

INDIA UNION TIDINGS

VOL. 12

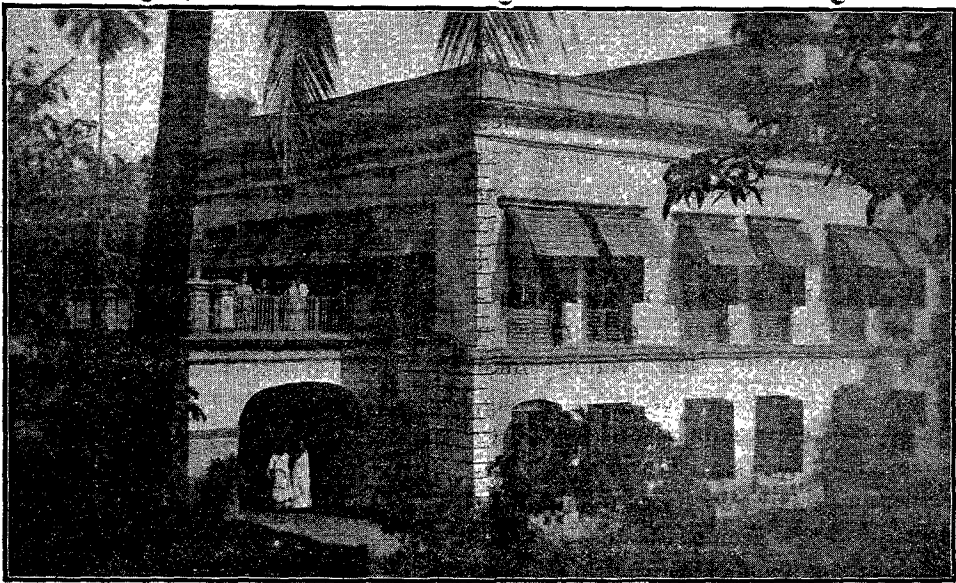
LUCKNOW, INDIA, August 1, 1917

No. 14

General Meeting in Calcutta

The annual general meeting of the Indian believers in the Bengal Mission was held at Entally, Calcutta, June 22 to 27. During the earlier part of the meeting we had the help of Brethren Pettit and Mattison. Brother Williams and the writer were in attendance during

Much of the burden of the meeting naturally rested on Brethren Burgess and Mookerjee, who are able to labour in the vernacular. The nature of the meeting was much the same as described in my recent report of the South India general gathering.



BENGAL MISSION HEADQUARTERS, ENTALLY, CALCUTTA

the whole of the meeting. All the foreign workers of the Bengal Mission were present, with the exception of Brother Frank Smith.

There was a good attendance of the Bengali brethren, and the Santali work was represented by a number of believers from Karmatar.

Brother Williams spoke on the financial responsibilities we are about to assume with the incoming of the approaching year, and what this will mean to all the believers in the India Union Mission. There seemed to be a spirit of willingness to help in the effort to make the work self-supporting. No doubt this effort will

in itself do much to strengthen the hold the truth has on the hearts of those that have received it.

On Sunday evening, June 24th, Brother L. G. Mookerjee was ordained to the gospel ministry. The service was held in the Free-school Street meeting hall, which was well filled by the members of the English and Bengali churches. Brethren Burgess, Pettit and Comer and the writer took part in the ordination. It is encouraging to see in the ordination of Brethren Mookerjee and Thomas the setting aside of the first of our Indian brethren to the work of the ministry. We trust these brethren will prove the first-fruits of many whom God will call to this sacred work from among the people of this land.

At the early morning devotional service on the last day of the meeting there was a most touching evidence of the working of the Holy Spirit on the hearts of the believers present. The meeting lasted from six to nine o'clock, and was characterised by a spirit of surrender, confession and reconciliation. One young man made public confession of some wrong, and then crossed over to where the other one concerned was seated, and asked forgiveness. This example was followed by many, and there seemed to be a great clearing of the King's highway that morning. There was no mistaking the spirit of the meeting, even to one not acquainted with the language.

It was an encouraging omen to see the students from the Bengali boys' and girls' schools taking so seriously and whole-heartedly the work of getting right with God. It augurs well for their becoming true labourers in the cause of Christ.

But this work was not confined to the young people. There were some reconciliations that will greatly affect for good some of our isolated companies of Sabbath keepers. All the workers were cheered to see this evidence of the work of divine grace on human hearts.

Acting on a decision of the Union Mission committee with regard to the licenses to be granted to Indian workers, the Bengal Mission committee approved of a Bible Worker's license being given to each of the following brethren:

P. K. Roy, P. C. Arinda, S. C. Sircar, A. C. Haldar, J. Besra, B. Peterson, and M. Lisku.

There were also eight colporteurs to whom it was voted to grant certificates. We hope that the future will see a steadily increasing force of trained and faithful native workers in each division of our field.

Touring East Bengal

On the first of July, Pastor L. G. Mookerjee and the writer left Calcutta to make a tour of the villages in East Bengal where there are companies of believers in the Third Angel's Message. We reached Gopalganj the next afternoon, and spent a couple of days with the believers there, celebrating the ordinances with them. Brother A. C. Haldar is the leader of this company.

At Gopalganj we transferred from the river steamer to a house boat, in which we made most of the remainder of the trip. East Bengal is inundated at this season, making boat travel the only means of transportation.

After visiting the believers at Chaurkhuli and Buruabaree we spent the following Sabbath at Surgram, where Brother P. K. Roy is labouring. In the

morning we had a short service dedicating the humble meeting house that has been erected for the use of the Suagram company. This was followed by Sabbath school, and then by a baptismal service in which seven persons were buried and raised again from the watery grave.

In the afternoon a church of fourteen members was organised, with Brother Roy as elder. This is the first local church to be organised in East Bengal. Judging from what we saw on this trip I should say that it will not be long before three or four other companies will be ready to be organised in the same way.

After the ordination of the elder and deacon we partook of the Lord's Supper together. This was a joyful day to the little church at Suagram, and we rejoiced with them at the forward steps that were taken. We spent the Sunday also at Suagram, and then continued our journey.

During the second week we visited some interesting groups of new believers at Chabikhapar and Shanuhar, where Brother P. C. Arinda is working. By Thursday evening we reached Sharenghati where there is quite a numerous company of Sabbath-keepers who are holding on to the truth steadfastly without the help of any mission worker. With these brethren we spent the Friday and Sabbath. On Sunday we resumed our journey, and reached Dacca at midnight on the 17th.

During this trip I got quite a new view of the prospects for a speedy development of our work in the Bengal Mission. I had the idea that the Bengali people, because of their agitation against foreign rule, would be for the most part unwilling to embrace what they would regard as a "foreign" religion. But in East

Bengal the people seem to be open-hearted and impressible, and many are responding to the gospel call. The very impulsiveness of the Bengali nature seems to help the people to dare to step out and openly confess what they believe to be truth.

The way the message is gaining a foothold among these people seems to indicate that the Lord will make this district a stronghold for the cause, that will become a great help in the giving of the message in the whole of the Bengal province. This impression is confirmed when one visits our Bengali Boys' and Girls' Schools at Calcutta, where the students are almost exclusively from East Bengal.

I was glad of this opportunity to become acquainted with the difficult conditions with which our workers have to contend in seeking to develop the work in this territory. To maintain a supply of pure food and water is alone quite a problem, to say nothing of the malarial conditions and other sicknesses so prevalent in marshy country in the tropics, that must be guarded against. The work in this district requires great patience, tact, carefulness, and love for the people. Brother and Sister Mookerjee should have our earnest prayers for God's help to be given them in the difficult and yet promising work that has fallen to their care in East Bengal.

W. W. FLETCHER.

"Be brave, my soul, for cowardice is weakness;

Be strong, for weakness is disgrace;

Care not for clouds, for sunlight is external;

The one who falters never wins a race."

—Stamats

Asiatic Division Conference Meeting

Shanghai, April 5-24, 1917

"MERCY unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied," was the message flashed across the American continent and beneath the waters of the broad Pacific, from the General Conference headquarters in Washington, D. C., to the delegates assembled at the opening meeting of the Asiatic Division Conference recently held in Shanghai. As Pastor R. C. Porter, the chairman, read the words of greeting, heartfelt "Amen's" were spoken in response. And the prayers and good wishes of our brethren and sisters in the homeland, as voiced in this cable message, were not in vain. Our conference session was one where peace and love abounded. From beginning to close the spiritual interests were made first, and hearts flowed together in Christian unity. The work of the conference has now been completed, and nearly all those present have scattered to the ends of the earth; yet in spirit and in purpose they are as one for the finishing of the work they have been commissioned to do.

One hundred and eighty adults, representing every union conference and mission in the division, from India to Korea, and from Australia to North China, were present to join in the opening hymn,—

"O God our help in ages past,
Our hope for years to come."

Pastor W. T. Knox led in prayer. The roll call that followed was very like a catalogue of all the lands of the Far East and of the Southern Seas. A goodly number of native believers—representatives of the first-fruits of the Church of

Asia—were present to unite with us in our deliberations.

Pastor Porter extended a hearty welcome to all, both foreign and native, and referred especially to the presence of several from the General Conference and North American Division Conference. The good counsels given by Brethren A. G. Daniels, W. T. Knox, N. Z. Town, and Frederick Griggs served to strengthen the hands of the Asiatic Division leaders and their associates in the conduct of the spiritual and business interests of the conference.

The visiting brethren gave closest attention to the work of making our meeting a season of seeking God and of thus gathering courage and hope and inspiration for the task that lies before. Their strong appeals to "the Church of Asia," as they were pleased to denominate the Seventh-day Adventist body of believers in the Asiatic Division, were directed toward the end of a special fitting up from on high for effective service.

Among the new organizations formed are, (1) the East Asian Union Conference, including Japan, Korea, and Manchuria, with Pastor J. M. Johanson, formerly of the Australasian Union, as president; (2) the North China Union, including the greater portion of the Mandarin-speaking provinces of China, with Pastor F. A. Allum as president; (3) the South China Union Conference, including the Cantonese, Hakka, Swatowese, Amoyese, Yunnanese, and other language areas, and French Indo-China, with Pastor B. L. Anderson as president; (4) the Philippine Union Conference, including the entire Philippine archipelago, with Pastor L. V. Finster as presi-

dent; (5) the Malaysian Union, including Malaya, Straits Settlements, Dutch East Indies, Borneo, and the Celebes, with Pastor F. A. Detamore as president. Unfortunately some of the delegates from the India Union Mission, including the superintendent, Pastor W. W. Fletcher, were unable to attend our meeting because of war restrictions governing embarkation for foreign ports; hence the organization of an India Union Conference cannot be chronicled at this time.

In the formation of these new Unions we were favoured with the presence and help of representatives from the Australasian Union Conference, Pastors C. H. Watson and J. M. Johanson, with Brother G. S. Fisher, in addition to the General Conference brethren, and others of administrative experience.

During the first few days of our conference session, Pastor R. C. Porter, who

has served this part of the field so faithfully, was able to be with us at all the more important meetings. His state of health, however, was such as to make imperative a season of rest and medical treatment; and so in the midst of the session he was advised by his physicians that further effort on his part would be at the peril of his life.

A full complement of officers and departmental secretaries and boards was chosen for the ensuing biennial term, as follows:—

President, J. E. Fulton; *Vice-presidents*, F. H. De Vinney and J. S. James; *Secretary*, C. C. Crisler; *Treasurer*, H. W. Barrows; *Departmental Secretaries: Publishing and Home Missionary*, C. E. Weeks; *Educational and Missionary Volunteer*, S. L. Frost; *Sabbath-school*, R. F. Cottrell; *Asst. S. S.* Mrs. R. F. Cottrell; *Medical*, Dr. A. C. Selmon.

(To be Continued)

Meiktila School

The Meiktila Technical School opened for another year on the 5th of June. It was with joy that we assembled in our little chapel at nine o'clock and saw so many boys come the first morning. It is quite the custom in Burma for the boys to remain away from school as late as possible. For this reason the Government has been compelled to make a rule according to which a boy cannot be accepted into any registered school after it has been in session for two weeks, except in special cases. The attendance is very good this year, being nearly double what it was at this time last year, and more than the total enrollment for last year. Sixty new pupils have been registered

and others are coming nearly every day.

During the summer, Saya Ba, our new Head Master, printed, and with the assistance of a few of the boys, scattered leaflets telling of the advantages to be gained in a technical education. Many of the leading Burmese people are beginning to realize that our school is being conducted along right lines, and want their sons and daughters to learn some useful trade as well as to be able to talk English. In addition to the regular industries that the school has been operating, tinsmithing and needle work have been added. Seventeen bright little girls from the best Burmese homes in Meiktila are learning to make their own

clothing as well as tatting, embroidery, etc.

This is the first year that the school has had a full staff of teachers, there being seven in the literary department and four in the industrial. Each industrial teacher is paid from the proceeds of his own department. We are also fortunate in having such a good class of boys, and we expect to see many of them give their hearts to Christ during this year. One of our boys, Deacon David, who has been attending the Lucknow training school for the last two years, is attending school here again and also assists in caring for the boarding department.

On June 27th, it was our privilege to have H. H. The Lieutenant Governor visit the school. Everything was looking its best, being decorated with flags and palms and coloured paper made into artistic designs. He was much interested in seeing the boys at their technical

work and expressed surprise that they did so well. The boys in the leather department presented him with a pair of bedroom slippers made by themselves. When leaving, His Honour presented the school with Rs. 50 to be applied on the school athletic fund, and asked that the boys be given a holiday in honour of his visit.

Altogether the prospects for the coming school year are very encouraging. Last year out of twelve boys in the 7th standard, one was a Christian, while this year, out of ten eight are Christians. Most of these boys will continue their studies in the Training School which we hope to open next year. We ask that you will kindly remember the work in Meiktila in your prayers, that many of the pupils and teachers may soon be fitted to answer some of the many calls that are now being made.

D. C. LUDINGTON.

Union Mission Committee Actions

At a meeting of the India Union Mission Committee held at Calcutta on the 20th and 21st of June the following members in addition to the writer were present:—Brethren G. W. Pettit, A. H. Williams, L. J. Burgess, M. M. Mattison, and G. G. Lowry. The purpose of the meeting was to reconsider some of our plans for the 1918 work, in the light of decisions reached by the Asiatic Division Conference during the recent meeting at Shanghai. On this portion of the work done by the committee we have little to report at present, but there are other actions that will be of interest to readers of the TIDINGS.

It was voted that Brother G. G. Lowry

should be superintendent of the South India Mission, Brother James having been called to the work at Shanghai.

It was voted that our Harvest In-gathering collections this year be made on behalf of the hospital work at Chuharkana, with the understanding that arrangements may be made in the Bombay Presidency and Burma Missions to collect for some local enterprise. It is felt that we can more readily ask the general public to help our hospital and dispensary work than we can appeal for funds for purely religious work. Quite a substantial amount was collected last year for the Karmatar dispensary, and we hope that even better results will be attained

this year for the work at Chuharkana.

Consideration was given to the matter of the licenses that should be granted by our local mission committees to the Indian workers under their direction. It was decided that in addition to a certificate that would be issued to col-porteurs, there would be three grades of licenses for other evangelical workers, as follows:—

Probationary Bible Worker's License.

Bible Worker's License.

Evangelist's License.

Names of those who are recommended for ministerial license or credentials

will be considered by the Union Mission committee, as provided by the conference last January.

The growth of our publishing work at Lucknow made it necessary to authorize the purchase of a supply of Burmese type, as well as an increase in the stock of English type.

We are glad to report that although the budget for our 1918 work has had to be cut down considerably, we still have confident hopes that India will receive substantial re-inforcements to the mission staff during that year, and that the work will see a rapid advance.

W. W. FLETCHER.

Coimbatore School

After a two months' vacation our school opened June 10, 1917. It was planned to open it on June 1st, but on account of the local meeting of the South India Mission we postponed the opening for ten days.

All the students who were with us last year, except seven who finished up their work in school, returned again this year. They are all well, and happy to be in the school again.

We are glad to say that of the seven who finished the school last year five have entered the work. We believe, too, that they are really in earnest and that they will make successful workers for Christ.

We feel that we are especially blessed this year in having on our teaching staff Brother Thambipillia of Ceylon. He has just come from the school at Lucknow, and we bespeak for him a successful year's work as a teacher in the school.

The attendance this year is about 60, which is somewhat larger than last year.

Quite a number of Hindus have come in from the outside. We hope that they will be benefited in more ways than one by attending the school.

We are studying ways and means of making the school self-supporting. So far we have not found any plan that we feel will be entirely satisfactory. To help, we are putting some of the boys, who are supported wholly by the Mission, in the office for a short time each day. This enables us to dispense with one writer, besides helping out financially. It will also be a training for the boys. The girls are doing some sewing. We find that the difficult part of this scheme will be the disposing of articles after they are made. Perhaps there are others in the field who are wrestling over the same problem, and have been more successful than we. We would be very glad to hear from any one who has some real practical suggestion to offer—"something that has been tried."

G. G. LOWRY.

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Here and There

Born to Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Mattison in Mussoorie, July 16, 1917, a girl.

Word has been received of the safe arrival in America of those who recently left India for their furlough.

There are rumours of reinforcement for the "thin.....line" in India. No further announcements will be made until we know they are really here.

We are sorry to hear of the continued illness of Brother A. W. Knight in Mussoorie. We trust he will soon be restored to his usual health.

Brother A. H. Williams recently visited his family in Mussoorie. After spending a few days at the office on his return to Lucknow he left to attend the Bombay Presidency meeting.

Brother and Sister W. K. Lake of Cawnpore visited relatives and friends in Hyderabad, Decan, during the early part of the past month.

The next number of *Herald of Health* will be largely devoted to our omnipresent enemy, the fly. Letters of appreciation are frequently coming to the office regarding our health paper. Why not see that your neighbours and friends are taking it?

Among those now in Mussoorie, or lately there, are, Dr. Mann, I. F. Blue, F. H. Loasby, M. M. Mattison, Floyd Smith and wife, and R. P. Morris.

Whooping cough has been a recent visitor at Annfield School, but with no serious results.

Sisters P. C. Poley and H. G. Woodward have been enjoying their hill leave in Ootacamund during the past month.

Word from Madras indicates a live interest steadily developing around the new company of believers.

We hope to have a report of the Bombay Presidency meeting, which opened the 26th of July, to present in our next issue.

One brother has volunteered to help us fill out this last page with interesting news items. We would like to hear from others who have a like determination. From what we have observed, the majority of our readers turn immediately to page 8 on receipt of their TIDINGS. You can make this page interesting for yourself as well as the "other fellow" by sending us any newsy bits from your station or church.

The Calcutta Missionary Society has subscribed for a club of 25 *Signs* for a year. What about your church? The *Signs* does bring people to a knowledge of the truth. Why not use it more and show your confidence in what our brethren are writing for the paper? Pastors Fletcher, Comer, French and others are contributing excellent articles this year. They are giving us the result of their long experience in evangelistic work and Bible study. These contributions are worth many times Rs. 2-8 to you 50 per cent discount in clubs for missionary purposes.

Address of Mission Superintendents

Bengal,—Pastor L. J. Burgess, 6 Dehi Serampore Road, Entally, Calcutta.

Bombay Presidency,—Pastor G. W. Pettit, 12 Victoria Terrace, Mazagaon, Bombay.

Burma,—Pastor C. F. Lowry, 60 Lower Kemendine Road, Rangoon.

North India,—M. M. Mattison, Esq., Hapur, Meerut Dist., U. P.

South India,—Pastor G. G. Lowry, Coimbatore, South India.

Prickly Heat

We are in the midst of the prickly heat season. The following remedy is recommended by Major Tucker, I. M. S., of the Grant Medical College.

"Two teaspoonfuls of Eau-de-cologne in ten ounces of a 1 to 2,000 solution of perchloride of mercury, dabbed on the skin and allowed to dry; followed by dusting with equal parts of boric acid powder and talc."

Another recommends equal parts of zinc oxide powder, sulphur, and starch, used as a powder: and another a solution of Lysol for adults.