



MINUTES

OF THE

ELEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

Bombay Annual Conference,
Methodist Episcopal Church,

HELD AT

BOWEN CHURCH, BOMBAY,

December 19-23, 1902.



BOMBAY:

PRINTED AT THE METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.

1903.

OFFICIAL MINUTES

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DECEMBER 19-23, 1902.

Conference Roll and Directory.

Explanatory Note—Abbreviations used are ; Sy., Supernumerary ; T.f., Transferred from.
An asterisk indicates that the course of study has been passed,

Names and Post Offices,				Home Conference.	Received on trial.	Joined Bombay Con- ference.	How admitted,	Year of Conference course now studying.	Vernacular.	Year of Vernacular passed.		
Abbott, David G	Khandwa	..	Iowa	..	1895	1900	T f Iowa	..	2
Ayers, Albert R	Baroda	..	S W Kansas	..	1898	1901	T f S W Kansas	..	1
Benjamin, Samuel	Burhanpur	..	Bombay	..	1894	1894	On trial..	..	..
Bhose, Sakharan	Bombay	..	"	..	1895	1895	"	..	..
Bruere, William W	Poona	..	S India	..	1880	1892	T f S India	..	..
Butterfield, Henry W	Igatpuri	..	Bombay	..	1892	1892	On trial ..	..	..
Calkins, Harvey R	Bombay	..	Rock River	..	1889	1900	T f Rock river	..	..
Clarke, William E. L	Kampti	..	S India	..	1884	1892	T f S India	..	..
Cornelius, Zechariah	Balaghat	..	Bombay	..	1899	1899	On trial ..	..	3
Dana, Lakshman	Vaso	..	"	..	1899	1899	"	..	..
Dhanji, Gangu	Baroda	..	"	..	1901	1901	"	..	..
Dhanji, Yussaf	"	..	"	..	1899	1899	"	..	..
Felt, Frank R	Narsingpur	..	Detroit	..	1894	1894	T f Detroit	..	..
Fisher, Thomas P (Sy.)	U. S. A.	..	E Ohio	..	1893	1895	T f E Ohio	..	..
Fox, Daniel O	Poona	..	N Ohio	..	1890	1892	T f S India	..	2
Freese, Edwin F	Baroda	..	E Ohio	..	1885	1892	"	..	..
Grenon, William H	Jabalpur	..	S India	..	1891	1892	"	..	..
Hill, Charles B...	Poona	..	"	..	1902	1902	T f Burma	..	..
Johnson, Thomas S	Jabalpur	..	N Indiana	..	1899	1892	T f Bengal	..	..
Khanduji, Gyanoba	Igatpuri	..	S India	..	1882	1892	T f S India	..	..
Lanzell, Lewis E	Bombay	..	Cincinnati	..	1896	1899	T f Cincinnati	..	..
Moore, William A	Basim	..	S India	..	1880	1894	Re-admitted	..	..
Narottam, Henry	Od	..	Bombay	..	1901	1901	On trial	..	..
Park, George W	Nadiad	..	"	..	1892	1893	"	..	..
Robbins, William E	Ahmedabad	..	Indiana	..	1869	1892	T f South India	..	..
Singh, Paul	Chindwara	..	Bengal	..	1888	1892	T f Bengal	..	..
Stephens, William H.	on leave to	America	..	S India	..	1880	1892	T f S India	..	..
Stone, George I., (Superannuate)	U. S. A.	..	"	..	1880	1892	"	..	..
Waller, William D	Karachi	..	"	..	1883	1896	"	..	..
Ward, Robert O	Godhra	..	Bombay	..	1898	1898	On trial	..	..
Wood, Frederick	Bombay	..	"	..	1898	1898	"

DIRECTORY OF LOCAL PREACHERS.

Name.	Post Office.	Official relation.
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BOMBAY DISTRICT.

Ayub Dama ...	Bombay ...	Licentiate.
Carroll, Wm. ...	Quetta ...	"
Cumming, J. W. N. ...	Quetta ...	"
Cutler, R. D. ...	Bombay ...	"
David Silas ...	Poona ...	"
Elahi Baksh, John A. ...	Bombay ...	"
Fritchley, E. W. ...	Bombay ...	"
Geering, Peter ...	Lanowli ...	"
Gyanoba Narayan ...	Telegaon ...	Deacon (1901).
Henderson, Wm. S. ...	Karachi ...	Licentiate.
Karsan Ranchod ...	Bombay ...	"
Marrett, C. R. ...	Bombay ...	"
Morris, James ...	England ...	"
Morton, T. E. F. ...	Karachi ...	Elder.
Osborne, A. S. ...	Poona ...	Licentiate.
Row, I. F. ...	Bombay ...	Elder.
Saptal, Jivan D. ...	Karachi ...	Deacon (1901).
Sharman, C. B. ...	Bombay ...	Licentiate
Sherman, Aaron ...	Neral ...	"
Vinayak G. Kale ...	Bombay ...	"
Worrall, H. R. L. ...	Bombay ...	Elder (1902).
Wright, T. T. ...	Bombay ...	Licentiate
Yeshwant Khristodas ...	Bombay ...	"

CENTRAL PROVINCES DISTRICT.

Abraham Devji ...	Nagpur ...	Licentiate.
Asidali ...	Lakhnadan ...	"
Ayub Ward ...	Jabalpur ...	"
Bhaurao Vagchoure ...	Basim ...	"
Cowsell, T. H. ...	Nagpur ...	Deacon (1901).
Govind Ram ...	Gadawara ...	"
Itwari Lal ...	Jabalpur ...	Licentiate.
Jabes Samson ...	Jabalpur ...	"
Jnndoo Singh ...	Lakhnadan ...	"
Keshao Bhika ...	Khandwa ...	"
Laker, J. ...	Mhow ...	"
Makhan Lal ...	Narsinghpur ...	"
Malcolm Lewis ...	Khandwa ...	"
Moore, J. A. ...	Nagpur ...	"
Moti Lal ...	Shahpura ...	"
Vinayak Bhambal ...	Basim ...	"
Walter Ariel ...	Pandhana ...	"
Walker, G. ...	Jabalpur ...	"

GUJARAT DISTRICT.

Daud Amtha ...	Baroda ...	Licentiate.
Daud Tulsi ...	Baroda ...	"
Elia Narottam ...	Nadiad ...	"
Jiva Nana ...	Mahudha ...	"
Madhav Nana ...	Kalol ...	"
Shiva Tora ...	Umreth ...	"
Uttamdas Jiva ...	Nadiad ...	"
Paul Govind ...	Od ...	"
Harjivan Vira ...	Padra ...	"

Officers of the Conference.

PRESIDENT	BISHOP J. M. THOBURN, D.D
SECRETARY	W. E. ROBBINS.
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	F. WOOD.
STATISTICAL SECRETARY	W. E. L. CLARKE.
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	E. F. FREASE.
TREASURER FOR THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY	A. E. AYERS.
CONFERENCE TREASURER	W. E. L. CLARKE.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

BISHOP J. M. Thoburn, *President*; T. S. Johnson, D. O. Fox, E. F. Frease
A. E. Ayers, *ex-officio*; G. W. Park, W. W. Bruere, W. E. L. Clarke and
Samuel Benjamin, *Alternates*;—W. E. Robbins, L. E. Linzell, Yusaf Dhanji.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

T. S. Johnson, E. F. Frease, D. O. Fox, D. G. Abbott, Misses Hyde, Lawson, and
Williams.

BOARD OF EXAMINERS.

W. E. Robbins, W. L. Clarke, W. H. Stephens, W. A. Moore, F. R. Felt, G. W.
Park, Robert Ward.

BOARD OF DEACONESES.

T. S. Johnson, E. F. Frease, L. E. Linzell, Mrs. Frease, Miss Williams, Dr. Mrs.
Stephens.

TRIEBS OF APPEALS.

W. E. Robbins, Lakshman Dana, W. L. Clarke, W. H. Grenon, F. Wood, L. E.
Linzell, D. G. Abbott.

EPWORTH LEAGUE BOARD OF CONTROL.

L. E. Linzell, *President*; Miss Heafer, *Vice-President*; Mrs. Ayers, *Secretary* and
Treasurer; D. G. Abbott, Miss Williams, Dr. Mrs. Stephen, *Directors*.

AUDITING COMMITTEE.

D. G. Abbott, F. Wood, W. E. Robbins, G. W. Park, W. L. Clarke, W. W. Bruere,
A. E. Ayers.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Sunday Schools.—A. E. Ayers, S. Bhosle, W. H. Grenon, D. G. Abbott.

Temperance.—L. E. Linzell, W. L. Clarke, Robert Ward.

State of the Church.—G. W. Park, W. A. Moore, W. W. Bruere.

Conference Stewards.—W. E. Robbins, F. R. Felt, W. L. Clarke, D. G. Abbott,
L. Dana, Paul Singh.

Conference Relations.—Presiding Elders, W. L. Clarke, F. R. Felt, A. E. Ayers
G. W. Park, S. Benjamin, Y. Dhanji.

TO PREACH THE MISSIONARY & CONFERENCE SERMON.

A. E. Ayers; *Alternate*, F. Wood.

JOURNAL, 1902.

FIRST DAY.

BOWEN CHURCH, BOMBAY, *19th December, 1902.*

The Eleventh Session of the Bombay Annual Conference convened **Opening** in the Bowen Memorial Church, Bombay, on Friday, 19th December, 1902, Bishop J. M. Thoburn in the Chair.

The hymn,

“Rock of Ages, cleft for me,”

was sung, and was followed by the administration of the Holy Communion.

The Secretary of the last Conference called the Roll, and the follow- Roll Call. ing answered to their names :—

Members.—D. G. Abbott, A. E. Ayers, Samuel Benjamin, Sakharam Bhosle, W. W. Bruere, H. W. Butterfield, H. R. Calkins, W. E. L. Clarke, Lakshman Dana, Yusuf Dhanji, F. R. Felt, D. O. Fox, E. F. Frease, W. H. Grenon, T. S. Johnson, Gangadhar Kale, L. E. Linzell, W. A. Moore, G. W. Park, W. E. Robbins, Paul Singh, W. D. Waller, F. Wood, Gyanoba Khanduji.

Probationers.—Gangu Dhanji, Henry Narottam, Robert Ward.

On motion of D. O. Fox, W. E. Robbins was re-elected Secretary, **Secretaries.** and on his nomination, F. Wood was re-elected Assistant Secretary. W. E. L. Clarke was re-elected Statistical Secretary.

Bishop Thoburn gave an interesting address on his experiences **Bishop** while away from India, on the bright prospects in Missionary circles **Thoburn.** in America, and on his joy at being back in India.

On motion of W. E. Robbins, the fourth row of seats was constit- **Bar.** uted the bar of Conference.

On motion of E. F. Frease, W. E. L. Clarke was re-elected Con- **Conference** ference Treasurer. **Treasurer.**

On motion of W. E. Robbins, the time of the Conference Sessions **Hours of** was fixed at from 11 a. m. to 2 p. m. **Session.**

Standing Committees. On motion of T. S. Johnson, the following Standing Committees were appointed :—

Sunday Schools.—L. E. Linzell, D. G. Abbott, Y. Dhanji, S. Benjamin.

Temperance.—D. G. Abbott, H. W. Butterfield, G. W. Park, S. Bhosle.

State of the Church.—H. R. Calkins, A. E. Ayers, G. Khanduji.

Conference Stewards.—A. E. Ayers F. R. Felt, W. H. Grenon, W. W. Bruere, L. Dana.

Conference Relations.—Presiding Elders, W. E. L. Clarke, F. R. Felt, G. W. Park, S. Benjamin, Y. Dhanji.

Public Worship.—Presiding Elder and Pastor.

Memoirs.—T. S. Johnson, D. O. Fox, W. E. Robbins.

Introductions. Julius Smith, of the Burmah Mission Conference, H. R. L. Worrall, of the Arabia Mission, Mr. and Mrs. Walsh of the Y. M. C. A. Home, were introduced to the Conference.

On motion of E. F. Frease all visiting brethren, members of sister Conferences, were invited to seats within the bar and to participate in the deliberations of the Conference.

Reporters. On motion of L. E. Linzell, Robert Ward, A. E. Ayers and H. R. Calkins, were appointed Reporters to the Indian and Home papers.

Conference Claimants. On motion of F. R. Felt, it was ordered that the personal contributions by members of the Conference to the Conference Claimants' Fund during the year be included in the collections from the churches for that fund, and so entered in the statistics.

Question XIII. *Qn XIII.*—"Was the character of each preacher examined?" was taken up. The character of D. O. Fox was passed, he reported his collections, and also the work on the Bombay District. The character of T. S. Johnson was passed, he reported his collections, and also the work on the Central Provinces District. The characters of the following effective Elders were passed, and they reported their collections :—H. R. Calkins, W. H. Stephens (granted leave on health furlough), Sakharam Bhosle, H. W. Butterfield, W. D. Waller, Gangadhar B. Kale, W. W. Bruere, Gyanoba Khanduji, L. E. Linzell, W. A. Moore, Samuel Benjamin, Paul Singh, W. H. Grenon, W. E. L. Clarke, D. G. Abbott, F. R. Felt.

Time. On motion of E. F. Frease, time was extended. After a brief recess for tiffin, by request of the presiding Bishop, Bishop Warne took the chair,

Qn XIII.—"Was the character of each preacher examined?" was resumed. The character of E. F. Frease was passed, he reported his collections, and also the work on the Gujarat District. The characters of the following effective Elders were passed, and they reported their collections :—W E. Robbins, G. W. Park. **Question XIII.**

Qn XIV.—"Who have been transferred, and to what Conferences?" was taken up. The transfer of J. O. Denning to the Bengal Conference, was announced, he having been made effective. **Question XIV.**

Qn XXII.—"Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?" was taken up. On motion of E. F. Frease, T. P. Fisher was continued in the Supernumerary Relation. **Question XXII.**

On motion of F. R. Felt, Conference adjourned. Announcements were made, the Doxology was sung, and Bishop Warne pronounced the Benediction. **Adjournment.**

SECOND DAY.

BOMBAY, 20th December, 1902.

The Conference met at the appointed hour, Bishop Thoburn in the chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by G. W. Park. **Opening.**

The Minutes of the previous day's session were read and approved. **Journal.**

On motion of D. O. Fox the names of all candidates for Ordination, Admission on Trial, and Reception into Full Membership, were referred to the Committee on Conference Relations. **Conference Relations.**

On motion of L. E. Linzell, A. E. Ayers was nominated Treasurer of the Conference for the Missionary Society. **Missionary Treasurer.**

On motion of D. O. Fox, E. F. Frease was elected Corresponding Secretary. **Corresponding Secretary.**

The following visiting brethren and friends were introduced to the Conference :—Rockwell Clancy, J. W. Robinson, N. L. Rockey, J. B. Buttrick, P. Geering, F. Aldrich, F. E. Havens, John A. Elahi Baksh, Mrs. Elahi Baksh, J. E. Scott, I. F. Row. **Introductions.**

On motion of F. R. Felt, the name of L. E. Linzell was substituted for that of W. H. Stephens on the Auditing Committee. **Auditing Committee.**

Qn V.—"Who have been Continued on Trial?" was taken up. The names of Robert Ward, Gangu Dhanji, and Henry Narottam were called, their characters were passed, the Board of Examiners reported, and they were Continued on Trial, in the studies of the 2nd year. **Question V.**

Examinations. On motion of E. F. Frease, with the concurrence of the Bishop presiding, the Course of Study for Gujarati Local Preachers was adopted as the Conference Course for Gujarati members of Conference.

Question VIII. *Qn. VIII.*—"What Members are in studies of the 3rd year?" was taken up. The names of Yusuf Dhanji and Lakshman Dana were called, their characters were passed, and they were continued in the studies of the 3rd year.

Question IX. *Qn. IX.*—"What Members are in the studies of the 4th year?" was taken up. The name of Zechariah Cornelius was called, his character passed, the Board of Examiners reported, and he was advanced to the studies of the 4th year. The name of Albert E. Ayers was called, his character passed, and he was continued in the studies of the 4th year.

Examinations. The Board of Examiners reported that A. E. Ayers had passed the 1st year Gujarati course of study; and that D. G. Abbott had passed the 2nd year Hindustani course.

Question X. *Qn. X.*—"What Members have completed the Conference course of study?" was taken up. The name of Frederick Wood was called, his character was passed, the Board of Examiners reported, and he was advanced to the class of Effective Elders.

Finance Committee. On motion of F. R. Felt it was requested that a joint meeting of the Finance Committees of the Conference be arranged for Monday, directly after recess for tiffin.

Boarding Schools. A. E. Ayers moved the appointment of a Committee to consider the question of fees in Vernacular Boarding Schools and to report on Monday. The Bishop appointed the following:—A. E. Ayers, F. R. Felt, G. W. Park.

Question XXX. *Qn. XXX.*—"Where shall the next Conference be held?" was taken up. On motion of G. W. Park, Nadiad was selected.

Home Missionary Society. After hearing the report of the Committee appointed to the Lucknow Commission on the provisional Home Missionary Society, on motion of H. R. Calkins, it was decided to postpone action in the matter until Monday.

Time. On motion of A. E. Ayers, time was extended. After recess for tiffin at the request of the Bishop presiding, Bishop Warne took the chair.

Orders. On motion of D. O. Fox, H. R. L. Worrall was elected to Deacon's and Elder's Orders under para. 169.

On motion of E. F. Frease, Robert Ward was elected to Elder's Orders under the Missionary Rule.

Adjournment. On motion of E. F. Frease, Conference adjourned to meet on Monday, at 11 a.m. Announcements were made, and Bishop Warne pronounced the Benediction.

THIRD DAY.

BOMBAY, 22nd December, 1902.

The Conference met at the appointed hour, Bishop Thoburn in the **Opening.** chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by A. E. Ayers.

The Minutes of the previous day's session were read and approved. **Journal.**

On motion of T. S. Johnson, the Rules of Order of the Central Conference were adopted as the rules of order of this Conference, excepting that speeches be limited to five minutes in length. **Rules of Order.**

On motion of E. F. Frease, the following action was taken on the **Home** Provisional Home Missionary Society :—That, in the judgment of this **Missionary** Conference, it is not wise at this time to form a Provisional Home **Society.** Missionary Society; but that we refer the whole matter of the Lucknow Commission's recommendation concerning a Home Missionary Society to the Central Conference for careful consideration, with a view to action.

On motion of E. F. Frease, the following resolution regarding **Self-Support.** Self-Support, signed by E. F. Frease and H. R. Calkins, was adopted:—

Resolved, That we, as a Conference, regard it as a sacred obligation resting upon all missionaries and preachers-in-charge to do all in their power to develop indigenous resources for the support of their work, in all lawful ways, in accordance with the provisions of the Discipline, and by the wise utilization of all local opportunities and openings for the awakening and increase of interest in the work of India's evangelization.

Charges having been preferred against G. B. Kale, the Bishop **Charges.** appointed the following Select Number to investigate the charges and present a report :—T. S. Johnson, E. F. Frease, W. E. Robbins, G. W. Park, Yusaf Dhanji, F. R. Felt, W. E. L. Clarke, W. W. Bruere, Samuel Benjamin.

The Committee appointed to consider the question of fees in the **Boarding** Vernacular Boarding Schools presented a resolution, which was adopted, **Schools.** on motion of A. E. Ayers (see Resolutions.)

At the request of the Bishop presiding, Bishop Warne took the **Chair.** Chair.

E. W. Fritchley, Joint Secretary of the Western India Sunday School **Introduc-** Union, and V. T. Gutteridge, Agent of the Publishing House, were **tions,** introduced, and addressed the Conference.

On motion of L. E. Linzell, it was unanimously resolved, That the **Sunday** Conference has heard with pleasure the address of Mr. Fritchley concern- **School** ing the proposed Sunday School Union Campaign for the conversion **Union.**

of 100,000 children during the ensuing year; that we assure him of our heartiest sympathy and co-operation in the matter; and that we concur in his suggestion for the appointment of one or more members of this Conference as secretaries to co-operate with the Secretaries of the Union in the campaign. On motion, L. E. Linzell was appointed for Western India, and D. G. Abbott for the Central Provinces and Berars.

Memorials. A Memorial presented by W. D. Waller regarding the forming of Sind and Baluchistan into a Mission Conference, was referred to the Committee on the State of the Church for consideration and report. A like Memorial from the Central Provinces District was also presented, and referred to the same Committee.

Resolutions. On motion of T. S. Johnson, the Secretaries were appointed a Committee on Resolutions.

Memorial Service. On motion of W. E. L. Clarke, Conference adjourned to meet at 4 o' clock for a Memorial Service.

At the appointed hour Bishop Thoburn took the chair and conducted a Memorial Service, in which both conferences united. A hymn was sung; Bishop Warne led in prayer; D. O. Fox read the report of the Committee on Memoirs—a memoir of our late Brother, Dennis Osborne, concerning whom Bishops Thoburn and Warne, J. E. Robinson, T. S. Johnson, and Dr. (Mrs) Stephens also spoke.

Adjournment. After singing, "Shall we gather at the River," on motion, Conference adjourned, Bishop Thoburn pronouncing the Benediction.

FOURTH DAY

BOMBAY, 23rd December, 1902.

Opening. The Conference assembled at the appointed hour, Bishop Thoburn in the Chair. Devotional exercises were conducted by W. D. Waller.

Journal. The Minutes of the previous day's session were read, corrected and approved.

Committees. The reports of the following Committees were presented and adopted.—Temperance, Audit, Education, Stewards, Deaconesses, State of the Church, Nominations, Sunday schools.

Epworth League. The Epworth League Board of Control nominated the following Board for the ensuing year, who were elected :—*President*, L. E. Linzell ; *Vice President*, Miss Heafer ; *Secretary and Treasurer*, Mrs. Ayers ; *Directors*, D. G. Abbott, Miss Williams, Dr. (Mrs.) Stephens.

Muttra Training School. The report of the Muttra Training School was read, and on motion of W. E. Robbins, it was accepted and ordered to be incorporated in the Minutes.

On motion of T. S. Johnson, Conference adjourned to meet at **Adjournment,**
3 p. m., Bishop Warne pronouncing the Benediction.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Conference met at the appointed time, Bishop Thoburn in **Opening,**
the Chair.

The following reports were read and adopted :—Conference Treasurer, **Reports,**
Statistical Secretary.

On nomination of the Board of Education, the following were elected **Board of**
Educational Board for the ensuing year :—T. S. Johnson, D. O. Fox, **Education.**
E. F. Frease, D. G. Abbott, Misses Hyde, Lawson and Williams,
Mrs. Fox.

On motion of E. F. Frease, the following were elected the Board of **Taylor High**
Management for the Taylor High Schools, Poona :—D. O. Fox, **Schools.**
W. W. Bruere, L. E. Linzell, H. R. Calkins, F. Wood, H. Stephens,
W. Mathie, A. H. Boulton, C. E. Tapsell.

On motion of W. E. L. Clarke, F. R. Felt was elected **Historical**
Secretary. **Secretary.**

The following were elected members of the Finance Committee by **Finance**
ballot—G. W. Park, W. E. L. Clarke, W. W. Bruere, Samuel Benjamin, **Committee.**
Alternates—W. E. Robbins, L. E. Linzell, Yusuf Dhanji.

Qn. XXIII,—"Who are the Superannuated Preachers?" was taken **Question XXII**
up. On motion of W. E. Robbins, G. I. Stone was continued in the
Superannuated Relation.

The finding of the Select Number, in the case of G. B. Kale, was **G. B. Kale.**
presented and accepted.

On motion of E. F. Frease, the following were elected the Auditing **Auditing**
Committee :—G. W. Park, A. E. Ayers, D. G. Abbott, F. Wood, **Committee.**
W. W. Bruere, W. E. Robbins, W. E. L. Clarke.

On motion of E. F. Frease, the following were elected **Triers of**
Appeals :—W. E. Robbins, Lakshman Dana, W. E. L. Clarke, W. H. **Appeals.**
Grenon, F. Wood, L. E. Linzell, D. G. Abbott.

The Committee on Resolutions presented its report, which was **Resolutions**
adopted by a standing vote.

On motion of E. F. Frease, it was ordered that, after reading of the **Final**
Minutes, and of the Appointments, the Conference stand adjourned, **Adjournment.**

W. E. ROBBINS,
Secretary.

J. M. THOBURN,
President.

DISCIPLINARY QUESTIONS.

1. *Who have been received by transfer, and from what Conferences ?*
Charles B. Hill, an effective elder, from Burma Mission Conference.
2. *Who have been re-admitted ?* None.
3. *Who have been received on credentials, and from what churches ?*
None.
4. *Who have been received on trial—*
 - (a) *in studies of 1st year ?* None.
 - (b) *in studies of 3rd year ?* None.
5. *Who have been continued on trial—*
 - (a) *in studies of 1st year ?* None.
 - (b) *in studies of 2nd year ?* Robert C. Ward, Gangu Dhanji, Henry Narottam.
 - (c) *in studies of 3rd year ?* None.
 - (d) *in studies of 4th year ?* None.
6. *Who have been discontinued ?* None.
7. *Who have been admitted into full membership—*
 - (a) *elected and ordained Deacons this year ?* None.
 - (b) *elected and ordained Deacons previously ?* None.
8. *What members are in studies of 3rd year—*
 - (a) *admitted into full membership this year ?* None.
 - (b) *admitted into full membership previously ?* Yusaf Dhanji, Lakshman Dana.
9. *What members are in studies of 4th year ?* Albert E. Ayers, Zechariah Cornelius.
10. *What members have completed the Conference course of study—*
 - (a) *elected and ordained Elders this year ?* None.
 - (b) *elected and ordained Elders previously ?* Frederick Wood.
11. *What others have been elected and ordained Deacons—*
 - (a) *as Local Preachers ?* Henry R. L. Worrall.
 - (b) *under Missionary rule ?* None.

12. *What others have been elected and ordained Elders—*
(a) *as local Deacons?* Henry R. L. Worrall.
(b) *under Missionary rule?* Robert C. Ward.
13. *Was the character of each Preacher examined?* This was strictly done, as the name of each Preacher was called in open Conference.
14. *Who have been transferred, and to what Conferences?* J. O. Denning to Bengal Conference.
15. *Who have died?* Dennis Osborne.
16. *Who have been located at their own request?* None.
17. *Who have been located?* None.
18. *Who have withdrawn?* None.
19. *Who have been permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints?* None.
20. *Who have been expelled?* Gangadhar B. Kale.
21. *What other personal notation should be made?* None.
22. *Who are the Supernumerary Preachers?* T. P. Fisher.
23. *Who are the Superannuated Preachers?* G. I. Stone.
24. *Who are triers of appeals?* W. E. Robbins, Lakshman Dana, F. Wood, W. E. L. Clark, W. H. Grenon, L. E. Linzell, D. G. Abbott.
25. *What is the statistical report for this year?* (See Statistics).
26. *What is the aggregate of the benevolent collections ordered by the General Conference as reported by the Conference Treasurer?* Rs. 2,321.
27. *What are the claims on the Conference Fund?* Rs. 800.
28. *What has been received on these claims, and how has it been applied?*
Rs. 600 to Mrs. Vardon, and Rs. 200 to Mrs. Hudson.
29. *Where are the Preachers stationed?* (See Appointments).
30. *Where shall the next Conference be held?* Nadiad.

BOMBAY CONFERENCE.**APPOINTMENTS FOR 1903.****BOMBAY DISTRICT.**

D. O. Fox, P. E., (P. O., POONA).

Bombay :	Bowen Church.....	L. E. Linzell.
„ :	Grant Road and Mazagon.....	H. R. Calkins.
„ :	Gujarati Circuit	Frederick Wood.
„ :	Marathi Circuit	Frederick Wood, Sakha- ram Bhosle.
„ :	Hindustani Mission.....	Supplied by J.A. Ilahi-Baksh.
„ :	Seamen's Mission.....	Supplied by F.E. Havens.
Igatpuri	.....	H. W. Butterfield.
„ :	Marathi Circuit.....	Gyanoba Khanduji.
Kalyan	.....	To be supplied.
Karachi	.....	W. D. Waller.
„ :	Seamen's Mission.....	Supplied by T.E. F. Morton.
Lanouli	.....	To be supplied.
Poona :	English Church.....	C. B. Hill.
„ :	City Marathi Church and Boys' Orphanage.....	D. O. Fox.
„ :	Marathi Church and Circuit.....	W W Bruere.
„ :	Taylor High School for Boys ...	C. B. Hill.
Quetta	.....	To be supplied.
	On leave to America.—W.H. Stephens.	

CENTRAL PROVINCES DISTRICT.

T. S. JOHNSON, P. E., (P. O., Jabalpur).

Balaghat	.....	Zechariah Cornelius.
Basim	.....	W. A. Moore.
Burhanpur	.....	Samuel Benjamin.
Chindwara	.....	Paul Singh.
Gadarwara	.....	To be supplied.
Jabalpur	.....	T. S. Johnson.
„ :	English Church	W. H. Grenon.
Kampti	.....	W E. L. Clarke.
Khandwa	.....	D. G. Abbott.
Nagpur	.....	Supplied by T.H. Cowsell.
Narsingpur	.....	F. R. Felt.
„ :	Hardwicke Boys' School	F. R. Felt.
Patan	.....	To be supplied.

GUJARAT DISTRICT.

E. F. FREASE, P. E. (P. O. Baroda Camp).	
Ahmedabad.....	W E. Robbins. :
Baroda.....	A. E. Ayers.
„ Boys' Orphanage and Industrial School.....	A. E. Ayers
„ District Evangelistic Training School.....	E. F. Frease, Yusuf Dhanji.
Godhra.....	Robert Ward.
Gutal	Supplied by Elia Narottani.
Kapadvanj.....	W E. Robbins.
Mahudha.....	W E. Robbins.
Nadiad	G. W Park.
„ Boys' Orphanage and Industrial School.....	G. W. Park.
Od	Supplied by Paul Govind.
Padra	Supplied by Harjivan Vira.
Savali	Henry Narottani.
Umreth	Supplied by Shiva To ra.
Vaso	Lakshman Dana.
Wasad	Gangu Dhanji.

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WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.

APPOINTMENTS FOR 1903.

BOMBAY DISTRICT.

Bombay : Girls' Boarding School.....	Miss Lawson.
„ : Evangelistic Work and City Schools.....	Miss Helen Robinson.
„ : Deaconess Work: Bowen Church	Miss Davis.
„ : English Work : Bowen Church	Mrs. Linzell.
„ : Grant Road & General Evangelist	Mrs. Calkins.
„ : Vernacular Work	Mrs. Wood.
„ : Medical Mission.....	Mrs. Ilahi-Baksh.
Igatpuri	Mrs. Butterfield.
Karachi.....	Mrs. Waller.
„ : Seamen's Work	Supplied by Mrs. Morton

Poona : Anglo-Indian Girls' Home	Mrs. Hutchings.
„ : Girls' Day Schools	Mrs. Fox.
„ : Hindustani Mission	Mrs. Vardon.
„ : Medical Work	Mrs. Stephens, M. D.
„ : Taylor High School for Girls	Mrs. Fox, Miss Files.
„ : English Work	Mrs. Hill.
On leave to America :—Miss Nicholls, Miss Benthien, Miss Elliott, Mrs. Bruere and Mrs. Stephens.	

CENTRAL PROVINCES DISTRICT.

Basim : Girls' Boarding School and Zenana Work.....	Miss Miller.
Jabalpur : Girls' Boarding School and Widows' Home.....	Miss Hyde, Miss Bennett.
„ Zenana Work and City Schools	Miss Heafer.
„ Medical Work.....	Mrs. Norton, M. D.
Kampti... ..	Mrs. Clarke.
Khandwa : Girls' Boarding School.....	Miss Ellicker.
„ Evangelistic Work.....	Mrs. Abbott.
Narsingpur : Zenana and Village Work...	To be supplied.
On leave to America:— Mrs. Moore, and Mrs. Felt.	

GUJARAT DISTRICT.

Ahmedabad.....	Mrs. Robbins.
Baroda : District Women's Evangelistic Training School.....	Mrs. Frease.
„ : Girls' Boarding School and Orphanage.....	Miss Williams, Miss Turner
„ : Women's Work and Boys' Orphanage.....	Mrs. Ayers.
„ : District Medical Work.....	Miss Tuttle, M. D.
Godhra : Girls' Orphanage.....	Miss Abbott.
„ : Women's Work.....	Mrs. Ward.
Kapadvanj, Umreth and Od.....	Supplied by Miss Nunan.
Nadiad : Women's Work and Boys' Orphanage.....	Mrs. Park.
Savali and Padra.....	Mrs. Frease.
Vaso, Gutál and Mahudha.....	Miss Holmes.
Wasad.....	Miss Williams.

REPORTS.

CONFERENCE BOARDS & STANDING COMMITTEES.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

As ordered by the Conference a tentative scheme of Bible study was proposed and sent to Missionaries in charge of schools. We are trying to win our boys and girls for Christ, and special services have been held in many schools resulting in the conversion of many young pupils. Industrial work in the schools having such departments is in a healthy condition. We believe this work to be of greatest importance in our work of raising our Christian communities to higher temporal prosperity and spiritual development, and bespeak for industrial enterprises hearty co-operation and support. The collections for this year, Rs. 679-12-0, is below that of last year, and your committee urges that in view of the large number of boys and girls in our communities who shall need much help from the Educational Fund, missionaries in charge constantly keep the importance of this collection before their people.

T. S. JOHNSON, Chairman.

F. R. FELT, Secretary.

BOARD OF DEACONESSSES.

We rejoice that more and more the importance of the deaconess work is becoming evident to the Church. The simplicity of the dress and the fact of the deaconess being unsalaried, her training and her solemn consecration, give her an entrance into the homes and hearts of the people and fit her for the great mission field of India in a striking and efficient manner.

We thank God that our deaconess staff has been enlarged during the year by the coming of Miss Abbott, Miss Bennett and Miss Davis.

In Jabalpur a fine deaconess home stands waiting for workers. The Bowen Memorial Church of Bombay has undertaken the support of a deaconess. We respectfully point to the unfinished plan of dear Mrs. Thoburn to establish a strong deaconess movement in this city, and urge that as soon as possible this plan be carried out.

We pass with much pleasure the characters of Mrs. Hutchings, Miss Bennett, Miss Abbott, Miss Davis, and Miss Holmes; and nominate as the Board of Deaconesses for the coming year the following persons:—T. S. JOHNSON, E. F. FREASE, L. E. LINZELL, DR. MRS. STEPHENS, MISS WILLIAMS, MRS. FREASE.

(Sd.) L. E. LINZELL, T. S. JOHNSON, S. STEPHENS.

AUDITING COMMITTEE.

Your Committee have audited the following accounts:—

Those of the Treasurer of the W. F. M. S. through the third quarter of 1902;

Of the P. E. of the C. P. District, for three quarters of 1902;

Of the P. E. of Gujarat District, and of the Gujarat District Famine Fund for the Conference year;

Of the Treasurer of the Thank Offering Fund for the Conference year

Of the Treasurer of the Board of Education for the Conference year.

The accounts of the Treasurer for the Board have been audited up to the time of their being taken over by the present Treasurer, and the audit for the remaining part of the year will be concluded at the close of the current year.

The Committee would suggest that all accounts be balanced quarterly in order that the audit may be quarterly.

(Sd.) F. R. FELT, G. W. PARK, W. E. ROBBINS, F. WOOD, L. E. LINZELL, D. G. ABBOTT.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday School work throughout the Conference has during the past year been encouraging and progressive both in the Vernacular and English departments.

We have 376 Schools—a gain of 63 over last year. We have 19,865 scholars—a gain of 4816 over last year. In view of the paper read by the Hon. Secretary of the Western India Sunday School Union, and the resolution passed thereon by this Conference, and also in view of the great trust for the future of the Church that God has placed upon us by putting under our control so many young lives in our orphanages, we urge that we make the coming year a special effort to win our children for Christ.

We further suggest that we heartily co-operate with the Sunday School Union in its Centenary Campaign to win 100,000 children for Christ.

(Sd.) L. E. LINZELL, D. G. ABBOTT, YUSAF DHANJI.

TEMPERANCE.

Recognizing the evils of intemperance and the prevalence of moderate drinking, we recommend that all of our churches continue to observe Temperance Sunday, and that increased attention be given to the subject of temperance in our Schools, Sunday Schools and Epworth Leagues. We are glad that our church requires total abstinence from the use of tobacco, of both our local and travelling preachers, and we believe that no one should be employed in our Mission who will not promise to abstain from the use of tobacco and other narcotics.

We commend the good work of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union.

(Sd.) D. G. ABBOTT, H. W. BUTTERFIELD, G. W. PARK, S. A. BHOSLE.

STATE OF THE CHURCH.

I. Your Committee is able to record a year of spiritual prosperity throughout the Churches. There have been gracious revivals in several of the English Churches, and consequent financial prosperity. One or two of the churches are at present straitened through the removal of members to other charges, but the loss of one church has been the gain of another, and so the Kingdom of God has not suffered. We find that our people, for the most part, are free from worldly entanglements; but we regret that most of them are not seemingly burdened for the salvation of others. On the other hand we find some increase of interest among our English Churches in Christian work among the Native communities and in this we greatly rejoice.

II. We regret to record that during a portion of the year our Marathi work in the city of Bombay greatly suffered. The beginning of the year was full of promise, but the long continued and almost fatal illness of our beloved Brother Stephens seriously retarded the work. During the last three months under the guidance of Bro. Wood there has been some advance.

The Gujarati Work in Bombay is full of encouragement, and shows a steady and solid advance, the actual increase year after year being about 50 every twelve months.

The Bombay Hindustani Mission is unique in being under the direction and control of laymen, and although its actual membership is small it has been a decided evangelistic force in the city. The medical work in connection with it has been appreciated by a large number of Indian Christians, and by the missionaries and workers.

The work of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society in Bombay is most encouraging, there having been marked spiritual results in the Mazagon Schools during the year past. The Igatpuri and Poona Marathi Circuits are also advancing with sure, though perhaps slow, steps. In the Central Provinces District there has been steady and marked advance with some notable instances of the saving power of Christ.

The work in the Gujarat District is the rejoicing of men and angels. We find that the extensive building operations during the past year have in no wise interfered with the spiritual progress of the work. Self-support has increased, the power of initiative among the mission workers is becoming more apparent, and the spiritual heart-hunger of the people is an invitation to the Church of God to sow the virgin soil of this province broadcast with the seed of the Kingdom. We are constrained to record our conviction that the work in Gujarat is now at the point of greatest opportunity and also of gravest danger. It is a solemn thing to stand in the presence of multitudes whose hearts the Lord hath turned, and whose earthly and eternal destiny depends upon the wisdom, humility, and faith of a little handful of men and women. Their inward spirit and outward conversation are projected by the laws of spiritual reproduction into a generation of human souls. Let the Church everywhere pray that our missionaries and workers in Gujarat, and in all our wide extended fields, may live daily in the light of the Great Judgment Throne.

The following facts are full of encouragement:—

Probationers	10,768,	a gain of	2,666,
Full Members	1787,	" "	84,
Baptized children	5621,	" "	1295,
<hr/>			
Total	18,176,	" "	4,045,
Baptisms : Children of Christian parents	588,	increase of	180
" : " " non-Christians	546,	decrease of	1183,
" : Adults	2254,	" "	2084,

We rejoice to record an unusual increase of Sunday School Scholars.

III. Your Committee has had the following communication referred to it:

"To the Secretary, Bombay Conference,

"DEAR BROTHER,

"The following resolution was presented by F. R. Felt at the last Session of the Central Provinces District Conference, and after discussion it was unanimously adopted:—

"Whereas, the territory in the C. P. District of the Bombay Conference is very distant from the nearest work in any other part of the Conference, e.g., from Burhanpur to Igatpuri being 225 miles; and

"Whereas, the great distance to be traveled to and from Conference sessions—Jabalpur to Bombay being 616 miles, and to Nadiad about 900 miles—makes these journeys both hard and expensive; and

"Whereas, Mission interests, Schools, etc., in their relations to Government can be conserved better under one Provincial government than under several; and

"Whereas, this District is the only one in the Conference in which work in Hindustani is extensively carried on, it being our chief vernacular; therefore,

"Resolved, (I) that we believe the time has come when the best interests of the work in this District demand that the Central Provinces be formed into a separate Conference organization; and

"Resolved, (II) that we respectfully petition the Bombay Conference to memorialize the coming Central Conference on the subject, requesting them to memorialize the coming General Conference to grant an enabling act permitting the Central Provinces District of the Bombay Conference to be organized into THE CENTRAL PROVINCES MISSION CONFERENCE during the coming quadrennium.

"Respectfully submitted,

PAUL SINGH, *Secy, Hindustani Session,*
S. BENJAMIN, *Secy, Marathi Session,"*

Your Committee finds that the memorial, herein set forth, has been long and carefully considered, and that the enterprise has been undertaken conjointly by the Central Provinces District of the Bombay Conference and the Godavery District of the South India Conference. We find that it has received the support of thoughtful leaders among us who have been for many years in the work. We believe the interests of the Kingdom of God in India would be advanced by the formation of a compact Mission Conference in the Central Provinces. We therefore report in favor of the memorial and request the Conference to ratify the same.

IV. Your Committee has also had referred to it a petition from W. D. Waller, requesting that a memorial be sent to the Central and General Conferences looking towards the setting apart of our work in Sindh and Beluchistan into a separate Mission Conference. We find that the field in question embraces a territory of 177,000 square miles, with a population of 3,371,000 souls. We are already strongly established in Karachi, Sindh, and in Quetta, Beluchistan, in both of which cities we have valuable property. The region is isolated from other parts of the Bombay Conference, receiving but infrequent episcopal visitation, and the administration of the presiding elder is at considerable outlay, both of time and money.

Your Committee is in full sympathy with the spirit of Brother Waller's request, and we believe this Conference should take advisory action looking toward the ultimate formation of a strong Mission Conference in those regions. We are of opinion, however, that no such action should be taken at the present time ; but that the Bishops of Southern Asia be requested to appeal to the Missionary Board for a man to be immediately set apart for vernacular work in the territory of Sindh or Beluchistan, and further, we advise that in case this request is granted the circuits of Karachi and Quetta be set apart into a presiding elder's district.

Respectfully Submitted,

H. R. CALKINS, A. E. AYERS, GYANOBA KHANDUJI.

CONFERENCE STEWARDS.

As directed by the last Conference the Board of Stewards have endeavoured to keep the importance of the Conference and Mission Claimants' Collections before our people. The collection boxes have been distributed. A number of the members of Conference have paid the $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of salary suggested by this Board, and we are glad to report a gain over last year's collections of Rs. 153-6-0 for Conference Claimants, and Rs. 120-3-0 for Mission Claimants.

This Board recommends :—

- (1). That all pastors keep the importance of both these collections before their people ;
- (2). That each member of Conference pay one-half per cent of his salary to the Conference Claimants Fund for the coming year ;

(3). That the Finance Committee be requested to represent to the Home Board that the present pension given by them to Mrs. Vardon is not at all sufficient to enable her to provide for the education of her children, and request that they give her a grant of \$100 for this year for this purpose. Meantime, that we grant Rs. 600 to Mrs. Vardon for the year, and if the grant of \$100 be received that it be paid into the Conference Claimants Fund ;

(4). That the remaining Rs. 300 granted to Mrs. Hudson for 1902 be paid, and that a grant of Rs. 200 be made to her for this year ;

(5). That a grant of Rs. 60 be made to the widow of Dilawar Masih,

(6). That a grant of Rs. 36 be made to the widow of Bawa Kalidas.

(Sd.) W. H. GREENON, W. W. BRUERE, LAKSHMAN DANA.

CONFERENCE TREASURER'S REPORT.

MISSIONARY COLLECTIONS.

Dr.		Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.	Cr.
To 1902 Collections	...	762	10	0	By Payment to					
					Missionary Society	...	762	10	0	

EDUCATIONAL FUND.

Dr.		Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.	Cr.
To Balance in hand	...	8	0	0	By payment to Treasurer					
" 1902 Collections	...	679	12	0	Board of Education...	687	12	0		
" Loans Invested	...	1,300	0	0	" Loans Invested	...	1,300	0	0	
Total	...	1,987	12	0	Total	...	1,987	12	0	

GENERAL CONFERENCE EXPENSES.

Dr.		Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.	Cr.
To Balance in hand	...	142	2	6	By Cash in hand...	...	195	10	6	
" 1902 Collections	...	53	8	0						
Total	...	195	10	6	Total	...	195	10	6	

CONFERENCE CLAIMANTS FUND.

Dr.		Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.	Cr.
To Balance—Promissory					By Grant to—					
Notes	...	7,174	12	9	" " Mrs. Vardon	...	600	0	0	
" Interest and Cash	...	582	0	0	" " Mrs. Hudson	...	500	0	0	
" 1902 Collections	...	566	8	0	" Balance Cash	...	48	8	0	
					Promissory Notes	...	7,174	12	9	
Total	...	8,323	4	9	Total	...	8,323	4	9	

MISSION CLAIMANTS FUND.

Dr.		Rs.	a.	p.			Rs.	a.	p.	Cr.
To Balance in hand	...	85	5	0	By grant to widow—					
" 1902 Collections	...	274	11	0	Of Dilawar Masih	...	60	0	0	
					" " Of Bawa Kalidas	...	36	0	0	
Total	...	360	0	0	" Cash in hand	...	264	0	0	
					Total	...	360	0	0	

W. B. CHERRY, Treasurer.

MUTTRA TRAINING SCHOOL.

The past year has been one of steady continuance in faithful work, for both students and teachers.

The principal advancement during the year has been the addition of three new large rooms to our school house, which rooms are occupied by our Training School Department.

New dormitories for the Boarding School have enabled us to move into the commodious and comfortable dormitories formerly occupied by the Boarding School. This gives us the room we have so much needed during the past year for daily living and for school work.

There have been no changes in assistants and teachers during the year. We have an excellent staff, and are thankful to have them stay year after year.

We were obliged to part with Miss Abbott, who was appointed to Godhra. But God takes care of His work and sent us Miss McKnight, who though specially in charge of the Boarding School, had devoted much time and effort to training work as well.

There have been seven students in the English Department, and forty-one in the Hindustani Department : making a total of forty-eight students in the school during the year.

Six students were graduated from the Hindustani Department in May, one of whom was from Pithoragarh, three from Pauri, one from Muttra, and one from Moradabad.

Each of the three, on completing the course, began working in the place from which she was sent, and each is doing creditable work.

MARY EVA GREGG,
Sec. Board of Trustees.

Finding of the Select Number on the charges against Gangadhar B. Kale.

The Select Number unanimously find that the charge of immorality against the accused is not sustained by the evidence ; but that he has been proven guilty of "high imprudence and unministerial conduct," and subject the offender to deprivation of Ministerial Office and Credentials.

W. E. ROBBINS,
Secretary.

T. S. JOHNSON,
Chairman.

Certificate of Ordinations.

This is to certify that I have this day ordained Henry R. L. Worrall to the office of Deacon in the Methodist Episcopal Church ; and that I have also this day, with the assistance of Elders, ordained Henry R. L. Worrall and Robert C. Ward to the office of Elder.

Bombay, Dec, 21, 1902.

J. M. THOBURN.

Resolutions.

I. BISHOP THOBURN.

Resolved, That we tender to Bishop Thoburn our hearty thanks for his presence with us at this Conference, and the genial way in which he has presided over its sessions.

Further, That we appreciate the valuable service he has rendered to the cause of Missions during his enforced absence from India, and especially during the present year.

Further, That we express our warmest sympathy for him in his recent bereavement in the death of his beloved wife, whose loss will be irreparable not only to him but to us personally and to the work of the Lord in India, which she ever bore on her heart; and also that we will follow him with our prayers that his health may be preserved for much future service.

II. BISHOP WARNE.

Resolved, That it has afforded us much pleasure to have with us at this time Bishop Warne, whose counsels and assistance have been greatly appreciated, as also his visits among our charges since last Conference Sessions.

III. ENTERTAINMENT.

Resolved, That we tender to Bro. Linzell and his co-pastors in Bombay, along with their people, who have so faithfully assisted him in the difficult and arduous work of entertaining the Conference, our sincere gratitude for all the valuable service rendered by their generous hospitality.

(Sd.) W. E. ROBBINS, W. L. CLARKE, FRED'K WOOD.

IV. VERNACULAR BOARDING SCHOOLS.

Resolved, That paras. 8 and 9 of the report of the Committee on Education of the Central Conference of 1898 be made the rule of this Conference, and that those in charge of our vernacular boarding and orphanage schools be required to enforce the same, (see page 49, Cent. Conf. Minutes of 1898).

This regulation shall apply only to those Schools under the control of the Missionary Societies of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

(Sd.) A. E. AYERS, F. R. FELT, G. W. PARK.

MEMOIR.**REV. DENNIS OSBORNE.**

Bro. Dennis Osborne was born in 1844, in Benares. In his earlier years he lived with his aunt in Agra and attended the Government School in that place,

When the Mutiny broke out, he, with the citizens of Agra, went into the Fort. The intense excitement of those terrible days made a deep impression on his mind. Though but a boy at the time, he never forgot the scenes that he witnessed and the wild reports that came to the Fort of things that were transpiring outside. His father was absent at the time : Bro. Osborne thought he must have perished with many others, as he never heard of him afterwards,

Bro. Osborne joined the Public Works Department in Lucknow. Soon after this he married Miss Grace Clarke, who was a true helpmate to him all through his life.

During these early years he was under very deep conviction for sin. In 1870 he definitely decided to give his heart to God, and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit he entered into a very clear and bright experience. He began at once to speak of his new experience, and opened meetings in his own house.

About this time William Taylor came to Lucknow. Bro. Osborne and his wife joined him at once. He sought and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The unction of this baptism never left him. He was inspired with a new life, and began to go out to preach the Word. He was drawing a good salary from the Public Works Department, and had excellent prospects of promotion ; but he felt the call from God to go forth and preach the Gospel. He accepted the call, resigned his position in the Public Works Department, and gave himself fully to his life work.

He joined the India Conference in 1875, and was appointed to Allahabad. Here he gathered a large congregation, built a good church, and saw it paid for.

Subsequently he was transferred to Musoorie, where he opened the Philander Smith Institute. A church was erected, and when he preached it was well filled.

In 1844 he was elected a delegate to the General Conference. By his preaching and lectures on India, he won his way everywhere and made an excellent impression. In 1888 he again went to America, and, as on his first visit, was heartily received.

He was transferred to the Bombay Conference in 1897, and made Presiding Elder of the Bombay District and Pastor of the Poona English Church. Here, by his genial spirit, he endeared himself to all classes. His preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, He was very successful as an evangelist, and his expositions of Bible truths were specially helpful. We agree with Bro. W. H. Stephens, who, at Bro. Osborne's memorial service in Poona, said, "It seems a pity that a man so wonderfully gifted as an evangelist should have been burdened with so many heavy responsibilities connected with the work." Bro. Osborne

loved the work of God, and devoted himself wholly to it. His death was undoubtedly the result of overwork. His call to higher service was so sudden, so unexpected, even to his most intimate friends, as to be a great shock, not only to his own family, but also to his large circle of friends throughout India. Still, this was in accordance with his expressed wish to "die in harness", rather than be laid aside by physical or mental unfitness. By his death the Conference has lost a strong and efficient missionary whose place it will be most difficult to fill.

PRESIDING ELDERS' REPORTS.

BOMBAY DISTRICT.

D. O. FOX, P. E.

The year on the Bombay District began with Bro. Dennis Osborne in charge as Presiding Elder. He had hardly begun his year's work when he was called to his everlasting rest. He returned from Conference suffering in health. He was persuaded to go to Bangalore for a season of recuperation and rest. On his return journey he was suddenly attacked by a terrible pain in his head, and said to his son, who was with him, "This is the end," and expressed a wish to reach home. Between Dhond and Poona he became quiet and seemed to sleep. On reaching Poona he was found to be unconscious, and was at once taken to the Sassoon Hospital, where, after lingering for two hours, he expired. This sudden and unexpected death of our dear Brother, was a great shock, not only to his family but to his large circle of friends. Bro. Osborne was endued with a special gift as an evangelist. His preaching was attended with an unction that demonstrated that God was with him. He was specially helpful and instructive in his expositions of the Bible. In Poona, where he was Pastor of the English Church, he was exceedingly popular. The work has suffered a great loss by his removal. On the District also he was very highly esteemed. When he went to the different stations to hold his quarterly meetings, he usually held a series of evangelistic services. These were always richly blessed; Christians were built up, and sinners converted. He is not among us now, because God has taken him.

The work on the Bombay District, both English and Vernacular has steadily grown at nearly all the stations, in numbers and spiritual life. This is especially true of our Vernacular work: our prospects in this direction were never better.

BOWEN CHURCH.

The Bowen English Church has had a prosperous year. The congregation has steadily increased. A number have been converted and added to the Church. These have been gathered in by the personal efforts of the Pastor, assisted by his brethren in the Church.

The Sunday School has had a year of good work. During the last six months under the superintendency of Bro. E. W. Fritchley, the attendance has largely increased and a revival spirit pervades the school.

Arrangements have been made for Deaconess Work. A deaconess will arrive soon and begin work immediately. This will be a valuable addition to the working force of this society.

GRANT ROAD CHURCH.

Bro. and Sister Calkins have laboured faithfully in the Grant Road Church. Both are preachers of the Word, and did successful evangelistic work in America before they came to India. There have been conversions through the year and many Christians have been strengthened.

The Sunday School is doing good work among the young people and children.

Bro. Calkins has a Hindustani Mission connected with his English Church. There are two workers employed. One is supported by special funds from America, and the other by local help. Services are held in the Church on Sunday, and open air meetings on the streets throughout the week. The Medical Mission under Dr. Esther Elahi Baksh is doing good work.

BOMBAY MARATHI CIRCUIT.

In the beginning of the year, before Bro. Stephens was taken sick, he baptised 20 converts. In this number there were eight families ; but when the rain set in, nearly all of these converts went to the Ahmed-nagar District to get work.

Bro. Stephen's sickness continued over four months. At times, his life seemed to hang in the balance. But God heard the prayer of his people. He blessed the care and medical advice given him. In September, he began to improve. On the 15th of October he was well enough to start on his journey homeward. All his friends, and he has many, rejoiced and praised God for his recovery. Recent news say that he continues to improve. There is good reason to expect his full recovery.

During Bro. Stephens' sickness the Marathi Circuit suffered very much. On his departure, Bro. Wood was placed in charge of the circuit, and Miss Lawson was appointed to look after the women's work. The converts have been looked up and gathered into the meetings. The Marathi Circuit is a promising field, but because of the repeated reductions of financial help, it has been greatly weakened.

THE BOMBAY GUJARATI CIRCUIT.

The Gujarati Circuit is under the charge of Bro. Wood. He has a staff of good workers. The past year has been one of marked progress. There have been 40 baptisms. The total membership is over 400. The circuit is divided into four sub-circuits. The Fort and Colaba comprise the Southern Circuit. The pastor teacher of this division is supported by the Bowen Church. Most of the other workers are supported by friends in Canada. This is the result of Bro. and Sister Wood's visit to Canada three years ago. The sweeper community of Mahim, the most northern suburb of Bombay, has asked us to come there and open work. The other two sub-circuits lie between this place and the Fort. The whole city is thus districted, and the workers have each their field of work.

The great need of our Indian work is a church and parsonage, centrally located where the people could be gathered for worship.

BOMBAY SEAMEN'S REST.

The Seamen's Rest, under the superintendency of Bro. Wood, has closed another year of successful work. It is now 18 years since the Mission was opened. All the meetings have been well attended. The evangelistic and social meeting on Thursday has been conducted by Bro. James Morris from the beginning of the Mission. He understood the seamen and won their confidence. Many have been converted. That the institution is appreciated, may be seen from the following figures for the year: 13,585 have attended the reading room; 4999 have attended the services and socials; 5,148 letters have been written and received by seamen and posted for them; 224 free meals have been given, besides gifts of clothing, to the distressed; 1,180 visits have been made to ships. The debt of the Mission has been entirely paid, and for the first time in its history it has a clear record. The Rest enjoys the confidence of the commercial and shipping public, and of the Christian community of the city.

BOMBAY PUBLISHING HOUSE.

The Publishing House has made an advance on past years in the amount of work done and the profits earned. The amount of work turned out the past year is Rs. 12,693. The material purchased during the year cost Rs. 1880. This was paid for from the profits of the work done. The Publishing House pays all its expenses, except a small part of the rent and a part of the Agent's salary. The Agent, Bro. V. T. Guteridge, is diligently attending to the business of the Press, and keeps a sharp eye on the question of profits. He pleads for a little more machinery with which much more work could be done. With more capital the Press could be made a great help to our Mission.

W F. M. SOCIETY.

The work carried on by the Women's Foreign Missionary Society has passed through some changes during the year. In March, our Sister Mrs. Fritchley was suddenly called to her eternal home. She was one of the oldest and most experienced evangelistic workers in the Mission. She was a woman full of faith and the Holy Ghost. Her death was a great loss to our work. About this time Miss Robinson was transferred to the Isabella Thoburn College, Lucknow. This also was a great loss to the Mission; for, although Miss Robinson had been in the work less than a year, she had in that short time endeared herself to all and given promise of a most successful missionary career. Because of these changes, Miss Nicholls whose furlough home had been sanctioned, remained and carried on the evangelistic work and the city schools. Miss Lawson has charge of the Boarding School and Orphanage. Under her care the school is steadily improving, and will in time rank among the best High Schools in Bombay. The mission has a staff of excellent helpers. All the work is in good condition and is prospering.

IGATPURI.

Our work in Igatpuri continues in good condition. The English services are well attended. The Sunday School and Epworth League are doing excellent work among the young people and children. The Marathi and Hindustani Circuits are faithfully worked.

KARACHI.

We have now in Karachi an English and an Indian work. Each has its own Quarterly Conference. Bro. Waller has charge of both. This is the sixth year of his pastorate here. It has been a good year. Bishop Warne visited Karachi in August, when Christians were greatly stirred and led to seek for better things in the service of God. Bro. Waller enjoys the confidence of all the people, and they will be glad to have him returned next year. One of the most encouraging features of the Karachi Circuit is the Vernacular work. Some work has been done among the Marathi people for several years. More recently the work has extended to the Gujarati people, and God has given a special blessing to this class. There is now a membership of 287 of whom a large number are Gujaratis. During the year 47 have been baptised, and many candidates are under instruction and are waiting to be received.

SEAMEN'S REST, KIMARI.

The old building in which the Seamen's Rest had been conducted for many years was so badly injured by the cyclone that passed over Karachi as to be entirely unfit to be used. The work is now carried on in a temporary building. The need of a suitable building is very great. Bro. Waller learned that there was a fund called "The McHinch Memorial Fund," amounting to about 9000 rupees, that was given for the benefit of seamen. He tried to get this for the purpose of erecting a building. The outcome of this effort is an offer by the Port Trust to put up a suitable building and hand it over to the Committee of the Rest to be used in accordance with our own methods. There are no conditions stipulated. We are left free to do our work in our own way. Financially, the Rest has had a good year. Bro. Morton has faithfully carried on the work, notwithstanding the inconvenience of opening a new place for the Rest.

LANOWLI.

The Society in Lanowli has been much reduced by transfers but those who remain are doing faithful work for the Lord. The Sunday School is prospering under Bro. Peter Geering's care. The attendance is good and encouraging. The pulpit has been supplied by Rev. O. W. E. Grant, who is an agent of the Anglo Indian Evangelization Society. The Sunday services are well attended.

POONA ENGLISH CHURCH.

As no one could be found to take up the work of the English Church in Poona the Presiding Elder assumed the pastoral charge. He has been heartily and efficiently assisted by Bro. W. W. Bruere, the brethren in Bombay, and Bro. A. Norton of Dhond. The congregations have continued good.

There are two Epworth Leagues, Senior and Junior, both doing excellent spiritual work.

The Sunday School under the superintendency of Bro. H. Stephens, is thoroughly organized and maintains a deep interest in all Sunday School work. Several have been converted and added to the Church. One of the remarkable features of this church is the large number of young people that attends its services.

POONA SCHOOLS.

The Taylor High Schools have had a fair number of scholars in attendance through the year. The Girls' School has had 72 and the Boys' 54 pupils. The yearly examination of the Government Educational Inspector showed that the Girls' School had done good work. Its grant-in-aid was almost doubled. The examination of the Boys' School did not show such good results. Both schools have purchased property. The sites are excellent. The W. F. M. S. is responsible for the debt on the Girls' School. This fact is a guarantee that the debt will be paid. A hundred thousand rupees would pay off the debt on the Boys' School and put up buildings thoroughly fitted for school work and residences for masters and pupils. All who are interested in the welfare of our young people ought to join in prayer for this object.

The Anglo-Indian Home still continues its excellent work. It was the outcome of the prayer of faith. This spirit of faith in God and implicit trust in His promises still pervades the Home. There are now 73 girls and boys in the Home. The report of the Government Educational Inspector showed that the educational work in the school is exceptionally well done. The spiritual influence and teaching is excellent. Many of the girls and boys are converted. The Home deserves the fullest sympathy and support of all Christian people.

POONA VERNACULAR WORK.

Bro. Bruere has a good congregation in the Cantonment, gathered from our Orphanages and the Christian families living in the vicinity.

His work at Kedgaon is most interesting. He has a congregation of about 2000. There have been remarkable scenes of awakening and conversion among the women and girls in the Mukti Home. The work of grace is evidently genuine. His services there are most valuable to Ramabai's orphans, and he is highly appreciated by her and all her helpers.

Soonderbai Powar has a Training School of 114 girls which is doing most excellent work. The Telagaon Girls' School has been transferred to Poona and united with this Training School.

Good work is being done in the Boys' Orphanage in Poona. The spiritual training of the boys is carefully looked after. All who can read, have joined the Sunday School Union and are daily reading the Scriptures. All the classes were inspected by the Government Educational Inspector and passed creditable examinations.

In the City there are eleven day schools, all doing good work. All the pupils of these schools are regularly gathered into Sunday Schools, and systematically taught the truths of God's Word. The attendance on Sunday is usually larger than on week days.

Mrs. Vardon's evangelistic work among Mohamedans is enlarging. She has access to 36 families. These receive her gladly and manifest much interest in the message of salvation.

POONA MEDICAL WORK.

The Medical Mission under the direction of Dr. Stephens is a most valuable help to our work in Poona, especially to our schools, orphanages, and native work. The large number that daily attend the Dispensary is a demonstration that it is appreciated. Dr. Stephens attends the sick in the Indian Christian homes and in the schools and orphanages without charge. She deserves hearty thanks for the beneficent work she is doing.

CENTRAL PROVINCES DISTRICT.

T. S. JOHNSON, P. E.

Early in the year Mrs. Calkins of Bombay held special services in Jabalpur, which were continued for nearly a month. The services were well attended and were very profitable. The old, though ever new, doctrine of the new birth, obedience to the word of God and holiness of heart and life were clearly and successfully preached. Great blessing came to many and the church occupies advanced ground spiritually. Meetings were also held in the Hindustani Church and in the Girls School. The following is quoted from a general report of the Superintendent of the School written during the year :—"In March a special revival service was held in which nearly all the girls gave their hearts to Christ, and among whom were some notable conversions. Some of the girls who had given the most trouble, now with shining happy faces are the best behaved and most helpful in the school. During the meetings Mrs. Calkins, the evangelist, set apart a day for fasting and prayer. This seemed to the missionary difficult to explain and to arrange for among the children. After explaining the meaning and purpose, she told the children that any one who wished might abstain from one of the two meals, but advised that they should not wholly deny themselves at either time, that if any one really wished to remain from her meal, then during the meal time to go to the prayer room and remain there in prayer or read her Bible. To the amazement of all scarcely a girl went to the dining room at breakfast time, but returning from morning service at the Church, they took their Bibles and hymn books and passed to the other side of the compound to the prayer room where a wonderful prayer meeting was held. Needless to say that scores of these dear girls were born into the Kingdom on that day. Voluntary services were held throughout the day, and in the evening service when the Presiding Elder asked all who had received new hearts to stand, almost all present rose. What a blessed sight that was and how the writer would have rejoiced could those who pray for and support this work have been present."

We had the pleasure of having Bishop Warne with us during the Hindustani Session of District Conference which met in October at Narsinghpur. The mornings and evenings were devoted to religious services, the business Sessions being held in the middle of the day. God's presence was very manifest in these meetings, and the boys of the Narsingpur School shared largely in the blessings received.

The Marathi Session of District Conference was held in Basim in November and was a season of blessing to our Marathi people, including both the schools there.

In Nagpur the great desire for a revival led the pastor, in consultation with Dr. Fraser, to form a prayer league in which each person promises to pray daily for a revival of the work of God in that place. This has been extended throughout the District and special prayer is being offered between the hours of 6 and 8 o'clock every morning in every charge for a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit in every place. Special effort has been put forth to impress upon all of our fellow workers the need of increase of spiritual life and power for the great work of making Christ known to the multitudes by whom we are everywhere surrounded, that the religious teacher should be wholly devoted to God, show forth in his own life that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin and to manifest interest in others as Jesus Himself did.

There has recently been an interesting case of conversion in Jabalpur. A sadu about 40 years of age who was born in Jabalpur left his home when a child with a company of sadus, (holy men so considered). He went in the capacity of a servant, but soon became a member of the brotherhood. He travelled over a great part of India and Ceylon. While in Ceylon he was very much impressed with the preaching of one of the missionaries, but continued his pilgrimages. This year Jabalpur came in the line of his travels—his first return to his native place. His hair was of a great length and made a great stack when coiled upon his head, his face was smeared with ashes with the usual mixture of other ingredients, and his dress was the yellow cloth usually worn by the order to which he belonged. Soon after hearing the Gospel preached in the bazaar he became an attendant at regular services and soon declared his desire to become a Christian; he said he believed Jesus to be not only the true teacher but the only Saviour. Preparatory to baptism he called a barber and had his hair uncoiled and cut and placed it with his beads, tongs and other things in the minister's house. About the time he was baptised he gave up his ganja and tobacco, and seems to get on comfortably without them. He can read in Hindi, and takes great interest in the study of the Scriptures and in telling of the new experience which has come to him through faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Village Work in the Khandwa Circuit has been invaded by the Roman Catholics. Two German brothers visited a number of the villages in which our native Christians live. They employed ex-workers whom we had to dismiss because of want of fitness for the work. These men, of course, have their following and do their best to take as many as

possible of the Christians to Rome, in which they are greatly assisted by worldly inducements held out to the people. The priest and bishop have been waited upon and asked to kindly direct their workers to some of the many unoccupied villages, but all to no avail. What the outcome will be, God only, to Whom we make our appeal, knows.

There are many items of interest in the Zauana Work in different parts of the District, which will no doubt be reported in the Woman's Conference. Miss Miller who was transferred last Conference from the Bombay District took over Mrs. Moore's work in Basim where her presence and work are greatly prized. We heartily welcome Dr. Norton to the Conference and to Jabalpur, where her services are highly appreciated.

Our Educational Work is principally confined to our Orphanage and Boarding Schools, of which there are eight.

Normal classes have been organized in the Girls School in Jabalpur and in the Boys School in Narsingpur, which were represented in the Government Normal School Examination for Teachers Certificates; also two young men, teachers, appeared in the same examination from the Boys School at Khandwa.

The older schools have commenced sending out young people to establish homes of their own. Several have been sent out during the year.

The workshop of the Narsingpur School has been enlarged, and there are a dozen boys there able to earn their own livelihood, but too young to be sent out. The children in the Khandwa Schools have been greatly afflicted with sore eyes, requiring great care and considerable extra expense.

Negotiations, difficult and protracted, for extension of premises in Khandwa are progressing. When consummated and the proposed new buildings are erected, the Woman's Society will have a very desirable property there.

The Orphanage building at Kampti has been destroyed by fire. It was a bungalow with a thatched roof which was purchased some years ago and answered the double purpose of dormitory and school house: it was burnt in the night and is supposed to have been set on fire. The inmates escaped without serious injury. Temporary arrangements for sheltering the boys have been made and an application has been sent to the Mission Board for a grant toward renewing the building.

The openings and opportunities in the Hindustani and Marathi parts of the District are alike inviting. The want of religious literature in the Marathi language of the Methodist type is very great: would that we had Marathi scholars who could give their undivided attention to this very important work.

The want of more workers and more money is a burden which becomes heavier as the years pass by, and the unsaved multitudes pass into eternity. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest,

GUJARAT DISTRICT.

E. F. FREASE, P. E.

A thoughtful student of the Scripture cannot but be struck by the seven continuous years of famine in Egypt recorded in Genesis. It seems almost incredible that such a calamity should be so long continued. To those who have lived in India during the past decade the record of Genesis begins to be more easily understood and credited. It is true that we have not had in any province seven successive years of acute famine; but there are places where famine, pestilence and plague combined promise to reach that period. And no province has been more severely smitten than Gujarat. At the time of writing my last report it was confidently hoped that better times were before us, but during the past year the distress has been even greater than it was the year before, besides which our poor people had less power of resistance than then. The situation was much relieved in August by abundant rain, which, while not producing a full crop, yet laid the gaunt phantom of famine. But owing to the prevailing poverty, cultivators as a rule only sowed so much land as they themselves could cultivate. Consequently the demand for field labour, which is the main stay of so many of our people, was practically *nil*. It became necessary therefore to resume to a certain extent the work of relief. This however was limited to the helpless—that is, the blind, halt, maimed, crippled, old, destitute widows with children, and orphans. The major portion of this help was given in clothing, for in many cases where it was possible to earn sufficient for food, clothing could not be renewed, and the few old rags which remained were not sufficient to hide nakedness, and still less to protect from the chill of the rains and approaching winter. The writer has seen sights in the last few months as pitiable as those of 1900.

Owing to the generous consideration of our Central Conference Famine Committee and the Christian Herald Famine Committee, and smaller gifts from some other sources, our District Famine Committee has been able thus far to relieve the most needy cases. The little waifs, most of whom were orphaned Christians, were collected in our circuit centers. When the worst period of distress was passed, numbers of these were reclaimed. The remaining girls, to the number of about 125, were received into the Godhra Girls' Orphanage; but as the entire accommodation in the Baroda and Nadiad Boys' Orphanages was full, about 60 boys are still in our circuit centers. These will probably be drafted into the regular orphanages as vacancies occur. Moreover, a small amount of relief will probably need to be given at a number of places for some time to come.

As the shadow of famine was passing away that of the recrudescence of plague arose and today plague is raging in a large number of villages, many of which have been vacated, and threatens during the cold season to scourge the province. In Godhra alone over 900

of one class have died in the past few months. As this report was being written, news was received from Miss Abbott that a suspected case had occurred among her girls. With the help of Bro. Ward, prompt measures for segregation and treatment were taken. The last news is that there has been one other case among those segregated; but both girls attacked are recovering. A third case in the dormitories was suspected and segregated, but has not proved to be plague. God grant that no more cases may occur, and that not a single girl shall fall victim to this grim monster.

The continuation of these adverse and demoralizing conditions has necessarily seriously retarded the re-establishment of our mission work on regular lines. Still very definite effort has been made and we have every reason to feel encouraged by the outcome.

DAY SCHOOLS.

The Day Schools have been perhaps the greatest sufferers through these years of distress. Starving or shivering children do not care to learn, nor do starving and distracted parents take much interest in the education of their children. Every child able to earn anything whatever must do so. Hence it had been feared that the report of our day schools would this year be less favourable than last year. It is therefore with lively satisfaction that we learn from the statistics that the total number enrolled, including Orphanages, is now 4208, an increase of 959; while the number of girls enrolled is now 1157, an increase of 402. Besides, over a large portion of the District at least, the character of the work done has decidedly improved. The schools are better organized, the attendance registers better kept, and the children are gradually being advanced to higher standards. The evangelistic day school is a very important factor in the Christian training of our converts. It is there that day by day the children are taught the rudiments of the Christian faith, and through them the older generation is reached.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

I remarked last year that the Sunday School is perhaps the best index to the activity of a rapidly growing Christian community, especially where, owing to lack of church accomodation, the regular Sunday service is difficult to maintain effectively. The record of our Sunday school work for the past year is therefore a source of great thankfulness. The total number of scholars on the rolls has increased from 9058 to 13221, a gain of 4163. In this department, too, greater effectiveness has been reached. Early in the year the publication of a Sunday school paper was resumed, 5000 copies of each weekly issue being printed. Our schools therefore have regular lessons with notes suited to their needs.

SABBATH SERVICES AND CHURCH BUILDINGS.

Regular attendance on public worship is something foreign to the people of the East. With great melas at long intervals they are familiar. But it is hard for them to become accustomed to assemble regularly on the Sabbath

for public worship. This difficulty is enhanced by the lack of church buildings. Open air services may do for evangelistic efforts, but they are not a success for regular work in the development of the spiritual life. Nor is such accommodation as can be found in a village house adequate or suitable. Our need for church buildings has become increasingly acute, and for several years plans have been maturing to meet this want. In several places sites have been obtained from government. In others, where available government land was unsuitable, sites have been purchased. It is the aim to locate our churches as near as possible to where our converts live, yet also where people of all classes may come without violence to their prejudices. Thus our sites are mostly in open spaces at or near the principle entrance to the villages. We are also convinced that we should build with a view to the development to be expected in the near future. We are insisting that before the Mission will expend anything in aid of church building the people should first subscribe what is judged to be a fair amount according to their ability. Efforts are being made to secure such contributions, and thus far have been as encouraging as could be expected in view of the times. So much depends at this juncture on suitable church accommodation that special attention is being given to it. In Umreth Circuit, midway between the villages of Bhalej, the scene of the meeting when Bishops Foss and Thoburn and Dr. Goucher were present, and Kasor, a Christian hamlet is being built by two cousins. Near by a church site has been purchased. The two cousins, Karshan and Mela, have donated all the bricks for the building, which will be for Kasor, Bhalej, the Christian hamlet, Rahatalao and Barapura, all well within two miles distance. Considerable subscriptions are expected from the people.

In Wasad Circuit an excellent site has been obtained at Waghasi, for a church for Waghasi, Chikhodra and Bedva, where there are 400 Christians in all. Five rupees has been asked from each family, to be paid within two years, and the response has been hearty, Rs. 80 having already been paid in. In the same circuit a site has been obtained between Mogar and Vadod, and the same plan for collections is being followed. Four hundred Christians are within one mile of this site. At Vaso, Mahuda and elsewhere active steps are also being taken.

BAPTISMS AND CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.

At the time of my last report there were several thousands of candidates awaiting baptism. The instruction of these and other thousands who have been enrolled during the year has been carefully attended to. Great care has been exercised in administering the rite, and with the exception of Ahmedabad, Mahuda and Kapadvanj Circuits, where the number of instructed candidates was very large and Bro. Robbins baptised some 1500, baptisms have been comparatively few, as practical famine conditions prevailed. On Godhra Circuit, where are more than 1000 candidates of long standing, Bro. Ward decided not to baptise any, to avoid the imputation of false motives. The candidates themselves preferred to wait for that express reason. Yet the total number of baptisms reaches the considerable number of 3238, and

the baptised Christian community is now 14,001. This with at least 7000 candidates still awaiting baptism makes our total Christian community over 21,000 souls, living in 421 villages. As last year so during the one under report, the proportion of women and girls baptised has been unusually large. But a few days ago a village worker remarked to the writer, "Sahib, we at last see clearly that for successful work we must have *the families*." Reference to former reports will show that this man's conviction was the result of persistent teaching on the part of missionaries, and no accident.

SELF SUPPORT.

For success in this the first necessity, of course, is conviction on the duty and blessedness of giving. But it is also necessary to have a simple system by which every Christian may be reached regularly, and that the smallest contribution may be accurately accounted for. The humble, illiterate Christian needs to be sure his mite actually will be applied to the purpose for which it is given. To formally receipt for a pie is of course impossible. It was felt that a simple card system, providing for a puncture for each pice or pie would meet the need for regular presentation and providing a sure receipt—the donor himself making the puncture or punctures for his contribution. Last year Bro. Robert Ward designed such a card which has been a decided success. With the Central Conference book system it covers the whole ground. The card system was not generally introduced until well on in the year. But when it is stated that in spite of famine conditions approximately Rs. 500, was collected from our poverty-stricken Christians, *not including workers* or our more prosperous centers, the achievement is remarkable, and big with promise. The total collected by the Gujarati Church for ministerial support was Rs. 1,749, a gain over last year of Rs. 463.

DEDICATIONS.

Nadiad. The dedication of the new Mission Institute at Nadiad on July 18th, marked an era in our work in Gujarat. The structure is 105 feet from front to rear, exclusive of the driveway, and 60 feet across the transepts, the interior width being uniformly 30 feet. The main walls are 27 feet high, and along both sides of the nave and across the back of the transept are rooms less lofty, permitting the lighting and ventilating of the main auditorium over them. These rooms are designed for class rooms for the Sunday School as well as for the Orphanage Boys' School, in which are 350 lads. There are 12 such rooms. The building is arranged so that the main body of the nave and the transepts may also be used for school work, without the pulpit platform and the space in front of it formed by the crossing of the nave and transepts being so used. The object is to utilize the building to the greatest extent, without it losing its distinctive character as a church. The arches are gothic, the proportions harmonious, and the acoustics excellent. The day of the dedication was a memorable one. Although weather and other conditions were

very adverse, over 2,000 were present, many coming long distances and crossing swollen streams. Bishop Warne preached and dedicated the church. In a following evangelistic service 430 persons were baptized. The erection of the church was a notable achievement, and completed a series of buildings for an institution built up by the indefatigable labours of Bro. and Sister Park. As full accounts have already appeared in various Church papers, more need not be said here. The swiftness with which Bro. Park builds is the wonder of the country-side, and the amazement of the Public Works' officers. A great institution has sprung into existence before their eyes, with to them, incredible rapidity and economy.

Baroda.—The plans for this building were drawn by the writer in 1900 after a careful study of all our principal structures in India. What has been said in the foregoing about the architectural features and arrangement of the Nadiad Institute applies to the Baroda building, as at Nadiad the same plan was followed, save as to detail, and the shortening of the transepts. The Baroda Institute is hence larger, as it is to accomodate the District Training School, as well as the Boys' Orphanage School. Lofty arches, framed for and containing folding doors, carry partition walls so that both transepts, each twenty five by thirty feet, may be cut off from to the main auditorium. Besides the transepts, and that part of the auditorium available as an assembly room for the Boys' Orphanage School, there are sixteen additional class rooms, or in all nineteen rooms, large and small, available for school work. Of these one transept and six class rooms, seven in all, are assigned to Training School: the remaining twelve to the Boys' Orphanage School. For Sunday School and Epworth League work the building has thus exceptional accomodation. The structure is thought to be more commodious than any other of our similar mission buildings in Southern Asia; and those who have seen it and the Nadiad Institute believe them to more successfully meet the requirements of our Indian work than any structures yet erected. It should be remembered that while retaining the distinctive character of churches, yet almost the entire accomodation is used six days out of every seven. The direction of the building of the Baroda Institute and other buildings has fallen to Bro. Ayers. Few men have been forced into such work as he has, and still fewer could meet the situation as he has done. To begin such a building on February 14th, and have it ready for dedication on December 3rd, nine and a half months, is a notable achievement,—and the more so that careful inspection shows that the work has been extremely well done throughout.

On December 3rd a dedicatory service in English, directed by Bishop Warne, who preached, was held at 9 o'clock, when a large congregation representing all classes was present, including Col. Meade, the Resident, and Capt. Carnegie, Asst. Resident, and Mrs. Carnegie. The dedicatory service in Gujarati followed at 11-30, at which time the large edifice was full. The services, directed by Bishop Warne, were singularly impressive, and at the close 131 persons were baptized, hun-

dreds being unable to come owing to the plague restrictions. Many years will pass before the memory and power of these dedicatory services at Nadiad and Baroda will be forgotten by thousands.

The District Conference followed the Dedication at Baroda. Bishop Warne presided for considerable of the time and the evangelistic services conducted by him were seasons of great power. The Conference sat for five days, excluding Sunday, and they were full ones. The amount of work has grown greatly. For instance, the licenses of twelve Local Preachers and three Exhorters were renewed. These Conferences are of increasing interest and power. Two hundred and twenty-six workers (159 men and 67 women) were appointed to the work and 47 (26 men and 19 women) to the Training School, 273 in all, with a large number of appointments vacant. The Revs. Lewis E. Linzell (Bombay), Rockwell Clancy (Muttra), N. L. Rockey (Sitapur), were present at the Baroda Dedication, the latter two remaining for part of the District Conference, and preaching. Mrs. Bishop Parker, Miss Loper (Sitapur), the Rev. Mrs. W. A. Mansell (Bijnor), and the Revs. J. W. Robinson (Lucknow) and L. A. Core (Moradabad) were with us for our District Conference Sabbath. Mrs. Parker feelingly addressed the Conference and Bro. Mansell preached. The visits of these missionaries were an inspiration and blessing to all.

The Missionaries of the District report as follows :

W E. Robbins writes:—"The Ahmedabad, Mahudha and "Kapadvanj Circuits constitute a district exceeding 30 miles in length "by an average of 20 in breadth, with room for indefinite expansion "in the regions beyond still unoccupied. Of this more than 6000 "square miles the 106 villages in which over 5000 Christians and "candidates live comprise scarcely one half and yet the lack of ex- "perienced workers has prevented any great extension of the field "this year. This paucity of competent workers is indicated by the "fact that 17 of the 31 men, and 5 of the 7 women have been taken on "during the year. But we have done the best we could with the material "at hand. With the help of the District Training School and Summer "School, supplemented by the weekly meetings, we hope ere long to have "an efficient corps of workers, to cope with the stupendous work. Per- "haps what is most needed at the present stage of this work is not so "much expansion as consolidation; and this feature has not been neglected "during the year. Not only have the villages in our midst which had "previously rejected the Gospel been evangelized but the numbers in each "village have so increased that we are able to report about double the "number of baptized and candidates. Neither has the more important "work of individual and personal consolidation and growth been neglect- "ed; and now when stewards and other officers of the church are in re- "quisition we believe there are men and women with the disciplinary re- "quirement of solid piety to fill these offices.

"The development of these thousands of young Christians is a work "the angels covet, but it is only the Angel of the Covenant who is "sufficient for these things, and He is with us to the end. Amen."

Nadiad. G. W. Park, and Mrs. Park. Owing to an accident to his hand, Bro. Park has not been able to write a report. As already stated, the Institute building was completed, and dedicated in July. Much time was also devoted to the completion of the Industrial School plant, and organization. Mrs. Park has been devoted in her care of the orphans, especially during the epidemic of eye trouble which raged among them. Her labors doubtless saved the sight of a large number of boys. The village work has been kept well in hand, and excellent progress made in all lines.

Godhra : Robert Ward and Mrs. Ward, Bro. Ward writes:—"The first four months of the present year were occupied mainly with the work of the Godhra Orphanage, which was handed over to the W. F. M. S. Missionary, Miss Abbott, on April 1st.

"The present bungalow being needed for the missionary in charge of the Girls' Orphanage, the erection of a new parsonage was started in January and with the exception of vacation in the hot season, has taken up most of the time and attention of the Missionary in charge.

"The villages comprising the circuit were the scene of partial starvation as a result of the recent famine, and this made it very difficult to do ordinary mission work, as the attitude of the people naturally was one of anxiety for temporal help. For this reason the baptizing of candidates, even those of two years' standing, was postponed in order that no enquirers after the Gospel truth, need feel the implied reproach that they were recognized as converts during a famine year. Many *bona fide* converts felt that this was a sentiment which ought to be considered, and so did we. Hence there is no falling off in the speed of the progress which the work of God is making, but rather an evidence that the people are feeling the responsibility of their actions. The idea of postponing baptisms did not originate with us, but with them.

"The workers of the Circuit report the large number of one thousand candidates for Christian baptism. We hope to have the joy of baptizing them early in the new year.

"Soon after the rains had set in the dreaded plague reappeared and, at the time of writing, the whole town of Godhra is desolate, most of the houses being deserted and the people scattered. This season about nine hundred deaths have taken place in the town. One case of plague occurred on the Mission compound and the victim, a Hindu woman died after two days' illness. Immediate precautions were taken and we are thankful to say that no more cases appeared. Most of our village centers are sorely smitten and the disease appears to be spreading.

"The Missionary in charge has regularly conducted two services each Sabbath and the girls show a remarkable appreciation and apprehension of the truth. Although of course they cannot do much in the way of thankoffering, yet the girls recently at the close of the service, asked to be allowed to go without their vegetables for four days and to give the proceeds to a collection. It was thought advisable not to sanction that for more than one day, but the spirit of generosity toward God thus manifested was very gratifying to those who labour for spiritual welfare."

Baroda: A. E. Ayers and Mrs. Ayers.

Bro. Ayers writes: "At the beginning of the Conference year, work on the Baroda Circuit was carried on in nine principal centers, outside of Baroda. Great difficulty was experienced in securing new men for the important centers, but late in the year men were found, so that we are able to report twelve at work at the end of the year. Plague and persecution have hindered the work somewhat, but on the whole it has gone forward, with a gradually increasing number of candidates being enrolled for baptism.

"*Local Church* : All the services have been regularly sustained. In addition there have been the daily devotions in the Schools. In the way of special meetings there was held in the early part of the year a ten days' series of evangelistic services, in which many were greatly benefited. On the occasion of the visit of Bishop Warne in July again such meetings were held, which afterward were supplimented with special evangelistic effort in connection with the Summer School in August. A strong and robust Gospel is constantly presented, and is having its effect, not only in immediate results, but in giving to our rapidly developing community that peculiar steadiness and high character which constant teaching brings. In some late correspondence which the orphan boys have prepared for the patrons in America, it is remarkable how many of them spoke so definitely and clearly of experience, and purpose in life.

"In the earlier part of the year a primary department was re-opened in the Sabbath School, which has been made a source of great profit by the supervisor, Miss Williams. Later in the year, a class was formed for the children of Europeans, by Mrs. Frease, thus meeting a need long felt.

"*The Orphanage* : The Orphanage work has been well-sustained, noticeable improvement being made in the boys as to cleanliness appearance, studies, and Christian life. Additional teachers are urgently needed, particularly a qualified teacher for the seventh standard, a drawing teacher, and additional help in the lower grades. Not much has been done in the way of special Industrial training this year, owing to the pressure of other work, and the fact that the only available teacher for such work had to be utilized in the building work. Nearly all the large boys, however, have some special work in hand, and something has been done toward giving training for life work and support, in addition to the work in School. Some are teaching, and doing well at it, while others do housework, sewing, gardening, dhoby work, and each class in turn does the cooking for the orphanage. The boys are now able to do all this work themselves. Much ordinary labor has been performed by the boys also during the year. Much credit is due to Mrs. Ayers for indispensable assistance in the office; to Mr. and Mrs. Cobble for taking so largely the burden of the orphanage; and to the Rev. Yusuf Dhanji for the able and hearty help given in assisting the pastor."

OTHER CIRCUITS.

Space forbids detailed report of the work of the Circuits in direct charge of our Gujarati Pastors. Lakshman Danabhai on Vaso Circuit, Gangu Dhanjibhai on Wasad Circuit, Henry Narottamdas on the great combined Od and Savali Circuit and Shivaji Torabhai on Umreth Circuit, have all done faithfully work of exceptional value, demonstrating that our work is safe in the hands of such consecrated Gujarati brethren.

THE DISTRICT TRAINING SCHOOL.

E. F. Frease and Mrs. Frease. This School closed a successful year with 26 men and 21 women on the rolls. Of these seventeen men and fifteen women have just been appointed to work at the District Conference, and the number assigned to the school is 26 men and 19 women. It is hoped to increase these numbers to 30 and 25 respectively soon. Both Yusafbhai and his wife Jivibai have done faithful work. Mrs. Frease has given all the time to this work her health would permit. Again the value of the School was evidenced when so many trained workers could be sent out to stiffen the ever growing field force.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

Had to be held in three sections this year owing to the large number, at Baroda, Nadiad and Godhra respectively. Good work was done; and the workers much helped in passing their studies, besides being spiritually refreshed and strengthened.

WOMEN'S WORK.

Although full reports of this will be given to the Women's Conference, I wish to indicate here its general features.

The Baroda Girls' Orphanage, Miss Williams in charge, has made steady progress during the year. The still great need is for a building site, for which negotiations are still proceeding with Government, and of which we hope a successful and speedy termination.

The Godhra Girls' Orphanage was placed in charge of Miss Abbott on April first. The rapid increase in the number of girls, already noticed, rendered the task of beginning her work in a new language exceptionally difficult. Miss Abbott's work has been vigorous and effective, and her progress in the language rapid.

The training for Christ of the women and girls of our Christian Community remains one of our most vital and interesting, and I am profoundly thankful to say, now most encouraging features of our work. It has already been stated that our community is now one of families, and the women and girls are thus very accessible. More than this, they are receptive and eager to learn. But again in this work the otherwise overburdened married women missionaries have found it impossible to itinerate as they so much wished to do. But nevertheless under the supervision possible, the work on their Circuits quite kept pace with the other work.

Deaconess Ada Holmes, whom we welcomed a year ago, has worked steadily at the language; has itinerated considerably, and is gaining a constantly growing hold on the women and girls in her charge, and her work is greatly blessed. We are praying that the additional missionary for this work may be sent, and also the doctor asked for, and who is so sadly needed by the women, who suffer unrelieved so much anguish easily preventable by suitable medical attention.

CONCLUSION.

When, in disregard of the superstitions of the ages, the grip of hoary evil customs and the long continued reign of Satan, God regenerates, transforms a people by the power of His love manifested in Christ, there is a miracle. Usually we look for miracles to occur at some other place than where we are. The writer thought he had been realizing fully what God was doing in Gujarat. But as we went over the District during the past year and saw the indubitable evidences of transforming power; as he stood before the great congregations at the Nadiad and Baroda dedications, and saw there what God had wrought among the people, the power of a great conviction took hold of him with increasing force: and at last as he looked into the shining and transformed faces of the nearly three hundred men and women workers at the District Conference, heard their earnest words and their intelligent grasp of God's truth, memory flashed the recollection of the state of the same men and women only a few short years since, God spoke to his innermost heart, and it overflowed with wonder and praise, opened his eyes that he might see, and he knew himself to be in the presence of as great a manifestation of the power of God's redeeming love, and a miracle as real and wonderful, as any ever recorded in the annals of time. And he felt he knew something of the certain, implicit faith of those who declared that Jesus Christ "*shall* have dominion from sea to sea, and from the river to the ends of the earth": that

"Jesus *shall* reign where'er the sun
Does his successive journeys run;
His Kingdom spread from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more."



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STATISTICS OF THE BOMBAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE RELATING TO
CHURCH MEMBERSHIP AND WORK,

For the year ending November 30th, 1901.

STATISTICAL

FROM I

No.	NAMES OF CIRCUITS.	CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY.						BAPTISMS.			SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.							EPWORTH LEAGUES.				CHRISTIAN WORKERS.											
		Church Membership.		Baptized Children.	Total No. of Christians.	Deaths.		Children of Christian Parents.	Children from among Non-Christians.	Adults.	Total Baptisms.	Number of Sunday-Schools.	Number of Officers and Teachers.	Scholars of all ages.				Average Attendance of Officers, Teachers and Scholars.	Senior Leagues.	Senior Members.	Junior Leagues.	Junior Members.	Missionaries.	Missionaries' Wives.	W. F. M. S. Missionaries.	W. F. M. S. Assistants.	Native Members of Conference.	Local Preachers.	Exhorters.	All other Male Workers.	All other Female Workers.	Total Christian Workers.	
		Probationers.	Full Members.			From among Men-bers and Proba-tioners.	From among Bap-tized Children.							Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.																Total Scholars of all Ages.
BOMBAY DISTRICT.																																	
1	Bombay—Bowen ...	14	81	45	140	3	2	8	...	...	8	1	12	70	60	...	...	130	78	1	20	1	36	1	1	...	...	6	2	...	...	10
2	"—Grant Road and Mazagon...	24	63	21	108	...	...	5	...	...	5	1	11	67	57	...	...	124	60	1	18	1	15	1	1	...	...	3	5	1	2	13
3	"—Gujarati ...	206	144	69	419	15	11	5	6	32	43	6	18	78	40	71	25	214	194	1	71	1	21	...	...	...	...	3	3	...	...	7
4	"—Hindustani ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	"—Marathi...	70	88	20	178	7	6	1	6	14	21	5	8	...	70	290	85	445	445	1	30	1	71	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	12	22
6	"—Publishing House	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	"—Seamen's Mission	36	...	...	86	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Igatpuri ...	23	30	20	73	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	7	31	30	...	...	61	40	1	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	"—Marathi ...	8	65	9	82	2	...	6	...	6	12	3	2	...	105	7	112	83	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Kalyan ...	1	4	2	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	1	8	9	19	19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Karachi—English ...	10	30	26	66	3	...	10	...	...	10	1	5	17	24	...	...	41	46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
12	"—Seamen's Mission	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
13	"—Vernacular ...	169	40	78	287	10	6	18	...	29	47	3	4	29	10	89	11	139	58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
14	Lanowli ...	...	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	26	37	...	...	63	22	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	Pachora ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
16	Panwell ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	20	5	25	26	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
17	Poona—English ...	15	87	27	129	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	20	60	110	...	...	170	148	1	60	1	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
18	"—City and Boys' Orphanage	25	17	...	42	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	23	120	3	197	355	675	550	1	70	1	33	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
19	"—Hindustani ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	"—Marathi ...	25	72	4	101	3	...	...	...	...	15	1	12	93	104	...	...	197	180	1	76	1	23	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
21	"—Taylor High Schools	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
22	"—Anglo-Ind. Orph.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
23	Panchgani Sanitarium ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
24	Quetta ...	...	3	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	4	7	8	...	...	15	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		626	729	321	1,676	45	25	53	19	89	161	35	132	599	554	780	497	2,130	1,961	8	385	7	319	7	6	2	3	24	21	38	123		
Last year		614	690	298	1,602	95	44	46	19	118	183	40	143	502	563	878	419	2,362	1,783	7	376	8	337	9	8	5	4	3	19	26	30	122	
Increase		12	39	23	74	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	97	...	...	78	68	178	1	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Decrease		...	...	...	...	50	19	...	...	29	...	5	11	...	9	98	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
CENTRAL PROVINCES DISTRICT.																																	
1	Basim ...	86	24	79	189	4	...	14	18	14	43	6	9	56	83	84	66	289	252	1	50	1	...	1	1	...	4	3	7	6	23
2	Burhanpur...	62	157	88	307	...	4	1	4	5	10	3	4	170	44	10	4	228	202	...	...	2	102	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	3	10
3	Chindwara ...	98	10	7	115	10	2	2	1	3	6	5	4	...	...	110	102	212	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	6
4	Gadarwara...	...	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	...	...	100	55	155	140	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	Gondia ...	...	2	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
6	Jabalpur ...	138	218	41	397	9	2	4	14	5	23	16	16	5	300	450	180	935	900	1	250	1	25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
7	"—English Church	22	44	34	100	...	1	1	...	...	1	12	38	48	...	...	86	67	1	13	1	48	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
8	Kamptee ...	29	49	38	116	...	1	4	1	1	6	17	16	27	13	580	140	760	695	1	30	1	22	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
9	Khandwa ...	619	70	225	914	15	...	1	31	37	69	18	20	170	185	110	40	505	450	...	...	1	200	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	Nagpur ...	3	16	19	38	...	1	2	...	...	2	1	8	28	41	...	...	69	41	...	...	1	43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
11	Narsinghpur ...	228	25	65	318	5	3	3	20	6	29	22	15	225	16	500	234	975	820	1	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total		1,285	617	597	2,499	43	14	29	89	71	189	95	105	719	730	1,944	821	4,214	3,767	5	543	7	420	6	3	6	5	3	27	18	27	50	145
Last year		1,187	618	642	2,447	36	29	46	130	130	306	83	91	700	671	1,527	731	3,629	3,237	4	263	6	643	6	4	3	4	3	23	20	26	46	135
Increase		98	512	7	12	14	19	59	417	90	585	530	1	280	1
Decrease		...	1	45	15	17	41	59	117
GUJARAT DISTRICT.																																	
1	Ahmedabad ...	88	7	88	1,813	1	1	38	...	818	126	4	6	136	155	...	...	291	195	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	2	

STATISTICS OF THE BOMBAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE RELATING TO CHURCH FINANCES,

For the year ending November 30th 1902.

FORM II

STATISTICAL

[illegible]

STATISTICS OF THE BOMBAY ANNUAL CONFERENCE RELATING TO COLPORTAGE.

For the year ending November 30th, 1902.

FORM IV.

[illegible]