

*Miss Cooper's
Bangkok P. Dunlap*

Bi-monthly letter of Bangkok Station,
August 1896.

So swiftly have the days glided that it seems but two or three weeks, instead of two months, since you last heard from us. The fleeting days have brought no marvelous changes in our regular work, still, on the whole, we are conscious that it has progressed.

Mr. Cooper, the principal of the Samray School writes: "The number of pupils enrolled this term up to date, not counting a few transients, is seventy four, being about the same as last term." Miss Cooper's illness compelled her to drop her work but she is now convalescing and soon we trust will be able to resume her usual duties. "The Mission," continues Mr. Cooper, "has rented a new preaching place on the main street of the city in a very central location. Mr. Cooper has started a Sabbath School there and also holds preaching services there Sabbath morning and Wed. P. M. in Siamese. Chinese services are also held from time to time whenever a Chinese speaking helper can be present.

The Mission day school has been removed from Banmai to the upper story of the new chapel. The attendance in the old location had dwindled to an average of eight. In the new location there are now twelve in regular attendance including most of the old pupils. The attendance at the preaching services has usually been fairly good although fluctuating, being largely made up of strangers who may be attracted in passing."

Miss Cole reports that "The Wang Lang school...is growing daily. Six new children have been added to our family this week. The family of children now numbers eighty on our list, but, of course, the average is smaller than that. But somehow I feel as if numbers do not go for much in a work of this kind. Now that we have, once more, reached our limit in numbers, there must be an earnestness, a development that is above all numerical strength and I trust that we are now going into that stage." The manager of the Press, Mr. J. B. Dunlap, reports that the regular work of the office has been carried on as usual and that nothing of special interest has happened. Another Siamese Newspaper has made its appearance and we are asked to exchange with it. It proposes to come out every week and be somewhat like The Ladies Home Journal. It has a large and open field for usefulness and we wish it all manner of success.

Last month Dr. Toy and Mr. Snyder started on a trip to Paknampo and the regions about. They are expected home in about two or three weeks

Dr. Dunlap, wife, youngest son and two helpers have just returned from a ten weeks tour to the Nakawn region. I have culled the following from letters written during the tour and also from notes taken while listening to his talk. Of the trip downward he writes "We had a delightful run to this place-Bangtapan-smooth sea and delight-

ful breezes". On reaching Nakawn they were welcomed by the disciples. They went and lodged six weeks in a small temporary building on the new lot. In regard to this place he says "I am very much pleased with the location of our lot. I believe that it is healthful and it is certainly central for the work. It fronts on the main thoroughfare of the province. About five minutes walk to Ta Wang, a large settlement and about twenty minutes walk to the center of the city. People are passing to and fro all hours of the day. Owing to the shortness of time and amount of work to be done they divided their force. Nai Seng, he writes, started off on a tour to a distant settlement in which we have several members and he is spending the week laboring there. Nai Tean, one of our workers who remained there last year, is reported as having made extensive tours and worked faithfully. Last year when Nai Tean married a young lady, who was not a Christian and whose father kept a gambling establishment, some felt anxious about him; but it is said that through his Christian life and example his wife, this year joined the church and the father-in-law gave up his business. The people of Nakawn, both high and low hold Nai Tean in high estimation. On learning that he is to be withdrawn from Nakawn and located at Ayuthia, they begged that he might be left with them. While at Nakawn they held a daily service. "Good congregations from first to last," composed largely of outsiders, attended the meetings. After each service an inquiry meeting was held to further instruct candidates. Meetings were also held "In homes by invitations." Here a number of Christians took part by giving personal testimonies.

The general work of the missionary, also a glimpse of the condition of the province, may be seen from this extract. "There is much fever here. I am now nearly to the bottom of fourth bottle of quinine. Have had the pleasure of helping a good number of cases. Grip has been epidemic, but is abating. Dysentery bad, have had several cases, all recovered. Red eyes, very bad, have cured a good number. Sorry that I have so little, in fact no medicines in certain lines." The Dr. was much gratified with one of his patients and writes "To day, he told me that Jesus had saved his life and that he had prayed to him for help, also that his wife had prayed. God had heard, and he would now worship Him, and join the Disciples. The wife expressed her joy over this."

At the Communion service five more-all from the village of Hawmook-were received and Nai Boon Kong was unanimously elected elder. The party made a trip by elephants to the village of Hawmook about twelve miles away. Nai Boon Kong, aided by his friends, built an extension to his house, decorated it with bananas and cocoanuts to receive them. The villagers did every thing in their power to make their visitors comfortable. Here "Four women, wives of disciples, and six children were baptized" and others were added to the list of probationers. There are now twelve church members in this little village. One day this band met and decided to build a chapel. Nai Boon Kong

donated a lot and already the posts have been cut. The increase of interest among the disciples was largely due to the missionary zeal and personal efforts of Nai Boon Kong. They agreed to hold services, in the village, on the Lord's day. The two elders, Nai Mitt (Mr. Friend) and Nai Boon Kong (Mr. Firm), voluntarily and gratuitously agreed to be responsible for keeping up Sabbath services at different points during the months which the missionaries were unable to reach the field.

Concerning themselves generally, the Dr. writes "Whilst there is need of discipline of a few members, I can notice that most of them have grown in grace and in interest in the Master's Kingdom. Some of them have been teaching their kindred and neighbors. And there seems to be a desire to cooperate with us in the good work." They have expressed no little disappointment that we have not come to establish a home at this time. And they pray that it may not be long before they shall have a missionary with them.

From Nakawn the party went to Singora where they disposed of about 800 books, then they went to Chiyah. Here they were kindly received and entertained by the Governor. From Chiyah they traveled by boat on the river four days, working in settlements by the way, to the village of TaChee. This place is the home of Nai Whan. You will remember him from the fact that last year he walked several days over hills, through forest and waded streams to Nakawn in order that he might receive baptism. He said on meeting the party, "I have just finished building a new house, and now we will hold preaching in it, thus offering it to the Lord."

Two services were held daily. The people were attentive and receptive. They had previously heard the gospel from the lips of Nai Kird and his wife, Maa Make, of whom Mrs. Dunlap says, "I can't speak too highly"-also from Simean Maa, while he was developing some coal fields in that region. Here five adults, including Nai Whan's wife and five children were baptized and six added to the list of probationers. The fact that most of those baptized were his relatives, gives a glimpse in to the character of the man. Arrangements were made to hold services on the Lord's day. Nai Whan and Muan Rong, the head man of the village, said they would be responsible for them. Nai Whan said on their arrival "It is lonely to be the only Christian here" but on their leaving he expressed his joy on now having many friends. The tour may be briefly summed up thus:-

17 adults-9 men and 8 women and 15 children were baptized. About 24 placed on probation. One elder ordained and 2470 tracts and portions of Scriptures were sold.

We rejoice in our work and expect greater blessings.

Yours sincerely,

Boon Boon-Itt.

Bi-monthly Letter of Petchaburee Station.

Petchaburee, Siam, August 11th. 1896

Dear Dr. Labaree.

It falls to my lot this time to detail the doings of our Station for the past two months. It is not a period marked by any special activity; only the every day duties in evangelistic, medical and school work.

About the time the last letter was written Mr. Mc Clure accompanied by Licentiate Nai Boon, made a trip of a few days to Bangkok to attend the ordination and installation of Kru Yuan. On his return he made a brief stop at Rajaburee. The writer had been there between two and three weeks assisting Mr. Wachter in continuing the repair work, and expected to return with Mr. Mc Clure. But we were notified by telegram to wait over; and on Saturday were joined by Mrs. Mc Clure and the children and Mrs. Eckels. It was the first outing Mrs. Mc Clure and the children had had since their arrival last Sept. All spent Sabbath together with the friends at Rajaburee. When we came to leave on Monday it was thought that Mrs. Wachter and the children, none of whom were in good health, had need of a little change; so my stay was lengthened by two weeks while Mrs. Wachter and the children accompanied Mrs. Eckels home and spent a little over a week here. They seemed much benefited by the change.

With the exception of this absence Mr. Mc Clure has carried on the regular church work here. He also reports having done a little way-side work and more visiting during last month than ever before during the same length of time. The visiting has been chiefly in looking up delinquent church members and visiting the sick. The class for Christian instruction meets regularly on Monday and Friday evenings. They have finished the study of Genesis and the little tract "Faith and Practice." The first Sabbath of this month was the regular communion time here. There were no accessions.

In addition to his evangelistic and church work Mr. Mc Clure has worked some on the new Hymnal and prepared copy for his part of the two current numbers of the Daybreak.

For the work among the out-station churches there is nothing to report since last letter. We had only returned two days from Rajaburee, to which place Mrs. Eckels had accompanied Mrs. Wachter and to bring me home, when Mrs. Eckels was taken down with fever. It has been something like typhoid in character. She has been confined to bed almost a month, and during the first couple of weeks required constant care and nursing. I am grateful to be able to say that she is much improved and we hope another week will see her up and about again. I then expect to resume our trips to the village churches.

The Medical work under care of Dr. Thompson reports, that there has been an average of three in-patients during the two months. Dispensary work has been light. It being the time of working fields people do not feel that they can stop to attend to the ills of themselves and families.

Two major operations have been performed; the patients are well and discharged. Receipts for the quarter ending with July have been 19I ticals-more than for corresponding period in any previous year. There have only been two Sabbath services held in the Hospital, as the number of patients has been so small. For the same reason evening prayers have been left for the assistant to conduct; and also because of the desire to have him conduct worship with his own family.

In addition to his regular medical work Dr. Thompson has continued the instruction of the assistant; conducted the services during the two weeks Mr. Mc Clure was absent; and done other general work.

Of the Girl's School Miss Galt reports: "The Girl's School, and especially its boarding department is principally intended for the girls who are out of reach of our day schools. At present the enrollment is 20. Of these the homes of eight are in outside villages, three are children of the matron and three are orphan children, having no other home. The children sew from two o'clock P. M. until four each-school day, and I sometimes feel at my wit's end to provide work in variety for the busy fingers. Special improvement has been made in this department, stimulated by prizes offered for best work."

Miss Hitchcock is going about among the Day Schools, principally in the city just now, as the country is flooded. Pak Talay school was closed lately because of having so few pupils. The total number in all three schools is 44.

The Boy's School has very small enrollment at present. A number of the boarders have gone home.

Mrs. Mc Clure still holds the women's class on Tuesday morning. It has had an average attendance of eight for the past two months. Some visiting, along with looking after her own growing family, and other home duties fully occupy her time.

We have had a rather unusual flooding of the country for a few weeks past. For about two weeks we could not leave our compound except with rubber boots, or bare footed.

The floods have drowned out the newly planted rice crop. As last year's crop was almost a failure there is great scarcity of rice and the price is high. We have been applied to so much for help by the Laos of the village nearest us that to-day we had the head-men in making particular inquiries of them. The result is that we have taken up a collection among ourselves and are going to try to help them a little in getting seed to replant their fields. Twenty five families out

of forty seven were reported to-day as being without means to replant.

It is altogether probable that we will be applied to by other villages for seed and rice to support their families on, as the flooding is quite general and the two preceeding years were bad years for crops.

If the demand becomes general, we will soon be beyond our own financial strength. I suppose the Government would do something for them, but in a matter like replanting the machinery of Government does not move rapidly enough to be of much assistance.

Fraternally Yours,

Chas. E. Eckels.