is to plan for aggressive evangelistic efforts in the cities and towns where these churches are located.

Literature Ministry

We are happy to report that the publishing work of this Division field has shown a very encouraging growth during this period. The publishing house is fully self-supporting and has been able to finance, to some extent at least, the purchase of new equipment and provide for some re-modelling of the physical plant. We would express our appreciation to the management of this institution for the care that has been shown in the conduct of the business, so that these financial achievements can be recorded.

We are, however, especially thankful for the large amount of literature giving this message and our health reform message to the peoples of these countries. Our papers are greatly appreciated. The same is true of our books and of our tracts. We want also to express our appreciation for the work done by our editors, proof-readers and all of our workers in the press. We appreciate also the splendid leadership exercised by our publishing department secretaries in the Division, union and local missions. We regret, however, that we have so few of these leaders. Most of the time the work in the Division has been carried by the manager of the press, who, of course, because of his other duties has not been able to give as much time to the field and to the work as he would like to have done. We need more union departmental leaders and we appreciate greatly the strong lead that has been given by our national local mission publishing department secretaries. And we would not forget at this time the faithful colporteurs who have gone about throughout the country and into

many new territories, and who have travelled in dangerous places to carry the printed page into the homes and places of business of many of the people of this land. Our sales for these years are as follows, and from this it will be seen that there has been a good increase:

1945	1946	1947
Rs. 174,514-3-0	Rs. 221,506-4-0	Rs. 273,907-14-0

We feel, however, that very much more indeed can be accomplished. There is a great need that we get out much more literature through our publishing house into the hands of our colporteurs. They need books, they need magazines in other dialects, they need tracts and small pamphlets giving the message that they may use in their missionary endeavours. There is also a great need of more church literature to establish our church members in the faith. This, we believe, is one of our crying needs. There is also a need for us to perfect our plans for the translation work, and I trust at this time further consideration can be given to this need.

Educational Department

Resulting partially from two principal's councils, one held in the North and one in the South, a review was made of our educational work. A series of actions were taken at the Committee Council held December, 1945, looking to the strengthening of our educational programmes. A board of regents was also appointed to check up the standing of our schools in respect to staff, equipment, library, grounds, and all phases of the school programme and rate the schools. Also the getting out of standard examinations was undertaken. We are confident that as the programme adopted at that time comes fully into effect there will come also a greatly strengthened educational work.

We now have 87 Elementary Schools, 11 High Schools and a Senior College and Junior College. In these 4,676 students are enrolled. There are 269 members on the staffs.

We are also planning for more vocational training and it is hoped that this programme can materialize as equipment and teachers are available.

Other Lines of Endeavour

Good work has been accomplished in the Home Missionary, Young People's Missionary Volunteer, Religious Liberty and Temperance interests. These will all be reported in detail by those who have fostered these interests. We have been glad to note the favourable reactions to our approach to the leaders of Pakistan and India Dominions with reference to our position on vital religious liberty principles. The ground work had been done by supplying these leaders with copies of the "Liberty" magazine to acquaint them with these vital problems. We believe the personal contacts will also mean very much to our work in these countries.

We are very sorry to note the unfavourable position of our Uplift record

for the three years. We can give explanations all right, but it remains a fact that we should have done very much better notwithstanding the situation in some parts of the field.

I trust we will make plans to correct this situation right away. We believe that with our large cities and towns we can reach much higher goals than we have ever set for ourselves in the past.

I believe attention has been given to all phases of the work and all departments, even sub-departments in some cases, and other reports will reveal in more detail these activities. It has not been easy to keep all these interests well cared for because of furloughs and loss of workers permanently, but others have carried a heavy load and have taken on the supervision of several lines of work at one time, and have done the very best they could with all lines, and this we appreciate. Pastor Meleen is one of those who have done this extra work.

Our Needs

In listing our needs we would place first our need of a thorough consecration to the Master for His service. We need the promised power of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our ministry. We believe that the Holy Spirit is going before us and that the providences of God are leading. It cannot possibly be otherwise as we look out over the field and review the way the Lord has led us in the past. We are confident that there is a "turning of the wheel of Providence," and have seen that voices from "quarters where we least expect" are urging us on. They are calling us in South India to enter new territories, to expand our work. They are calling us in the island of Ceylon into new sections. In Western India new calls are coming. And from the Northwest, where there have been such great political changes and unrest and bloodshed in recent months, the calls are coming as never before for schools, for hospitals, for churches, and to enter new territories, and for more workers, both overseas and national. Similar calls are coming from the Northeast Union, up in Assam, the Naga Hills, among the Lushai people. Even the borders of Nepal are beckoning. Orissa is opening up. New tribes and peoples are responding and calls are coming. Men offer us their hospitals to be used in our mission programme. Readers of our Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence School in sections where we have not been able to enter before are responding to the message, and are asking for a visit from one of our workers. Every union field, and many local missions, and some of our institutions are appealing to us to give them more workers. These are some of our needs. We need to provide more and better homes for some of our workers in some sections. We need churches. Yes, brethren and sisters, our needs are many, both spiritual and material. May I suggest that we need an enlargement of our vision and a greater love

OBSERVATIONS AND IMPRESSIONS IN
SOUTHERN ASIA

Ceylon and Burma

John E. Weaver, Associate Secretary,
General Conference

for perishing souls. Let us pray and plan at this meeting and return to our places of labour having benefited by our stay here through prayer, the study of God's Word and a full consecration for the tasks that lie before us. May God give to us the spirit of Caleb, that "other spirit" which caused him to ask for the hard places, the dangerous places, in the conquest of the promised land, and may there come with that spirit of courage the same spirit of dependence upon the God whom we serve and who says to us, "Advance; enter new territory; lift the standard in every land. 'Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.'"—"Gospel Workers," p. 470.

CONSTITUENCY DOUBLED
SEVEN TIMES

Claude Conard

SINCE the Seventh-day Adventist denomination was formally organized in 1863, the church membership has doubled itself more than seven times.

It gained momentum slowly at first, while church and conference arrangements were being developed, but the years 1874 to 1879 saw an enthusiastic missionary activity which doubled the then rather limited membership in five years' time. The next most active period of missionary endeavour was from 1890 to 1898, when the church constituency enlarged itself twice over in eight years.

From a little less than 3,500 at the beginning of 1863, the Seventh-day Adventist Church membership had grown by 1874 to 7,000; then to 14,000 in 1879. The third time the church constituency expanded twofold was in 1889, with 28,000 believers; the fourth time in 1898, when the membership numbered 56,000; then 112,000 in 1912; 224,000 in 1924. The seventh doubling of Seventh-day Adventist Church adherents was in 1937, with a membership of 448,000. That was more than a decade ago.

If time should last and the trend of the past ten years is continued, the eighth doubling of the Seventh-day Adventist constituency will come in about 1959, with nearly 900,000 members in the world field.

More favourable results, however, are apparent in the last two or three annual church reports; and hopes are high that the strengthening activity in evangelistic and missionary endeavour throughout the world, with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, will bring larger returns than have hitherto been seen, and that many who do not now know the saving grace of their Master may be brought to the gospel light of their Lord's soon return.

God's people look forward eagerly to the time when "the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."—"Review and Herald," February 26, 1948.

TO SAVE valuable time it was planned for Pastors Ham, Rawson, and me to fly from Madras to Ceylon, and a most pleasant trip it was as we flew along the east coast of South India, across Palk Strait separating Ceylon from the mainland, and then along the west coast of that beautiful tropical isle of "spicy breezes" fame down to the airport of Colombo, the capital and largest city of Ceylon.

The brethren from the mission were there to meet us—E. A. Crane, superintendent; R. S. Fernando, secretary-treasurer; and W. A. Dunn and L. F. Hardin, evangelistic workers in the mission.

A quick bite of supper and we were hurried out to the little Sinhalese village of Divulapitiya, located at the twenty-seventh milestone on the Colombo-Kurunegala road by car to have a meeting with a company of believers and friends who had gathered there.

We were given a most hearty and cordial welcome with beautiful flower garlands and bouquets, together with a stately, dignified, and informative address of welcome, giving us some of the historical background of this company, and their earnest desire for a strong Sinhalese effort as well as a fine, new, representative church building. Our hearts were touched as we met these earnest, God-fearing believers whose love of the third angel's message is as deep and true as believers in any other part of the great world field. We earnestly hope and pray that both a fruitful evangelistic effort and a splendid new church building will soon be a reality, with the latter standing as a lighthouse to storm-tossed souls in the tropical land of beautiful Ceylon.

A workers' meeting was convened at the Nugegoda church where the twenty-six vernacular and three foreign workers with many of their wives and a number of visitors united in prayerfully studying over the responsibilities and opportunities of the work in Ceylon. Personal goals for soul-winning in 1948 were given after earnest prayer and consecration.

A healthy 31 per cent increase in church membership in 1947 over 1946 reflects the successful results of the strong evangelistic effort held in Colombo by Pastors Dunn and Hardin in the latter part of 1947, as well as suggesting the dawn of a new day for our work in Ceylon.

The Bible Correspondence School which began late in 1946 has enrolled over 10,000 students with over a thousand completions and over seven hundred requesting baptism, and with contributions of almost Rs. 5,500.

The report of literature sales for 1947 shows four colporteurs selling over Rs. 28,000 of truth-filled books and periodicals. Two schools are being conducted with a total enrolment of 214 students and 13 teachers. The Kottawa school is a boarding institution with a small dairy, poultry, and weaving industry, having an enrolment of 145, only 29 of whom are Seventh-day Adventists. This ratio of one S. D. A. pupil to five non-Adventist pupils will need to be observed carefully to see whether the missionary aspect of the school is justifying such an imbalance that might easily neutralize the Christian ideals, purposes, and outcomes of this S. D. A. Christian training school. The location of this school together with the lack of buildings and the amount of good, agricultural and garden land, suggest the desirability of a new and better place for the successful operation of the Ceylon training school.

A visit to Kandy, the summer capital of Ceylon, near the centre of the island at an elevation of about 3,500 feet, followed by a trip to Nuwara Eliya at an elevation of 6,000 feet, brought us the exhilarating enjoyment of the cool, mountain air circulating over and among the large tea estates. These estates stretch for miles over the hills and through the upland valleys with the beauty of their everlasting green broken here and there by the three to four storeyed white or green tea factories, each tucked in a convenient cove of the hillside, or standing cut like a giant sentinel on a commanding hill overlooking a vast panorama of tea estates stretching off in every direction to the distant ridges, beyond which lay more tea estates and tea factories.

It is planned that Pastor Hardin and family move to Kandy soon to begin the study of the Sinhalese language and then to have charge of this great upland country where we do not have a single church or company of believers. We were told, too, in the reports given, that the Ceylon Mission does not have a single mission-owned church building, is without a mission-owned headquarters office and does not own even one worker's bungalow. The need for a mission or school printing press is evident, as well as the desirability of having a modest medical work as a beginning to bring strength and courage to the growing work in Ceylon.

Our visit to Ceylon coincided with the history-making events and celebrations that gave the island of Ceylon the coveted honour of being the latest and possibly the smallest of the British Dominions in the far-flung British Empire, in the Commonwealth of

Nations. The old Sinhalese name of Lanka for the island of Ceylon was given to the new Dominion which was born and christened with the assistance of Royalty from England, surrounded by local dignitaries of state and government and visiting officials from India and Burma. The principles of civil and religious freedom were detected fitting about in some of the speeches and declarations made during the nearly week-long programme.

We regretted to leave this beautiful, tropical paradise where "every prospect pleases" and where we found the source of the spicy breezes in the nutmeg, allspices, cloves, cinnamon, and other well known household spices used the world around. The plane was ready by near sunrise and we flew northward stopping at Madras on our way to Calcutta.

Changing planes here we flew on to Rangoon in Burma where we entered a busy programme of committee meetings, trips to the hinterland, and other activities and interests. We found Pastor J. O. Wilson, the acting superintendent of the Burma Union with his staff of workers. Pastor M. O. Manley, the superintendent of the Burma Union, is on furlough.

It was decided that Pastor Ham and I should visit the Tenasserim Mission and school at Paan on the Salween River. Brother Ah Chu, the union secretary for the Sabbath school and M. V. departments, accompanied us and proved to be a capable guide as well as a pleasant travelling companion. The third class ten-hour train ride from Rangoon to Thapon, followed by a twenty-five mile bus ride from there to the Salween River, proved interesting, but a bit tiring. Crossing the Salween River by canal, we soon found ourselves at the home of Pastor Chit Maung, the superintendent of the Tenasserim Mission, where hospitality and good fellowship became close companions.

On Sabbath morning we joined the teachers and students of the village school in a very enjoyable Sabbath school, the superintendent of which was one of the older girls in the school. A number of the young people of the school had returned to their homes for the week-end to secure food, hence the attendance at Sabbath school and church was not so large as usual.

Sabbath afternoon the brethren arranged for us to visit a small company of believers at a near-by village about five miles away. The ox-cart transportation over a dusty, clinky, rough road gave one first-hand impressions of modern conveyances in some of the back country of Burma. We found a fine company of believers who gathered in the home of one of the workers while Pastor Ham gave an inspiring message of hope, consecration, and service. We were shown the place where the village church school is conducted and the spot where it is hoped a new church building may be erected before long. A fine, new church in this village would bring new courage and hope to the believers

here, and would undoubtedly give our work and message a new standing and prestige in this area.

On Sabbath evening teachers and students gathered in the Chit Maung home to sing songs and to extend to us a hearty welcome. The singing of the school choir as well as the whole student and teacher group was inspiring and soul-lifting, and left a picture in the gallery of my mind that will linger there for a long time to come.

Upon our return to Rangoon by the same third class rail accommodation, more crowded than before, we found Pastor A. V. Olson and Dr. T. R. Flaiz from the General Conference, who had just arrived by plane from visiting the Far Eastern and China Divisions. The next assignment was to visit a number of potential union training school sites. We first visited the mission site at Shwenyaungbin about two hundred miles from Rangoon and twenty-five miles from Taungoo, which is on the old Burma Road. This is a beautiful elevated site that gives a delightful climate most of the year. Several factors called for careful examination of this site for a training school such as the building site for the buildings of the school, the securing of title to more spring water so as to insure an ample supply; and the securing of more land to be used for farming and gardening. The distance of over twenty miles from Taungoo, the nearest railroad point, suggests some of the heavy expense of transporting everything to and from the school over the twenty miles of winding, mountain road.

The other sites examined were nearer Rangoon and each had commendable and attractive features as well as some drawbacks. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that the Burma Union Committee should continue to search carefully and prayerfully for a suitable training school site in Burma. The training school is being conducted now on a temporary basis at Myaungmya and will probably continue that way for another year or two. The suitable location for a union mission training school is so important that sufficient time should be given together with diligent search made that the best possible location may be found—one that will commend itself to everyone as an almost ideal place for the school.

In Rangoon we were pleased to visit the S. D. A. Mission hospital recently opened under the direction of Dr. Johannes. This fine sixty-bed hospital, located on beautifully landscaped grounds, is a great honour to our work in Rangoon, and should prove to be all the strength that a healthy right arm should have. Pastor F. R. Scott, recently arrived from overseas, is holding meetings in our church in Rangoon and also in the village of Insein. The home field missionary interests of the union are under the direction of Pastor F. J. Hamel, recently arrived in the field.

It is good to see the second-generation young people coming back to the mis-

sion field to take up the work laid down by their parents who, in some cases, had to return to the homeland on account of health conditions. We saw Leonard Hare and his wife, both of whom are children of missionaries in Burma and India, in Rangoon. They have been at the Myaungmya school, but are moving soon to the Tenasserim Mission boarding school where Brother Hare will act as principal.

Another interesting feature which I neglected to mention earlier is the plan to develop a mobile dispensary work in the hill areas of Upper Burma, the Shan States, the Chin Hills, and Karenni State. It is hoped that this "clinic on wheels" may soon be carrying the gospel of healing, both physical and spiritual, to the waiting tribe peoples of the hills.

There is still considerable evidence in Burma of the bombing destruction of the war. Damaged buildings, burned cars, trucks, and guns along the Burma Road; broken-down railroad bridges, cars, engines, etc., along the railroad lines, all tell the terrible story of war and its toll of destructiveness. It is hoped that the rehabilitation of our own work may move forward more rapidly and that the new union training school may be reestablished soon and carry forward a strong programme for our young people.

Our group of five left Rangoon by air on February 27 for Calcutta, where we spent Sabbath and enjoyed the fellowship with the Calcutta church and the hospitality of the Boykin and Strunk families. On Sunday Pastor Olson and Dr. Flaiz left for Narsapur and Nuzvid—old stamping-grounds for Dr. Flaiz—and the rest of us headed for Poona to get ready for the Ministerial Institute and Division Council—March 9-22—to convene at Spicer Missionary College near Kirkee. Later I hope to give a further record of my visit to Northwest and Northeast India.

GIFFARD MISSION HOSPITAL

K. Gopala Rao

RECENTLY our hospital has been the centre of attraction, for it has been visited during the past two months by government and mission officials.

The Medical Officer of the Kistna District paid us a flying visit on January 19, and as he was being conducted around to the registration office, pharmacy, laboratory, men's clinic, women's clinic, surgery, and the different wards, his face beamed with happiness to see everything so spic and span. He was greatly impressed with the tidiness and the orderliness of the hospital and freely expressed his appreciation of this.

Friday, January 30, brought us some visitors—Dr. J. E. Weaver from the General Conference, Elder E. M. Meleen from the Division, Mr. H. A. Walls from the South India Union, and Mr. W. F. Storz from the Lowry Memorial High

School—all educational men, and we were very glad to have them with us for two days. They were welcomed into our midst by garlands, songs, and words in the presence of a large group of patients and others who had gathered on the hospital front verandah for morning worship. The rest of the day was spent visiting in and around the hospital, and when evening came, Elder Meleen addressed us at the vespers service. We had an interesting Sabbath school session followed by the church service at which time Dr. Weaver delivered a sermon on Christian education and the importance of our children attending our own schools. This was truly much needed admonition given in a very vivid manner and at an appropriate time, for which we feel very thankful to him.

In the early part of February, Miss Bradley, accompanied by Miss A. Perinbam, a student from the freshman class, visited the Lowry Memorial High School to interview the prospective students who would be coming to our training school this coming school year. They report that many were interested in their talks and that we could expect a number from there next year.

It was the 9th of February. We were eagerly looking at our watches to see if it was 9 a.m., counting each minute, yes, every second. What do you suppose the anxiety was all about? Well, the Hon. Mr. Vemula Kurmaiah, Minister for Harijan Uplift, Government of Madras, was in the town and it was programmed for him to visit the hospital at 9 a.m. He was delayed by other appointments in the town, and an hour or so later than scheduled, he arrived, securely guarded by the District Collector, the D. S. P., and a band of armed reserve police. There was a large procession and a police constable was assigned to our main entrance to control the crowd and to let only a limited number into the hospital with the visitors. In a very short while they had visited every place. Before leaving, the minister made a two-minute speech in which he voiced deep appreciation for the splendid work that was being done here for humanity's sake. He said that he first came to know about the hospital while he was practising law at Bezvada and that he had wished to see the hospital ever since. "I am glad," he said, "for this opportunity of visiting this hospital." He also said, "Here we see real service for the sick and suffering." On being told that we are operating a nurses' training school, he inquired if we are offering courses in midwifery. We said, "No." He said that the Government of Madras has a fund of Rs 30,000 to be given out in stipends each year for students undergoing midwifery, and that he would do all in his power to appropriate some money for our hospital, also for midwifery students, if we cared to offer courses in midwifery. That, of course, is a matter for consideration.

On the 3rd of March, at 10 p.m., a number of our workers and children

and a band to supply the music were waiting on the outskirts of the town looking for our station wagon which had gone to the station to fetch Elder Olson and Dr. Flaiz. The train was delayed and it was twelve by the time the visitors arrived. The band music was arranged by a building contractor who had formerly constructed some buildings for us. To express his regard for Dr. Flaiz he had arranged this party. Having been garlanded, the visitors were escorted to the hospital compound accompanied by the band music. The following morning a welcome programme was presented to the visitors. It was surgery morning, and thinking that, after tending to office work for a little over a year now, Dr. Flaiz might like to put his hand on surgical instruments again, two tonsillectomies were lined up for him, which he gladly did. Later in the morning they went out

Flaiz as he spoke in his usual interesting and appealing way, warning us of the tendency of the believers to drift away from the truth in the last days because of some dissatisfaction or other in the message we have learned to love. He told us that our reward is great and if we are faithful to the end, the Lord would certainly reward us. We feel very grateful to the General Conference and the Division for these visitors and the inspiring messages we heard from them.

Miss Bradley is at Mussoorie at present studying language. She hopes to sit for her examination and then return about the second week of April.

Miss K. M. Mary, a former graduate of our school of nursing, who has been working at Ranipet since the closing of our hospital in 1942, has come to work for us as staff nurse. We are glad that she is with us again and trust that she will enjoy her work thoroughly.

The juniors and freshman class, section two, wrote their Board examinations during the first week of March, conducted by the Madras Nurses' and Midwives' Council. They say that they have done fairly well and we are expecting better results this year. Deputies from the Nurses' Board came and inspected the hospital and the students on oral and practical work on March 11. We wish these students every success.

The patronage of the hospital is increasing day by day. We have been aiming at bringing our daily census to 100 and we went over this goal a week ago when we had 104 patients (men 42; women 42; female children 11; male children 9). This month—March—seems to be a very promising month both in patient attendance and medical receipts. We do not know what the future holds in store for us but we hope that it will be brighter still, and that with the help of the Lord we can render acceptable service to Him by ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of those committed to our care.

BOOKS

Yearbook

Recently we received a few copies of the 1948 "Yearbook." They may be ordered through the Book Depots. Our stock is limited, and orders will be filled in the order received until the stock is exhausted. Price Rs 4-15.

The Story of Redemption

This is a new volume of excerpts from the Spirit of prophecy, particularly from the earlier volumes. It contains in brief all the material covered by the "Conflict of the Ages Series." Price Rs. 5 only. L. C. Shepard.

visiting some of the out-stations and returned late that night. All the workers and many church members from the near-by villages came over for the week-end to hear the message that Elder Olson and Dr. Flaiz had to give us. Friday night Elder Olson preached a wonderful sermon. The theme of his sermon was that true greatness lies in humble service. The following morning the church was full to overflowing again. A dedicatory programme was conducted by Dr. Flaiz at which time two children were dedicated to God. Another wonderful sermon was preached by Elder Olson at the church service. He told us of the providences in Europe and of the miraculous way that the Lord is blessing our work and workers, particularly in the Southern European Division where Elder Olson had worked for many years. As he related in his characteristic way how the workers and believers there are proving themselves faithful to God even in the face of the bitterest opposition and severest persecution, tears flowed freely and we rededicated ourselves to the finishing of the work in this land of India. In the evening our hearts were made happy as we listened to the familiar voice of Dr.

Eastern Tidings

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EDITOR MRS. A. F. TARR

A. L. HAM President
A. F. TARR Secretary-Treasurer
C. A. HART Asst. Secretary-Treasurer
E. D. THOMAS Field Secretary

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GLEANINGS

Elder A. V. Olson left for the States by air on Tuesday, April 13. His visit with us seemed all too brief. It will long be remembered by the churches and workers wherever he travelled, and by those who were privileged to attend the Division Council.

Pastor and Mrs. H. T. Terry and Helen sailed from Bombay on the s.s. "Cagliostro" for Venice at the close of the Division Council, and plan to spend some weeks on the Continent en route to the States.

Writing from the s.s. "Exton" on April 5, Elder O. W. Lange says that he and his family are at last on the way, having set sail from Calcutta on April 4. They hope to call at Colombo and Bombay before finally leaving these parts and will then proceed to the east coast of the States via the Mediterranean. We wish Brother Lange and his family a safe and pleasant voyage and a very profitable furlough in their homeland.

Brother Y. D. Daniel, the assistant business manager of Giffard Mission Hospital, recently paid a short visit to the Surat Mission Hospital. He was very interested in the work that is being done there and the high esteem in which the hospital is held in Surat. He greatly enjoyed the privilege of visiting this institution.

Brother J. L. Shannon, Northwest Union secretary-treasurer, is under appointment to connect with the Division as assistant treasurer in place of Brother C. A. Hart who will soon be proceeding to Australia.

Brother L. E. Allen, secretary-treasurer of the Northeast Union, has accepted a call to the Northwest India Union to be its secretary-treasurer.

At the invitation of the Northeast, Pastor R. J. Borrowdale, who has been stationed at Karmatar, will shortly be taking up his work as secretary-treasurer of the Northeast Union.

Pastor R. J. Ritchie, recently returned from the United States, is proceeding to Bombay for evangelistic work. He was formerly located at Lucknow.

Pastor E. L. Sorenson and family have moved their home from Kirkee to Bangalore where Pastor Sorenson will engage in evangelistic work.

Pastor G. B. Hoag has proceeded with his family to the Northwest to take up his appointment as publishing secretary of that union.

Brother E. H. J. Scott, of the Northwest Union, comes to Western India to connect with the publishing department.

The South India Union have released Brother M. K. Samuel to Northeast India as assistant publishing secretary.

Accepting a call from South India, Brother F. J. Strunk, who has been labouring in Calcutta, is taking up work in the Kanarese field.

Brother I. K. Moses will shortly relinquish his office as secretary-treasurer of the Western India Union to respond to South India's call for his services as union Sabbath school and home missionary secretary.

Brother Robert Juriansz has been called from Vincent Hill College to serve as secretary-treasurer of Western India.

The Voice of Prophecy staff in Poona will soon be augmented by the arrival of Pastor C. A. W. Ritchie who, with his family, will be moving up from Bangalore.

WHAT TO DO WITH OUR TROUBLES

WE GIVE our troubles a shaking for fear they may go to sleep; we run them around the square that they may not grow weak from lack of exercise; we air them constantly lest they die for want of oxygen; we massage them and train them to keep fit; we bathe them, shampoo them, dress them, brush them, and do all in our power to keep them always presentable; whereas a little wholesome neglect is what they really need.—Alabama Baptist.

"SOME GOOD SOUL COMES AROUND"

R. J. Ritchie

A FEW weeks ago, en route to the West via Minnesota, I had occasion to change trains at St. Paul, one of the twin cities on the Mississippi River, and had at my disposal about twenty-five minutes of time. Desiring to get a glance at this famous city, I wended my way out of the station to the bank of the Mississippi, along which lies the beautiful Kellogg Boulevard Gardens. In the background the tall, stately edifice of the First National Bank stands out against the sky as a great giant.

Impressed with this beautiful sight as it was lighted up with the rays of a rising sun, I stopped to focus my camera to take a coloured picture. As I did so a voice spoke from close behind me, "And so, Mister, you have taken a picture of my beautiful garden." I turned round sharply on my heels to hear an elderly, weather-beaten soul, seasoned hard with the toil of years, say, "I have

been the gardener here for the past twenty-six years."

"This is a most beautiful garden," I said to him, "and that is why I took a picture of it."

"And from where do you come, friend?" he said to me in a quiet tone.

"I am a Seventh-day Adventist minister from India."

"From India!" And his weathered brow wrinkled and his eyes looked far away as he continued, "I gave a son for India during this last war—a lovely boy, our only boy." Removing the glove from his left hand, he said, "Do you see those callouses?" His voice lowered and grew faint as a tear rolled down his wrinkled cheek. "I have worked hard for that dear boy, to build up a little business for him, but now he is gone; he is laid to rest there in far away India. The Lord took him and I will never see him here again."

"Why, friend, you know that Jesus is coming again in the clouds of heaven. You believe His promise, don't you? He has said 'I will come again,' and He will. In that day your boy will meet you. I believe it with all my heart. I am looking forward to meeting my two boys in that glad day."

"There is one thing, Mr. Ritchie," for he had learned my name by this time, "one thing that gives me greater joy and comfort than anything else I have read, and it is this." Putting his hand way down into his overall's pocket, he drew out a September, 1947 issue of the "Signs of the Times." "This is a paper I cherish a great deal."

"Why, friend, where did you get that? That paper is printed by my church. Won't you give me that copy? In exchange for it I will send you a year's subscription to the paper. I want to keep this copy as a souvenir, in remembrance of you and this experience."

Reluctantly he parted with this issue, which he kindly autographed for me, "Walter Stahl."

"Who gave you this magazine, Mr. Stahl?" I asked. "Why, some good soul comes around and gives me a copy now and then. I am a Baptist, but I love this paper."

I realized that I would have to leave my friend in a hurry if I intended to catch my train; and so, wishing him God's blessing, I hurriedly made my way back to the train, repeating as it were with each breath his words: "Some good soul comes around and gives me a copy now and then." Perhaps you may be that good soul. Whoever it is, someone in St. Paul did his duty, and will win a soul for eternity.

COUNCIL GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

COPIES of the council group photograph may be secured from the Division office at Rs. 1-8-0 (plus postage) per copy. There are two sizes, one being 12" by 10", and the other 15" by 6". When ordering, please state the size required.