New York, June 24, 1891

By enclosed reprint you will see that we propose to honor the memory of our late esteemed friend and teacher, Dean Rachel L. Bodley, A.M., M.D., by a Memorial in the “Sharada Sadan” School, in India.

Those of us who have known Dean Bodley’s friendship for Ramabai—the high-caste Hindu widow—who came at her invitation to our shores, seeking aid to establish a school for suffering Hindu widows; or who have read Dean Bodley’s introduction to Ramabai’s book, “The High-caste Hindu Woman,” will see the appropriateness of a Memorial in connection with the school she labored so earnestly to establish.

In order that this field of practical usefulness may be a perpetual reminder of her through years to come, we desire to establish either a scholarship or a Dean Bodley Memorial Library Fund; the interest from the latter to be used each year for the purchase of books, the same to be selected by Ramabai and the Advisory Board in India. In a letter...
just received from Ramabai in acknowledgment of donations, she says: "Nothing could be a better memorial than a Library to keep the sacred memory of our dear departed friend green in this school. You will be glad to know we have twenty-five widows at this date. God has greatly blessed our small efforts."

Concerning the character of the school, Dean Bodley in her introduction to "The High-caste Hindu Woman," writes: "She (Ramabai) seeks to reach Hindu women as Hindus, to give them latitude as regards religious convictions; she would make no condition as to reading the Bible or studying christianity, but she designs to put within their reach in reading books and on the shelves of the school library, side by side, the Bible and the Sacred Books of the East, and for the rest earnestly pray that God will guide them to His saving truth."

The day will surely come when the millions of Hindu widows shall be delivered from the cruel degradation and suffering which the custom of centuries has imposed upon them, and they, with us, shall enjoy the blessings of freedom, education and christianity.

Shall we not have a part in this noble work of elevating our suffering sisterhood? while we also keep in rememberance the name of one to whom we look back with reverence born of profound love and respect.
I will gladly receive and forward to Ramabai donations of any amount, however small. Let us give as God hath blessed our efforts.

Sincerely yours,

Emma H. Palmer, M.D.

Class of '72