

**WORK AMONG WOMEN IN COCHA-
BAMBA.**

The average attitude of the women of this city toward our faith is one which ranges from contempt to hatred. In the majority of cases, this attitude is born of ignorance concerning our beliefs and teachings. It gives way, and is frequently replaced by profound respect, when that for which we stand is clearly understood. It will be interesting, perhaps, to relate how such knowledge comes to some of them. Occasionally a woman will unwittingly enter our meeting-room—attracted by the singing; but, as a rule, she will leave as soon as it dawns upon her that she is attending an evangelistic service. Fear fills her heart; for she thinks that she is committing an awful sin. Recently the organ of La Liga Catolica—a strong women's society, led by a notable Jesuit—notified the members of the league that the Protestants were making special efforts to attract people to their meetings; and warned them that to attend such meetings would be punished with excommunication! It is practically impossible, therefore, to win the women, in the first instance, through public services. The use of tracts is often not more successful. Very few of them would dare to read a Protestant tract—knowing it to be such. This difficulty is illustrated by an amusing experience that befell an agent for pills bearing the name of a well-known American doctor. He spent several days in the city pasting the sidewalks and houses with advertisements, and distributing pamphlets to help the sale of his goods. After a day or two he complained to me that many of the women were most aggressive in their desire to seize and destroy his pamphlets, without taking the trouble to know their contents. The fact that he was a foreigner delivering literature

from house to house was, to them, sufficient proof that he was a Protestant pastor delivering tracts. While traveling on the train, and visiting outlying towns, we frequently meet with women who read our tracts with much interest. But in the city we cannot count very much on this method for bringing the Gospel to the women. Personal work seems to be most effectual. Opportunities for this work are greatly prized. Let us briefly speak of several. Two young ladies, captivated by a beautiful pattern in Weldon's Ladies' Journal, came to our house with the request that we should translate the directions that would enable them to deck themselves in a dress of the coveted style. The favor was readily granted and conversation that turned to Gospel truths followed. Before the visit ended a huge Catholic Bible was brought into requisition to show that our strange (?) doctrines have the support of an authority which they themselves respect. On another occasion we entered the store of an old lady, for whose son we had done a favor a few days previously. The sight of saints and burning candles gave the opening to talk of a Light more efficacious. Several days ago we were passing the home of two deeply religious Catholic women. The door was wide open, and one of the women was busily engaged at the entrance decorating a large image of the Virgin Mary. We paused a moment, and the dear soul, in her innocence, invited us inside to admire the beautiful image. The invitation was accepted, with a silent prayer that it might mean an opportunity to speak for the Master. Sure enough, prayer was answered; and for an hour or more we unfolded the vital truths of the Gospel, and gently pointed out the error of rendering unto images and saints that which is due to God alone. The women